

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Third Meeting of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation
3-5 May 2017

Geneva, Switzerland

Chairman's summary

20 June 2017

1. The third meeting of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC) was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, from 3 to 5 May 2017. Remote participation and real time transcription of the meeting were made available to facilitate participation from Working Group members and observers. A list of participants is available at the website of the meeting.¹
2. The meeting was opened by Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics and Head of the CSTD secretariat. This was followed by introductory remarks by Ambassador Benedicto Fonseca, Chairman of the Working Group.
3. At the outset of the meeting, the Chair informed participants that he, with the support of the Secretariat, had prepared a synthesis of the discussion on high-level characteristics of enhanced cooperation that took place during the Second WGEC meeting. The document was circulated to WGEC members and participants before the start of the meeting. The Chair noted, however, that the Group had decided in principle not to address this document during its third meeting.
4. The Chair recalled that during the second WGEC meeting he had invited all WGEC members and observers that had submitted contributions to the two guiding questions to revise the compilation of recommendations document² in order to ensure that their proposals were properly reflected, as well as to submit amended or additional recommendations if necessary. Twelve contributors reviewed the document and made proposals to further adjust the document. The revised version of the document was made available for the meeting.³
5. After the contributors presented their new/revised recommendations, the Group decided to agree on guidelines to organize the discussion on recommendations. Following the suggestion of the Chair of proposing a way to organize the discussion, a voluntary group of

¹ <http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1351>

² http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/WGEC2016_m2_CompilationRecommendations_en.pdf

³ See http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/WGEC2016-2018_m3_CompRecom.pdf

WGEC members proposed consideration of the recommendations in three categories: 1) Proposals that might, with minor edits, have consensus; 2) Proposals that might achieve consensus with further amendments; and 3) Proposals that would require long term discussion. The Group decided to start the discussion on the recommendations by examining the recommendations contained in Category 1. Some participants expressed, however, their preference for focusing immediately on the recommendations on institutional frameworks/arrangements.

6. Taking into account the comments from participants, the Chair proposed that the Group would discuss first the recommendations included in Category 1 and then address the recommendations that involve proposals on institutional frameworks/arrangements.
7. The recommendations identified in Category 1 by the voluntary group were individually presented and discussed. After the first reading of these recommendations, the Chair offered the opportunity to contributors of recommendations initially included under Categories 2 and 3 (not relating to institutional framework) that considered that their recommendations could lead to early consensus to introduce their recommendations. Various participants took the opportunity and introduced their recommendations. At the end of the debate, the Chair expressed his opinion that although there was no consensus on the wording of the proposals that were actually discussed, the exercise provided valuable inputs on the level of divergence/convergence in regard to the recommendations and allowed for a substantive and rich exchange which, by helping clarify the different points of view espoused by WGEC members, might therefore be instrumental in forthcoming stages of work. It should be noted that in regard to issues such as capacity development, the Group recognized that there could be potential for clustering and for the development of a common language that could be considered for inclusion in the WGEC's final report.
8. The Chair then proposed the Group to discuss the recommendations related to institutional framework. To guide this discussion, the Chair identified the subset of recommendations that refer to institutional framework. These were then presented and discussed. Although no consensus decision was taken in regard to any recommendation at this point, the Chair expressed his understanding that some proposals which were not firmly rejected by any participant (e.g. the creation of an agenda item for dedicated discussion of enhanced cooperation either at the UNGA or at the CSTD) might ultimately lead to consensus with some further editing, whereas other recommendations, due to the level of divergence among participants, might only be possibly addressed in the form of alternative scenarios, following the example (mentioned by some participants) adopted by the Working Group on Internet Governance.

9. The Group also considered the outline of the outcome report of the WGEC during the third day of its meeting. In the interest of time and with a view to allowing sufficient time to finalize the discussion on recommendations addressing institutional mechanisms, the Chair suggested to only have a brief discussion on the topic. One WGEC member suggested a potential general structure for the report that would consider three main sections: 1) factual information about the Group and its work; 2) agreed preamble text; and 3) agreed recommendation. He also suggested an additional section could be included in case that no agreement is reached. Some participants presented their views on the proposal. The Chair suggested to continue this discussion at a later stage.
10. The Chair concluded the meeting by inviting the proponents of recommendations to reflect on the discussions held during the meeting and consolidate their proposals in advance of the fourth meeting. The Chair also encouraged proponents of recommendations to carry out intersessional work to refine the proposals, by making use of the mailing list. It was highlighted that some of the areas where it would be possible to combine/merge proposals are capacity building and institutional mechanisms.
11. It was decided that the fourth meeting of the WGEC will take place from 25 to 27 September 2017 in Geneva.

ANNEX



Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

**Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation
on Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet
Third meeting
3-5 May 2017**

Venue: Room XXIII, E Building, Palais des Nations, 8-14 Av. De la Paix, 1211 Geneva 10,
Switzerland

ADOPTED AGENDA

Wednesday, 3 May 2017	
10:00 -10:20	Welcoming remarks by Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, DTL, UNCTAD, Head of the CSTD Secretariat
	Opening remarks by the Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Benedicto Fonseca Filho
	Adoption of the Agenda
	Procedural issues: Organization of the meeting 1. Presentation of new inputs received 2. Discussion on recommendations 3. Discussion on output document (Friday)
10:20 -11:15	Working session
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
10:45-13:00	Working session
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-16:30	Working session
16:30-16:45	Coffee break
16:45-18:00	Working session

Thursday, 4 May 2017	
10:00 -11:15	Working session
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	Working session
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-16:30	Working session
16:30-16:45	Coffee break
16:45-18:00	Working session

Friday, 5 May 2017	
10:00 -11:15	Discussion on output document
11:15-11:30	Coffee break
10:45-13:00	Working session
13:00-15:00	Lunch break
15:00-16:30	Working session
16:30-16:45	Coffee break
16:45-18:00	Working session