



First Meeting of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC)

30-31 May 2013

Geneva, Switzerland

Chairman's summary of the meeting

1. The first meeting of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC) was held in the Conference Centre Varembe (CCV) in Geneva, Switzerland on 30 and 31 May 2013. It was chaired by Mr. Peter Major (Hungary).
2. The Chair opened the meeting with a presentation that elaborated on the potential methodology that could be used by the Working Group in furthering its work over the course of the next few months. It proposed using a questionnaire as the primary means to collect stakeholder views on various aspects of enhanced cooperation. The Working Group shared views on options to consider in addition to the questionnaire. The Group agreed that other means can be used to get input from all stakeholders. It was also generally underlined that outcomes of the Group should become more tangible and concrete.
3. After the adoption of the agenda by the Group, the discussion moved on to the question of observer participation. The Group agreed to follow the rules of ECOSOC on observer participation. The Secretariat highlighted the importance of funding to ensure technical support for observer participation. The Group agreed to allow observer participation, following which the Chair opened up the meetings to observers who were present. On practical aspects of regarding the question of accreditation of observers and modalities of participation, the Group agreed that the Chair would decide, based on consultations with the Secretariat.
4. The discussions began with a shopping list of potential topics that was based on the CSTD open consultation on enhanced cooperation on public policy issues related to the Internet, held on 18 May 2012. The shopping list had been circulated by the Chair to the Working Group prior to the meeting. There was broad agreement that the shopping list was a useful start and that it could be elaborated upon to include additional relevant topics. The Working Group suggested a number of questions that could cover the shopping list as well as additional relevant topics.
5. Based on this, the Chair split the meeting up into two breakout groups, chaired by India and Brazil respectively, to discuss the questions submitted by all members of the WG. The breakout groups returned with a list of questions that had broad consensus categorized under 10 separate headings.
6. Discussions on each of the categories followed, and the Working Group moved on to discuss which questions captured the main issues best. Questions were adopted on a consensus basis.

7. The final outcome of the discussions was a questionnaire that will be circulated once again to the Group. The Group agreed that there would be no translation of the questionnaire. A tentative date was proposed for the next meeting based on an estimated timeline of distributing the questionnaire and collecting responses. The next meeting will be held on 6-8 November 2013.
8. The Secretariat highlighted the funding constraints faced by the WG since no additional resources in addition to the regular budget were available. The members agreed unanimously that funding would be a prerequisite for the successful functioning of the Working Group, including ensuring the participation of members from developing countries to future meetings of the Group.
9. The group agreed that, subject to availability of funds, during subsequent meetings audio streaming and real time captioning will be provided, and remote participation will be made available.