# UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

## Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation

## Contribution to the guiding questions agreed during first meeting of the WGEC

**Submitted by**

**Hungary**

# CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation
# of Public Authorities and stakeholders
# on Internet Governance

## <u>Reply from Hungarian representative (I. Erényi) on the questions:</u>

The first meeting of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC) – held in Geneva on 30th September, 2016 discussed questions on the methods of work, proposals, etc.

Regarding the topics of the next meeting, WGEC agreed on two questions for guiding the discussions on the next meeting. The Group also agreed about opening written replies to these questions with the deadline of 7th December, 2016.

### Question 1.

### <u>*What are the high level characteristics of enhanced cooperation?*</u>

The task of the group is to consider questions about one of the most far-reaching changes – the development, use of the internet and the development of new economic and societal environment around the internet and the internet enabled overall connectedness in the future of digital world.

I suggest the following high level characteristics:

1. **Closely linked with UN Sustainable Development Goals**

   In our view, the work of the WGEC should be closely linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Though the direct subject of the Group is internet and its development, but nowadays internet is not anymore a sectorial infrastructure, rather it interweaves society and economy, the entire Earth, all nations. It is about development and progress of economies and societies in any part of our Globe.

   Less and less it is possible to speak about isolated societal and political problems in our World, thanks to – among others – globally available connectivity, to the internet and the information and messages communicated and exchanged via it. If we want characteristics of enhanced cooperation – like: inclusive, flexible, respecting human rights and freedom, responsible, not mentioning others as effective and sustainable, evidence-based – then we cannot miss Sustainable Development Goals during the work of the Group, and also in its outcomes for the annual report of the Secretary General (see below at Q.2 first bullet).

## 2. Inclusive, participatory

Enhanced cooperation shall be open for all stakeholders in order to allow them to express and state their views and to be sure that these views will be listened and taken. Special attention has to be given to the participation of stakeholders from developing countries.

## 3. Respecting human rights and freedoms

Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms should be one of the cornerstones of enhanced cooperation.

## 4. Transparent

Enhanced cooperation should be the responsibility of multistakeholder communities. So, it has to be transparent to all participants/stakeholders.

## 5. Sustainable and effective

Enhanced cooperation should be aimed at reaching consensus, focusing on achieved mutual objectives with an aim at sustainability. Consensus is one of the most important conditions to stay alive and become sustainable.

## 6. Responsive

Innovation, fast progress, new emerging technologies are the core of internet-based digital economy and society. Enhanced cooperation has to be mindful and attentive in response to the needs of innovation and constant development. When doing so, security and safety of the internet and the digital world should also be tackled in particular as a backer to innovation, development and motivation to be part of the internet communities.

## 7. Flexible and diverse

The participation of different stakeholder and their interests should be flexibly taken into consideration in the course of enhanced cooperation.

## 8. Following and learning from evidence

During the committed work of the multistakeholder participation, good and best practices may be achieved and observed, anywhere. They shall be made available for all stakeholders in order learn from each other and/or contribute to each other.

**Question 2.**

*Taking into consideration the work of the previous WGEC and the Tunis Agenda, particularly paragraphs 69 – 71, what kind of recommendations should be considered?*

- As it has already been stated, the activities of WGEC should be **linked to UN Sustainable Development Goal**s (see point 1 above). The recommendations of the Group should take into consideration the SDG-s via promoting internet-offered benefits for economic and societal progress. Special attention should be given to capacity-building, skills and education and also policy making in regions that need help and advices.
The close links with SDG may substantively contribute to the **creditability and perceptibility of WGEC and its outcomes,** particularly in developing countries. We, the members of the WGEC have been and are dedicated to reach the best and most of the benefits of Internet, digital world in their contribution to global economic and societal progress and to bridging the gap of the existing economic and digital divide. Hence, our responsibility should be closely linked to the aims of SDG-s.
- Encourage **wide engagement** and **participation in consultations** of all stakeholders.
- Promote **information and consultation materials availability** (in particular on the web) to wide circle of stakeholders all those who will be interested in the work or the outcomes of the work of the Group.
- Promote publication and **availability of best practices and evidence**.
- Encourage the participation from all professional, civil and academia representatives with a **special attention to developing countries' representatives**.
- Encourage formation of **favourable environment for investment** also in developing countries, e.g. via promoting partnership, cooperation, public-private partnerships.
- Promote **innovation enabling** environments.
- Follow closely the **newest achievement in technological progress, emerging new technologies** in order to build cooperation for the benefits of future progress.