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

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ICC BASIS responses to guiding questions for the second meeting of the CSTD WGEC2

This document is the response of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS) initiative to the guiding questions for the second meeting of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC2).

Q1: What are the high level characteristics of enhanced cooperation?

The below characteristics do not aim for an exclusive defining answer to "what is enhanced cooperation", rather intend to start a dialogue on answering the question: "what kind of enhanced cooperation do we want?" While mindful that this list might not be an exclusive one, business believes the below characteristics are equally weighted and mutually reinforcing. ICC BASIS believes that enhanced cooperation should be:

- **Participatory and inclusive**
  Enhanced cooperation should be open to participation by stakeholders with all views taken into account. Participation should be inclusive of all who have an interest in the international Internet-related public policy issue, paying particular attention to the needs of stakeholders from developing countries.

- **Responsive**
  Enhanced cooperation should develop continuously in response to innovation and with foresight towards new developments that may have international Internet-related public policy implications.

- **Flexible**
  Enhanced cooperation should be flexible recognizing that different kinds of international Internet related public policy issues require different kinds of stakeholder cooperation in different circumstances.

- **Respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms**
  Enhanced cooperation should support and foster respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, recognising they are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated.

- **Effective and sustainable**
  Enhanced cooperation should be focused on achieving mutually agreed objectives aimed at long-term sustainability.

- **Evidence-based**
  Enhanced cooperation should be based on a broad and robust evidence base that is accessible and to which all stakeholders are able to contribute.

- **Transparent**
  Enhanced cooperation should be transparent to all stakeholders. Participating stakeholders should take responsibility for their actions and should be prepared to explain them.

Q2: Taking into consideration the work of the previous WGEC and the Tunis Agenda, particularly paragraphs 69-71, what kind of recommendations should we consider?

The Tunis Agenda introduced the concept of enhanced cooperation coining the term in paragraphs 69 to 71, but offering little indication on the manner with which enhanced cooperation could be achieved, and most importantly, how it could prevail in the long run. What these three paragraphs refer to in relation to enhanced cooperation are: development of globally-applicable principles (paragraph 70), involvement of all stakeholders in their respective roles (paragraph 71), and responsiveness to innovation (paragraph 71).

Driving from these three elements, ICC BASIS believes that in order to productively and effectively progress on the process of enhanced cooperation, any and all recommendations made by the WGEC2 should rest on the following three pillars:

- **Recommendations should be general**
  In order to be "globally applicable", recommendations should be developed considering how different stakeholders, in different parts of the world, facing different issues have implemented and will need to implement enhanced cooperation. Therefore any recommendations should have an indicative, high-level character and avoid going into specifics, so that they could easily be adopted and usefully implemented by all stakeholders everywhere.

- **Recommendations should be inclusive**
  In order to "respect the involvement of all stakeholders in their respective goals", recommendations should be based on commitment to openness, inclusivity and outreach so that they encourage all stakeholders to actively participate in discussions that are critical to the responsible development of the Internet, whether speaking of enhanced cooperation in governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental, or international organizations. This will ensure that all those stakeholders, who may be affected by decisions, are able to participate in the development and implementation of those decisions.

- **Recommendations should be future-proof**
  In order to be "responsive to innovation" recommendations should be developed with a mind-set cognizant of the pace at which technology has developed and changed the Internet Governance landscape since the Tunis Agenda was accepted in 2005, and already since the WSIS+10 review in December 2015. Any recommendations considered should be flexible and dynamic enough make sure to endure in time and respond to this fast-paced environment. New approaches, new venues and new forums have arisen to respond to new opportunities and challenges and will continue to develop in the future. It is vital that all stakeholders continue to participate in these.

In September 2015, the member states of the United Nations adopted an ambitious global agenda for sustainable development. Both leading up and subsequent to their adoption, governments, business and other stakeholders have been actively engaged in cooperative efforts to put in place the actions necessary to achieve the SDGs. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 2015 is a worthy global framework enhanced cooperation could contribute to meaningfully. The 2030 Agenda relates in particular to the work of the WGEC2 as it pays particular attention to the needs of stakeholders from developing countries and recognizes the value of the Internet and ICTs and their inherent potential to "accelerate human progress, to bridge the digital divide and to develop

knowledge societies"[1].

It is now up to the WGEC2 to connect the ground work done by WGEC1 and formulate recommendations on enhanced cooperation linking those to the 2030 Development Agenda, and especially its elements directly related to policy areas pertaining to the Internet.

Based on the inputs to its questionnaire and the mapping exercise, the WGEC1 considered recommendations under five broad topics. This general outline could be maintained and recommendations discussed on the following topics:
- Implementation of the Tunis Agenda
- Public policy issues and possible mechanisms
- Role of stakeholders
- Developing countries
- Barriers for participation in enhanced cooperation

Recommendations aligning with the above-mentioned principles should be supported through examples from the database developed by WGEC1 for the mapping of international Internet public policy issues.

Based on these considerations and the three pillars outlined above, ICC BASIS believes that the WGEC2 should consider the following recommendations.

Implementation of the Tunis Agenda
The Tunis agenda provides that enhanced cooperation should be a multistakeholder process, not a governments-only process and should include participation by relevant international organizations, including inter-governmental, multistakeholder and private-sector led organizations. Enhanced cooperation is an important opportunity to continue to build better informed approaches and better equipped initiatives within and across relevant stakeholders, including the plethora of organizations working on the broad spectrum of Internet governance issues. It improves coordination, cooperation, exchange of information and can be leveraged to avoid duplication in activities and work plans. It has demonstrated effectiveness in promoting partnerships that effectively leverage the experience, expertise and capacity of all stakeholders.

Well-established processes for enhanced cooperation have been initiated in the past ten years through outreach to relevant UN agencies and also relevant multistakeholder and technical organizations, including all stakeholders.

The mapping exercise of WGEC1 identified numerous examples of enhanced cooperation already taking place around the world. There are many examples of enhanced cooperation that can be drawn from the initiatives of ICANN, ITU, ISOC, IETF, W3C, GCCS, UNESCO, OECD, WIPO and the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, to name a few.

The Internet Governance Forum and its many national and regional initiatives has propagated this kind of cooperation, bringing together different stakeholders—nationally, regionally and globally—to address global, regional and local policy matters in an open setting, and among a wide range of organizations and stakeholders as well as producing intersessional output in the forms of best practice material, and policy insights focused on a particular question or challenge.

These initiatives should be recognized by the WGEC2 and widely shared across all stakeholders and geographies with the aim of encouraging all stakeholders to partake in and further shape and develop these processes.

Public policy issues and possible mechanisms
There are a host of critical public policy issues related to the Internet that all stakeholders are

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[1] A/RES/70/1 paragraph 15

grappling with, including, but not limited to privacy, transparency, security, cross-border data flows, free flow of information, market development, protection of intellectual property, creativity and innovation. The Internet, and thus issues relevant to the Internet, touch a wide range of forums, and stakeholders. As a result, cooperation among different institutions, partnerships, and enhancing operations enables the different interests, those impacted by an issue, and stakeholders, to discuss policy matters openly.

The new paradigm introduced by the 2030 Agenda, that also recognizes the important role of the Internet and ICTs, calls for a stronger alignment of all stakeholders in setting an objective for Internet policies and actions to support the agenda of sustainable and inclusive development. This need was also recognized in paragraph 12 of the Outcome document of the UNGA WSIS+10 review that formalizes a commitment to "harnessing the potential of information and communications technologies to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other internationally agreed development goals" and calls "upon all Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders to integrate information and communications technologies into their approaches to implementing the Goals, and request United Nations entities facilitating the World Summit on the Information Society action lines to review their reporting and work plans to support implementation of the 2030 Agenda"[2].

Enhanced cooperation as catalogued among relevant stakeholders on the range of Internet governance issues should continue to be strengthened and encouraged at the national, regional and international levels not as the goal but as the means to better deliver the actions and results needed to realize our shared vision of more inclusive and sustainable development.

Role of stakeholders
The years of learning since Tunis have demonstrated that multistakeholder involvement is the necessary understanding for innovative approaches to achieve what has already been done and what remains left to do. UNGA resolution 70/125 starts out by reaffirming the "value and principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement that have characterized the WSIS process since its inception, recognizing that effective participation, partnership and cooperation of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, the technical and academic communities and all other relevant stakeholders, within their respective roles and responsibilities, especially with balanced representation from developing countries, has been and continues to be vital in developing the information society" and calls on continued commitment from all stakeholders throughout the document.

In accordance with resolution 70/125, echoing the Tunis Agenda, all stakeholders have a responsibility and role in operationalizing enhanced cooperation. Continued and collective efforts should be made to facilitate and increase the participation of the relevant stakeholders, particularly those that have not been engaged, in cooperative processes and forums at national, regional, and international levels.

Governments acting in a multistakeholder environment should contribute according to their mandates and competencies. However, when it comes to implementing policy, it is counterproductive to act alone. Working with the private sector, civil society, technical expertise and others is what delivers intended consequences because more complete understanding and insights are leveraged. The importance of multistakeholder processes, and hence enhanced cooperation between and among stakeholders, is fundamental to the successful operationalizing and implementation of public policy issues pertaining to the Internet in a manner that scales, is effective and benefits all, while not harming innovation, creativity, investment, and opportunities

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[2] A/RES/70/125 paragraph 12

to users globally.

ICC recognizes that different stakeholders should take the lead on particular issues but transparency, dialogue and openness are key to successful cooperation that delivers innovative and adaptive responses to challenges. Enhanced cooperation, with openness to participation, enables stakeholders to better carry out their roles and responsibilities because it ensures transparency, awareness, responsibilities, and accountability, of addressing different facets of a public policy issue.

Multistakeholder processes create procedures whereby there is automatic consultation with all stakeholders on Internet-related public policy issues, in particular entities impacted by the results, responsible for the implementation, or part of what the policy impacts. Whether at the national or international level, any policy issue that impacts stakeholders needs to engage those stakeholders for the appropriate policy. To this end the following actions might prove helpful:
- Continue to foster national IGF initiatives and promote the contributions they are willing to make into to regional IGF initiatives as well as into the annual global IGF.
- From a practical point of view, a single national governmental point of contact or ambassador for Internet-related issues would help.
- Create national-level policy dialogue and consultation processes with all stakeholders, various countries already have different models of this to offer as examples.

Developing countries

As access to the Internet has occurred globally and in particular in emerging regions, and as the Internet has become increasingly important to local and regional economies, the engagement of stakeholders in policies impacting national and regional frameworks has increased. National and regional initiatives reflect the priorities of regions – such priorities are critical contributions to the overall global Internet governance evolution. The 2030 Agenda sets out the ambitious goal to "significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020"[3] and the UNGA WSIS+10 review outcome document paragraphs 12 to 20 lay out in detail the progress made in this direction so far. The outcome document also recognizes the value of the IGF. It is worth mentioning here again, how the IGF and the increasing numbers of national and regional IGF initiatives have contributed, in addition to other similar initiatives, to the spread of dialogues on public policy issues and identification of priorities and challenges in all regions and in particular emerging regions. It is important to recognize this progress because it is also indicative of the efforts made to make this happen.

However, the WSIS+10 outcome document in paragraphs 21 to 27 also refers to a number of areas where more work needs to be done. And indeed, more opportunities could be created to enable all stakeholders, regardless of region, to engage in Internet governance – whether directly at the global level or by fostering mutually reinforcing links between national, regional initiatives and global activities. We believe that there are several ways to continue to build on the existing progress:
- Stakeholders working together to raise awareness across all relevant actors about the important Internet governance processes and forums at the national, regional and global levels.
- Foster mutual reinforcement of efforts by continuing to connect national and regional stakeholders at IGF initiatives, ICANN global and regional meetings, Internet Society and other Internet technical community events, as well as business community meetings such as ICC events and others.

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[3] A/RES/70/1 Goal 9.c

- Continue to enhance information resources to explain the opportunities and cross-link initiatives so awareness of the different enhanced cooperation activities is increased among all stakeholders.
- Fellowship and ambassador programmes sponsored by many stakeholders to help support developing country governments and other stakeholders with travel costs as well as youth outreach programmes to encourage awareness and participation of local or regional youth when in developing countries help fuel future participation. There is a need to continue building on and raising awareness of these opportunities
- Remote participation opportunities, webcasting, transcripts, and translation are extremely important today and need to be ensured where possible.

Barriers for participation in enhanced cooperation

Barriers include financial, informational, and operational elements.

Financial support and available resources are lacking from all stakeholders to engage in global Internet governance. Paying for travel costs is only one constraint, in today's economy and environment of do more with less, human resources are stretched. Processes need to be easier to participate in, more accessible and easier to understand particularly for newcomers.

Global Internet governance processes need to continue to operationalize in ways that scale to a global stakeholder constituency, including governments – recognizing that different stakeholders may lead on different issues and recognizing the issues, processes, and forms of engagement that best enable the respective participation.

In order to promote effective participation of underrepresented people in the global information society the following actions should be considered:
- increasing awareness raising efforts by linking local actors to each other as well as to regional and global initiatives;
- assessing whether additional financial support to facilitate participation in processes and forums would be helpful, and focusing this on giving newcomers access to see and understand why participation is important;
- easing the ability to engage, whether physically or remotely; and
- ensuring ease of information dissemination.

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