

**THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**MEETING ON ENHANCED COOPERATION ON PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES PERTAINING TO
THE INTERNET**

**18 May 2012
Geneva**

Contribution by

USA

**Statement of H.E. Ambassador Betty King
Permanent Representative of the USA to the
United Nations in Geneva**

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**Statement of Ambassador Betty King
US Permanent Representative to the Office of the United Nations
and Other International Organizations in Geneva**

**UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development
Meeting on Enhanced Cooperation on Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet**

May 18, 2012

Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to this special CSTD meeting to address Enhanced Cooperation and Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet.

The United States is committed to pursuing policies and relationships in support of the international consensus articulated at the World Summit on the Information Society. Distributed systems like the Internet require distributed action, and no single institution, document, arrangement or instrument can suffice in addressing the needs of our networked world. All responsible parties must recognize the expertise they contribute and role they are best suited to play, while collaborating with and respecting the work of others.

My government appreciates the steps that have been taken, both within and outside the UN system, to follow through on commitments made at the World Summit on the Information Society. Within the UN system itself, we believe that the most notable accomplishment has been the success over the past six years of the Internet Governance Forum, which, we note was reported to have the support of 96 percent of stakeholders, according to the Secretary General's May 2010 report. In the view of the United States, the IGF is an example of successful "enhanced cooperation" and one that has now demonstrated its sustainability. We are therefore pleased that the IGF's mandate was extended for an additional five years.

The goals of the WSIS and the Millennium Summit complement each other, and our ability to achieve these goals depends on the opportunity for all stakeholders, in their respective roles, to participate fully. In this context, we firmly believe that it is essential for the "multi-stakeholder" nature of the IGF—encompassing as it does governments, civil society, the business sector and academia – be continued. My government also supports maintaining voluntary funding for the IGF as the best approach, consistent with the intent of the Tunis Agenda, to maintain "a lightweight and decentralized structure that would be subject to periodic review", and that would ensure an effective, independent and cost-efficient Secretariat.

The United States also is pleased that government cooperation on international Internet public-policy issues is being enhanced as governments increase their participation in established international fora with a demonstrated expertise in these issues. Further, we note that enhanced

cooperation on critical Internet public-policy issues, infrastructure and capacity-building also is occurring between relevant entities internationally. There are many examples, but a sampling includes the UNESCO-ICANN partnership to promote linguistic diversity on the Internet, the ITU-UNESCO Broadband Commission for Digital Development, as well as the Internet Governance Forum itself. Let me call your attention to one more today.

Next Wednesday morning during the Fifteenth Session of the CSTD, an expert panel will elaborate on how Universal Service Funds have been harnessed to connect rural communities to Internet broadband service. Officials from Columbia, Ghana and Pakistan will provide practical, tangible examples of how ICTs have been deployed to support development and to help bridge the digital divide in their countries. These case studies are yet other examples of enhanced collaboration around the world. I encourage you all to attend this presentation.

Mr. Chairman, let me reiterate the United States' support and praise for the results of the WSIS, WSIS follow-up and implementation, and the related accomplishments provided by the CSTD over the last six years. We welcome and look forward to the continued process of "enhanced cooperation" on Internet public-policy issues with the participation of the full range of stake holders in the aforementioned fora, as well as in the CSTD. We are prepared to join you and our colleagues to reaffirm this process in the discussions here today.

Thank you.