

# **Tentative road map of activities of the CSTD Working Group on IGF<sup>1</sup>**

**Mr. Frederic Riehl, vice-Chair of the CSTD**

## **I. Background**

On 19 July 2010, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) adopted by consensus resolution 2010/2 on the “Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society”. By this resolution, ECOSOC “*invites the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) to establish, in an open and inclusive manner, a working group which would seek, compile and review inputs from all Member States and all other stakeholders on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), in line with the mandate set out in the Tunis Agenda, and which would report to the Commission at its fourteenth session in 2011 with recommendation, as appropriate. This report is to constitute an input from the Commission to the General Assembly, through ECOSOC, should the mandate of the IGF be extended.*

The Hon. Sherry Ayittey, Minister of Environment, Science and Technology of Ghana, the current Chair of the CSTD, delegated the task of establishing the CSTD Working Group on IGF to Mr. Frederic Riehl, vice Chair of the CSTD. Mr. Riehl used the opportunity of the presence of so many stakeholders at the fifth annual IGF meeting, which took place in Vilnius, Lithuania from 14 to 17 September 2010, to organize on 16 September a preliminary consultations session with all interested parties to share views and exchange ideas on the composition, modalities and working methods of the Working Group. A summary of this preliminary consultations session is available at:

[http://www.unctad.org/sections/un\\_cstd/docs/cstd2010d01\\_en.pdf](http://www.unctad.org/sections/un_cstd/docs/cstd2010d01_en.pdf)

## **II. Setting up of the CSTD Working Group on IGF**

All UN Member States will be invited by the vice Chair of the CSTD WG to express their interest in becoming members of the WG. The final decision on membership of both governments and other stakeholders will be made by the vice Chair of the CSTD in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chairs of the CSTD.

The formal establishment of the CSTD Working Group will be announced only after the General Assembly will have decided on the IGF continuation and obviously if the Forum will be extended. A decision by the General Assembly on the continuation of the IGF is expected to be taken at the current session, which began in September 2010. In order to make the best use of the short time available until the next CSTD session, the group might start working informally from November 2010.

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<sup>1</sup> The views expressed in this note do not necessarily reflect those of the UNCTAD secretariat.

### **III. Tentative road map of activities of the CSTD Working Group on IGF**

The preliminary session of consultations, which took place in Vilnius on 16 September will be followed by a series of on-line and face-to-face consultations aimed at seeking inputs from all United Nations member States and other relevant stakeholders, in particular all IGF participants, expressing their views on improvements to the IGF in line with its mandate as set out in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society and in conformity with ECOSOC resolution 2010/2. Such open and inclusive exchange of views and sharing of experiences will help allay concerns and lead to improved and more widely acceptable solutions to the various perceived contentious issues related to the IGF.

#### **a) On-line open consultations**

In accordance with ECOSOC resolution 2010/2, CSTD will be seeking inputs from all United Nations member States and other relevant stakeholders expressing their views on improvements to the IGF in line with its mandate as set out in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. To this end, CSTD will invite relevant stakeholders to respond to a questionnaire which will be published on the CSTD website ([www.unctad.org/cstd](http://www.unctad.org/cstd)) in October 2010. In addition, CSTD would welcome any further input which stakeholders feel will be of value to the working group, either as a supplementary response to the questionnaire or in separate written comments aimed at improving the IGF.

Replies to the questionnaire and any other inputs should be sent preferably by email to: [wg-igf@unctad.org](mailto:wg-igf@unctad.org). They could also be sent by fax to: +41 22 917 0052.

All written inputs to the questionnaire will be posted in the CSTD website in the language of submission and will be synthesized in a note prepared by the CSTD Secretariat as an input into the informal meeting of the working group of 24 November 2010.

#### **b) Face-to-face consultations and first meeting of the Working Group**

A face-to-face open and inclusive consultation meeting will be organized by vice Chair of the CSTD on IGF in Geneva on 24 November 2010, back –to-back with the IGF open consultations and MAG meeting, scheduled to be organized by the IGF Secretariat from 22 to 23 November 2010. The outcome of the open consultations will be used as input to the first CSTD Working Group meeting, which will take place in conjunction with the CSTD inter-sessional panel meeting in December 2010.

#### **c) Second meeting of the Working Group**

The vice Chair of the CSTD will call for a second face-to-face meeting of the Working Group in the first half of February 2011. The purpose of the meeting is to examine the outcome of the open and inclusive on-line and face-to-face consultations and agree on the set of recommendations that will be included in the final report of the CSTD Working Group on IGF.

### **3. Drafting of the final report of the CSTD WG on IGF**

A report containing recommendations as agreed by the CSTD WG on IGF, and taking into account the outcomes of the various open and inclusive consultations, will be finalized by the CSTD Secretariat and cleared by the Chair of the working group and then submitted for consideration by the CSTD at its 14<sup>th</sup> annual session, scheduled to take place in Geneva from 23-27 May 2011. This report, if endorsed by the CSTD, is to constitute an input from the Commission to the General Assembly, through ECOSOC, for its consideration on the IGF improvement.