



THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE
UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN GENEVA

April 28, 2011

Mr. Frederic Riehl
Vice Chair, Commission on Science and Technology for Development
Palais des Nations
8-14, Av. de la Paix
1211 Geneva 10
Switzerland

Dear Mr. Riehl:

I would like to thank you; the Chairwoman of the CSTD, Ghana's Minister of Environment, Science and Technology Sherry Ayittey; and the Commission on Science and Technology for Development for establishing and supporting the Working Group for Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum. Your efforts enabled the Working Group to effectively seek, compile, and review inputs on improving the Internet Governance Forum from all stakeholders in an open and inclusive manner.

When the Internet Governance Forum was established in 2005 by the United Nations' World Summit on the Information Society, it was given a five-year mandate to operate as a multistakeholder, non-decision making forum for Internet policy dialogue. In 2009, the Secretary General solicited contributions from the multistakeholder community and held consultations on the extension of the Internet Governance Forum. Based on the overwhelming support for the Internet Governance Forum, the General Assembly in 2010 extended the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum for an additional five years.

The Economic and Social Council resolution 2010/2 and the General Assembly resolution A/RES/65/141 established the Working Group for Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum. In preparation for the Working Group, you held open consultations in Vilnius in September 2010. In November 2010, you published a questionnaire seeking inputs and convened an open, face-to-face, multistakeholder meeting in Geneva to discuss the responses. In February and March 2011, the Working Group held two meetings, conducted an online questionnaire, and received significant contributions from the multistakeholder community. In line with the mandate set out in the Tunis Agenda, the Working Group succeeded in seeking,

compiling, and reviewing a significant number of comments on improving the Internet Governance Forum.

The Secretary General's consultations combined with the contributions to the Working Group overwhelmingly affirmed that the Internet Governance Forum has succeeded because it has adhered to the original mandate and purpose set out in 2005. The Internet Governance Forum's multistakeholder, non-decision making nature has fostered open dialogue on internet governance issues. Furthermore, its flexible, self-evolving mechanisms have accommodated improvements without the need for fundamental change.

With this in mind, we do not deem it necessary to extend the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum. We greatly appreciate your balanced summary of the Working Group's efforts. Additionally, the Kenyans could provide to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in 2012 a report on "lessons learned" following their Internet Governance Forum.

Thank you again for your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Betty E. King".

Betty E. King
Ambassador