

**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**

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## Revisiting roles and responsibilities

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This submission addresses the question: “2. 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 specific proposed recommendations are shown as underlined text in paragraphs 10-12 below.

The Tunis Agenda states:

**68.** We recognize that all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the Internet. **We also recognize** the need for development of public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders.

**69.** We further recognize the need for enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters, that do not impact on international public policy issues.

We are of the view that the roles and responsibilities of the several stakeholders outlined in paragraph 35 of the Tunis Agenda should be revisited in light of developments and discussions that have taken place over the past 10 years. Therefore, we propose the following revisions to paragraph 35 of the Tunis agenda:

**35. We reaffirm** that the management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues, which may be inter-related, and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations. Decisions should always be informed as appropriate by inputs from stakeholders. In this respect it is recognized that:

- a) Policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues is the sovereign right of States. They have rights and responsibilities for international Internet-related public policy issues, and in particular for the protection of all human rights. Decisions should be informed by inputs from other stakeholders as appropriate.
- b) The private sector has had, and should continue to have, an important role in the development of the Internet, both in the technical and economic fields, and in providing objective factual information to policy decision-makers, so as to further the public interest and to achieve the shared goal of an equitable information society.
- c) Civil society has also played an important role on Internet matters, especially at community level at both the national and international levels, and should continue to play such a role. Further, it should provide views, opinions, and information to policy decision-makers and

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should be invited to comment, as appropriate, regarding public policy issues at both the national and international levels. Representatives, if representation is needed, should be selected through open, democratic, and transparent processes. Internal processes should be based on inclusive, publicly known, well defined and accountable mechanisms.

- d) Intergovernmental organizations have had, and should continue to have, a facilitating role in the coordination of Internet-related public policy issues and in the harmonization of national laws and practices.
- e) International organizations have also had and should continue to have an important role in the development of Internet-related technical standards and relevant policies.

The respective roles and responsibilities of stakeholders should be interpreted in a flexible manner with reference to the issue under discussion.

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