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1. Which stakeholder category do you belong to?
Government

If non-government, please indicate:

If non-government, please indicate if you are:

2. What do you think is the significance, purpose and scope of enhanced cooperation as per the Tunis Agenda? a) Significance b) Purpose c) Scope

(a) Significance: The Tunis Agenda's main message to stakeholders is the call to move from principles to action taking into account the work already being done in implementing the Geneva Plan of Action (2003) and identifying key areas where efforts should be concentrated. One of the principal pursuits is the commitment to bridge the digital divide and to focus on Internet governance and related issues with regard to the interests of developing countries. An important inference reflected in the document is that the Internet has evolved to serve the global public and its governance should be based on generally recognized principles.

(b) Purpose: International, transparent, human oriented and democratic management of the Internet as an essential public resource, facility and value should represent the gist of the Information Society strategies.

(c) Scope: A mechanism that would enable the Internet governance institutions to accomplish their purpose should be pursued by all relevant stakeholders including the governments, the industry, the civil sector and various communities. The latter may evolve through time to include academic, technical and human rights defenders' communities having in mind enhanced cooperation with the view of maximizing human rights. The media can also be a relevant stakeholder. A crucial element of enhanced cooperation is the openness and transparency of Internet governance based on active public participation and implementation of the right to receive and impart information – ideas which are part of the contribution of the Council of Europe to the Tunis Agenda. The Council of Europe's contribution to WSIS Tunis consisted of two parts: (1) the Committee of Ministers' political declaration on Human Rights and the Rule of Law in the Information Society; (2) two parallel events; one entitled "From here to e-democracy: promoting e-participation and dealing with harmful content", and a second one on "The Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime: a global treaty?" See http://www.coe.int/t/dgap/democracy/activities/GGIS/Public_participation_internet_governance/Default_en.asp

Enhanced cooperation is not only an issue of policy making but also of effective and transparent decision-making.

3. To what extent has or has not enhanced cooperation been implemented? Please use the space below to explain and to provide examples to support your answer.

Enhanced cooperation may have different meanings. Enhanced cooperation particularly means intensive collaboration and exchange at all levels - global, regional and local. A considerable part of enhanced cooperation has been achieved so far at a global level and through international organizations in particular. During years this kind of cooperation has become visible to the public. Various international fora contribute to it and mainly the IGF where the accomplishments and future developments of enhanced cooperation have been thoroughly discussed (for instance in Baku at the IGF in 2012 see Report of IGF 7 Baku). The problem however, is how to coordinate the efforts made at different levels and achieve tangible results. The most difficult coordination is the coordination at a regional and local level in order to find ways to harness the energy and resources of regional and local people and communities. The contribution of the latter is of crucial importance if we wish to establish open and inclusive information society and should be more distinctive and recognizable. A good example of a regional cooperation initiative is the Eurodig – the pan European platform for open and inclusive discussion on Internet governance among European countries. Despite wide promotion and participation in Eurodig and similar platforms a possible avenue toward enhanced cooperation is also the creation of a network of national IGFs which can provide local input and experience.
See http://www.ifla.org/events/eurodig

The Pan-European dialogue on Internet governance (EuroDIG) is an open platform for informal and inclusive discussion and exchange on public policy issues related to Internet Governance (IG) between stakeholders from all over Europe.

4. What are the relevant international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet?

The Internet impacts public policy enabling social change through its nodality, authority, public service value and new architectural design. The public service value of the Internet is normally associated with innovation, creativity, trust, openness, equity and diversity and these objectives might be expected to be pursued by pubic policy trends. The Council of Europe recommendation on the measures to promote the public service value on the Internet states that "the governments of member states, in co-operation, where appropriate, with all relevant stakeholders, take all necessary measures to promote the public service value of the Internet by: upholding human rights, democracy and the rule of law on the Internet and promoting social cohesion, respect for cultural diversity and trust between individuals and between peoples in the use of ICTs, and in particular, the Internet." See Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)16 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on measures to promote the public service value of the Internet at https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1207291
The article of Prof. Helen Margetts "The Internet and Public Policy" for instance, discusses the implications of Internet-driven change for public policy research, pinpointing some key methodologies that will become increasingly important; generation of large-scale transactional data; network analysis and experimental methods. The article argues that we cannot understand, analyse or make public policy without understanding the technological, social and economic shifts associated with the Internet. The elaboration of Internet governance principles that will result in inclusive and human oriented information society is a major challenge for stakeholders.
The paper "Making sense of Internet governance: Identifying public policy issues" claims that "no other aspect of the WSIS second phase has generated the same level of interest and activity as this task, and at this point it seems unlikely that any other WSIS-related activity will. But that is all right. As a topic, "Internet governance" is almost as broad in scope as the "Information Society." The authors identify three key meta-areas of global concern such as jurisdiction application, law enforcement harmonization and cooperation and global resource management. They deal with several policy areas such as ICANN structure and functions, music downloading, gLTD addition and spam. On the basis of the analysis made their conclusion is that "some kind of broader dialogue about Internet governance at the global level is needed". See http://academia.edu/2696805/Making_sense_of_Internet_Governance_Identifying_public_poli cy_issues Broader dialogue suggests that stakeholders should agree initially on a number of

principles for Internet governance to boost cooperation. See Council of Europe Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection and promotion of the universality, integrity and openness of the Internet at https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1835707

5. What are the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders, including governments, in implementation of the various aspects of enhanced cooperation?

It is stated in the Tunis Agenda that governments possess a key role in the enhanced cooperation process and their main objective is to shape the relevant public policy on an international scale. The term government is varied and refers to different state bodies with various competences that operate at different levels. See Workshop 50.Enhanced cooperation and the Internet addressing organizations Joint workshop with APRICOT meeting in Singapore at http://conference.apnic.net/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/59107/Workshop50BdlC.pdf
Other stakeholders' involvement is also of importance for the successful accomplishment of the process and they also have responsibilities. See http://www.itu.int/en/wtpf-13/Documents/backgrounder-wtpf-13-enhanced-cooperation-en.pdf
The goal pursued by the private sector is to drive technological development and to create the necessary public climate for wide application of ICts through experiment and innovation and reinstatement of entrepreneurial culture as basic prerequisites for the establishment of competitive market relationships.
The civil society sector can contribute immensely to enhanced cooperation through the implementation of common projects, consultations on strategies papers, capacity building, information exchange, database, providing expertise, fostering networking and aiming at public mobilization. In its work non-governmental organizations are normally supported by human rights organizations the activities of which put emphasis on human rights protection in the new digital environment.
Technical communities can contribute to enhanced cooperation through technical expertise, common projects, up to date information and creating relevant data bases.
The academic community has the capacity to support a variety of aspects of enhanced cooperation such as being a think tank raising proposals and ideas, providing expert analysis and consultation at all levels.
International organizations should provide fora for deliberation and discussion and facilitate the overall complex process at global, regional and local level.
The media can serve best as promoting the principles of enhanced cooperation by boosting the exchange of views among stakeholders, placing enhanced cooperation as a central issue on public agenda, driving debate and scrutinizing implementation by different stakeholders (the governments above all) and assuring the highest degree of transparency of the overall process.

6. How should enhanced cooperation be implemented to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet?

As declared by international organizations the international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. We have already mentioned the dynamic character of multistakeholderism and that discussions should include other stakeholders as well. At the end of the day enhanced cooperation should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism.
Internet governance is already expanding in a variety of international regimes and fora. Any sweeping new global governance regime for the Internet simultaneously raises dangers of hyper centralization and therefore it is worth taking a more comprehensive look at the system as a whole and at its participants. Sources support the argument that "some kind of broader dialogue about Internet governance at the global level is needed". Making Sense of "Internet Governance: "Identifying Public Policy Issues http://academia.edu/2696805/Making_sense_of_Internet_Governance_Identifying_public_poli

cy_issues

This enhanced dialogue as a basic prerequisite for enhanced cooperation represents the necessary deliberative environment to enable governments to carry out their responsibilities to cope with international policy issues. Governments should be the vanguard of the process. Firstly, Internet matters and Internet governance in particular should be a priority on their agenda, secondly, they must show commitment to these activities and take seriously their tasks at international and national level and thirdly, they should devise the appropriate policy relying on the multistakeholders' approach, openness and transparency.

7. How can enhanced cooperation enable other stakeholders to carry out their roles and responsibilities?

We consider the question closely related to the previous one. In practical terms equity or equal footing means that all stakeholders should have the opportunity to participate actively and effectively in enhanced cooperation - not only by taking part in debate but also in decision making. Experts suggest elevating the status of some stakeholders in international organizations in order for an equal play ground for all to be laid out. (Workshop 50. Enhanced cooperation and the Internet addressing organizations. Joint workshop with APRICOT meeting in Singapore at http://conference.apnic.net/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/59107/Workshop50BdIC.pdf) In this way the whole process of policy making will prove more fruitful and effective. Such mechanism of exchange and decision taking should be adopted not only globally with the support and involvement of international organizations but also at a regional and local level.

8. What are the most appropriate mechanisms to fully implement enhanced cooperation as recognized in the Tunis Agenda, including on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and public policy issues associated with coordination and management of critical Internet resources?

At first glance it seems that the Tunis Agenda has introduced two separate mechanisms – the institutional one through the IGF and the functional one – through enhanced cooperation among stakeholders. Such interpretation though not ungrounded might lead to ambiguity and give birth to divergent approaches. As pointed out in expert reports "the debate around this notion has however significantly evolved since then, as illustrated by discussions in the IGF, the CSTD and this first WSIS+10 review session.The Working Group of the Chair of the CSTD will have a key role to further this discussion and operationalization of this concept." (Workshop 50. Enhanced cooperation and the Internet addressing organizations. Joint workshop with APRICOT meeting in Singapore at http://conference.apnic.net/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/59107/Workshop50BdIC.pdf)
The establishment of another global mechanism to accomplish enhanced cooperation will be costly because it will result in new bureaucracy; notwithstanding the fact that the aim is pertinent and it is expected to foster transparency, inclusiveness and efficacy of the process of interaction, paradoxically it may lead to overregulation of the Internet sphere, parallelism and final inefficiency. Enhanced cooperation can be pursued within existing international, regional and local structures by improving their procedures and especially by giving a chance to all stakeholders to have their voices heard and taken into account in decision making. The Tunis Agenda in art. 70 calls on existing organizations related to the Internet to facilitate elaboration of public policy principles. Consistent implementation of principles such as openness, transparency, diversity of participation and input and better overall coordination can place the process on a safer and human rights oriented ground.

9. What is the possible relationship between enhanced cooperation and the IGF?

As reported by specialists (Nigel Hickson, former UK government official and now an ICANN employee) "the original meaning of enhanced cooperation had lost significance by now". The ICANN, the technical community, including ISOC, international NGOs as APC ("cooperation in internet governance implies that all partners should, in their respective roles, work together on an equal footing and with a shared mission") and the Internet Society have declared the IGF to symbolize institutionally and functionally enhanced cooperation. The IGF should

improve its methods and procedures to include on an equal footing all existing stakeholders and even go further to reflect the dynamic development in the field by inviting more stakeholders. The IGF should work not only globally but pay particular attention to regional and local IGF fora and establish a stable network. Most welcomed goals could be the adoption by all interested parties the priorities of enhanced cooperation such as the principles of Internet governance and a memorandum of understanding between countries, clear and transparent principles of prioritization of the Internet traffic and harmonization of laws in the field to avoid gaps, duplications and freedom of expression and information abuses. Besides enhancing the IGF cooperation with other organizations and especially with those putting efforts in the protection of human rights and democracy in the information society such as the Council of Europe for instance, can prove rather fruitful.
See Recommendation CM/Rec(2011)8 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the protection and promotion of the universality, integrity and openness of the Internet at https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1835707
See APC Enhancing cooperation among stakeholders in internet governance at http://www.apc.org/en/node/14444
See also Council of Europe background paper on net neutrality

10. How can the role of developing countries be made more effective in global Internet governance?

To make the role of developing countries in global Internet governance more effective and visible is an essential goal in order for enhanced cooperation to become genuine and result oriented process and inclusive and diverse Information society to be accomplished. It is part and parcel of the broader issue of bridging the digital divide. These countries should have the capacity and understanding to participate on an equal footing with other stakeholders. The approach taken on board should be intimately connected with the achievement of the UN and UNESCO's Millenium Goals as a condition for the creation of the necessary level of ICTs, infrastructure, Internet access, capacity and skills of human resources. Principles pertaining to human rights such as affordable and universal access to the Internet for all, respect for multilingualism, content diversity and meaningful dialogue and participation should be guiding in this respect. The implementation of coherent and transparent ICT policy, regular monitoring of application and results, promotion of entrepreneurial culture and concentrating on the establishment of small and medium-size local enterprises, realization of capacity building projects and protecting fundamental human rights principles are crucial in this respect.
See Jaqueline A. Morris, Internet Governance and Development, Media 21 at http://www.caricom.org/jsp/projects/Internet%20Governance%20and%20Development%20-%20Jacqueline%20Morris%20%20Media%2021.pdf

11. What barriers remain for all stakeholders to fully participate in their respective roles in global Internet governance? How can these barriers best be overcome?

Different groups of stakeholders encounter difficulties in global Internet governance. These barriers vary from one group to another. There are repressive governments for instance, which are not interested at all to contribute to the global efforts put in Internet governance, there are weak governments which lack courage and understanding to participate actively in the process, there are governments that are not committed to the cause and do not feel like being involved in the global mechanism of Internet governance. Civil society's and especially general public's participation is also narrow and has to be pushed forward. Industry may not be motivated always to take part in Internet governance. All these flaws in stakeholders' involvement we think can be removed by enhancing dialogue among the parties. Clear and simple principles of global Internet governance that foster Internet freedom and human rights should also be agreed upon. Another opportunity to be pursued is as some analysts point out to revisit the existing model of multistakeholderism which can be considered transitory and to turn to the large community of Internet users searching for more democratic forms of representation and participation.
About the intellectual content of world debate see more at http://www.internetgovernance.org/2013/04/23/wtf-wtpf-the-continuing-battle-over-internet-governance-principles/

About India and business challenges see also
http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/internet-governance-needs-consensus-says-sibal/article3949194.ece

12. What actions are needed to promote effective participation of all marginalised people in the global information society?

Effective participation of all marginalized people in the global information society is a complex issue which goes beyond the simple use or use-not of computers. Firstly, these people have to be effectively empowered in order to benefit from technology and to become genuine members of information society. The problem is not only technical but solutions based on better comprehension of complex social surroundings of the groups and their interaction with technology should be found (see investigation done by Bharat Mehra, Cecilia Merkel and Ann Peterson Bishop, The internet for empowerment of minority and marginalized users, 2004 http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.115.4911&rep=rep1&type=pdf, online version at http://nms.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/6/6/781).
Secondly, new inclusive information society policy should be pursued. We have already mentioned that the scope of stakeholders in global dialogue should be widened and new participants should be encompassed, particularly communities. Possibly novel forms of participation and involvement – more direct as expression - should be sought and encouraged. In this respect experts claim that governments should create suitable regulatory frameworks and generally an enabling environment for communication with the poor and neglected. Such approach is intertwined with settling issues of social and economic complexion securing sustainable development and poverty eradication - the Millenium Goals. The most important tool, however, for inclusion of the poor and marginalized communities is the right to communication. Freedom of expression is crucial and suppressed voices of refugees, migrants, indigenous people should be heard by policymakers. Activities and procedures of international organization should become more open and democratic for various participants including communities and individuals. Respecting cultural diversity, languages, and traditions is unalienable element of this multi-stage process (see Silvia Balitt, Communication for Isolated and Marginalized Groups, Blending the Old and the New, 2004 at http://www.fao.org/sd/dim_kn1/docs/kn1_040701a2_en.pdf)

13. How can enhanced cooperation address key issues toward global, social and economic development?

These issues could be addressed through international fora and organizations structuring complex agendas. Enhanced cooperation should be connected to the topic of digital divide and economic growth at any level. The best suited one is the UN agenda because it is supposed to be overarching. For instance, the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development 1995 speaks about integrated strategies (http://www.un-documents.net/poa-wssd.htm) and establishing enabling environment for social development. Information and communications technologies are a powerful factor to accomplish this goal. Integrated strategies in the nineties factually imply multistakeholders' approach and enhanced cooperation that have come to the fore and become so fashionable nowadays. Enhanced cooperation can provide solutions to global social and economic issues if various organizations act in multidimensional manner and not separately. Secondly, the principles of action are of importance – transparency and effectiveness are critical to achieving tangible results. In some states effectiveness is very low or non-existent. It is recommended through intense cooperation at various levels and broader stakeholders' efforts aiming at results to accelerate progress dramatically (DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FOR THE MDGs: MAXIMIZING RESULTS at http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/julyhls/pdf10/10-45690_%28e%29%28desa%29development_cooperation_for_the_mdgs_max_results.pdf)

14. What is the role of various stakeholders in promoting the development of local language content?

The role of various stakeholders in promoting the development of local language content should be based at least on two very important acts – the UNESCO Recommendation

concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace from 15 October 2003 at http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=17717&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html
 and Recommendation CM/Rec(2007)16 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on measures to promote the public service value of the Internet https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1207291.
These instruments endorse diversity and multilingualism online and also speak about supporting the creation and dissemination of indigenous languages content.
The role of member states to adopt appropriate policy and strategies is crucial in this respect. States and their bodies should do this inviting other stakeholders such as the private sector and civil society to participate. The private sector could offer for instance, new technical solutions and systems that boost creation of local language content. Civil society can ensure the training of local communities to use effectively the opportunities provided by the new platforms. Freedom of expression is the central right through which content diversity can be achieved and local content in particular can be freely created. The media perceived not only as traditional media but as platforms and services and public service media and community media in particular can be valuable stakeholders that help realizing projects and ideas leading to the expansion of the development of local language content.

15. What are the international internet-related public policy issues that are of special relevance to developing countries?

These issues can be divided into material and procedural. On the one hand, the substance discussed and reflected by the public policy adopted should take into account the needs of developing countries in building an information society that is not transplanted from outside but that relies on local culture, knowledge and traditions, serves people at large and brings economic and human rights benefits to all. On the other hand, developing countries should have the opportunity to participate effectively in the discussion of the Internet policy set up by the international organizations, at global, regional and local level. Another crucial point with respect to this is that their role in decision-making must be real and visible. Procedures should be devised in such a way as to allow all participants to have contribution in taking decisions.
Sources underline in particular the interdisciplinary nature of Internet governance and its broad relevance to development objectives. Recalling the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Tunis Agenda they affirm that, the Internet was a central element of a people-centred, inclusive, development-oriented and non-discriminatory information society. The ongoing dialogue with stakeholders should be a defining characteristic of the relevant international cooperation processes, in accordance with the World Summit on the Information Society principles and the common vision of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society. International security, human rights and law are three basic characteristics that are underscored. All they underpin viable and prosperous democracy.
See UN General Assembly Economic and Social Council Enhanced cooperation on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, report of the Secretary General at http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/a66d77_en.pdf

16. What are the key issues to be addressed to promote the affordability of the Internet, in particular in developing countries and least developed countries?

Analysis of this issue should be included as a permanent issue in the IGF agenda. It requires intense discussions of pragmatic approaches in which the experience of some stakeholders can be extremely useful. One of the solutions is to attract investments to these countries to build infrastructure. Possibly by-lateral and multilateral projects can be discussed. Also public-private partnerships can be a fruitful mechanism to be implemented the elaboration of which should be subject to the principles of openness, transparency and respecting the public interest.
See APC Reducing the Cost of International Internet Connectivity at http://intgovforum.org/Substantive_1st_IGF/APC_IGC_IIC_final.pdf
Hillary Clinton initiative at http://www.nbcnews.com/id/3036789/ns/msnbc-morning_joe/vp/50692099#50692099 - Kenya example!

17. What are the national capacities to be developed and modalities to be considered for national governments to develop Internet-related public policy with participation of all stakeholders?

The process is complex and it should be shaped according to the national legislative and managerial traditions of the countries However, a number of fundamental principles can be distilled. Four phases of developing the Internet public policy are of relevance here: preliminary phase – setting the design – approving stakeholders, sketching the decision-making process, defining avenues for exchange of information; planning - formulating objectives and goals and the means for accomplishing them, identifying the major issues and risks, structuring the executive team, inviting and involving stakeholders, appropriating the budget and settling logistics matters, implementation of the whole process and final feedback and evaluation. We would suggest indicators for developing Internet policy with participation of all stakeholders to be elaborated – a challenging task to be pursued by relevant international fora (IGF) in an open, transparent and multistakeholders' manner. See Public Policy and Public Participation Engaging Citizens and Community in the Development of Public Policy (about health reform in Canada – BZ) – at http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/canada/regions/atlantic/pdf/pub_policy_partic_e.pdf

18. Are there other comments, or areas of concern, on enhanced cooperation you would like to submit?

First, overlaps in the activities of international organizations in the Internet area raise concerns. Sexy issues are treated by all organizations without taking intro account the necessary division of competences or fields of interest.
Second, the imprecise terminology that can lead to ambiguities and waste of time and energy in drafting and interpreting texts and moreover can be exploited to serve parochial interests.
Third, there is lack of smooth interaction between relevant participants at global, regional and local level and lack of visibility of local problems and initiatives.
Fourth, human rights issues in the field are still not well studied and comprehensively tackled.
Fifth, what strikes in most cases are the opaque procedures and the absence of genuine openness, transparency and public commitment?