

Timestamp

9/3/2013 9:47:13

The information solicited through this questionnaire will only be used in aggregate form, unless otherwise authorised by the respondent. Do you authorise us to cite/share your views individually?

Yes

Please enter your contact details:

Saudi Arabia, Communications and Information Technology Commission (CITC)
PO Box 75606, Riyadh 11588, Saudi Arabia
MAJED ALMAZYED, mmazyed@citc.gov.sa

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) Art. 35 recognizes that policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues is the sovereign right of States and they have rights and responsibilities for international Internet-related public policy issues. Art. 60 & 61 recognize that there are many cross-cutting international public policy issues that require attention and are not adequately addressed by the current mechanisms, and that there is a need to initiate a transparent, democratic, and multilateral process with the participation of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations, in their respective roles, to synergize efforts. Art.69 recognizes that enhanced cooperation is the mechanism needed to enable governments to carry out their roles and responsibilities.

b) The purpose of enhanced cooperation is to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet (Art. 69). From Art. 68, this includes ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the Internet and the development of international public policy in consultation with all stakeholders.

c) From Art. 69, enhanced cooperation includes international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and excludes day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues.

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.

Art. 61 envisages a suitable framework or mechanisms with the participation of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations in their respective roles. Art. 68 recognizes the need for development of public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders.

Art. 71 states that the UN Secretary-General is to start a process towards enhanced cooperation by the end of 1Q 2006. Since no process or organization exists in which all governments develop Internet-related international public policy in consultation with all stakeholders, we must conclude that this part of the enhanced cooperation process has not been implemented.

On the other hand, Art. 71 also states that relevant organizations should start a process

towards enhanced cooperation involving all stakeholders and that these organizations provide annual performance reports. Indeed, some reports have been requested and provided, so this part of the process has begun. However, most reports deal with increasing cooperation among various stakeholder bodies, which does not constitute enhanced cooperation since it does not represent a process aimed at enabling governments to carry out their roles and responsibilities. Thus it is questionable whether this reporting has been meaningful to any significant extent in operationalizing enhanced cooperation.

The closest implementation of an organization that exists is the ITU Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy.

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

(WGIG) and many of their recommendations were reflected in the Tunis Agenda. A good summary was provided in ITU Council Resolution 1305 (reflected below). Since that time, transition to IPv6 has emerged as another major issue.

It is difficult to prioritize individual issues on a global basis but they can be placed into tiers of roughly comparable priority.

Tier 1 (the nature of global cooperation is not well-defined):

- Security, safety, continuity, sustainability and robustness of the Internet (including the future internet, which may be an evolutionary or clean slate approach to the development of the Internet).
- Combating cybercrime.
- Dealing effectively with spam.
- Issues pertaining to the use and misuse of the Internet.
- Respect for privacy and protection of personal information and data.
- Protecting children and vulnerable people from abuse and exploitation.

Tier 2 (require an international perspective):

- Multilingualization of the Internet (including email, search engines and native capability).
- International Internet connectivity.
- Management of Internet addresses including domain names and root servers.
- IPv6 transition.

Tier 3 (capacity building and development):

- Contributing to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries.
- Developmental aspects of the Internet.

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

In the table below, the various stakeholders are identified as follows based on Art. 35 & 36 of the Tunis Agenda:

- 1 Governments
- 2 The private sector
- 3 Civil society
- 4 Intergovernmental organizations
- 5 International organizations
- 6 The technical community and academia

Aspects of enhanced cooperation:

- Provide a body for enhanced cooperation - 4
- Processes for consultation and multistakeholder collaboration - 1,2,3,4,5,6
- Process for final agreement - 1,4
- Process for dissemination - 1,4
- Adoption and implementation in the national context (including regulation, legislation, inter-agency processes and cooperation, civil concerns and technical

issues) - 1,2,3,6

Adoption and implementation in the international context (including treaties, international law, international cooperation, related standards and technical developments) - 1,2,4,5,6

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?

Final policy decisions would be made by Member States. The Body should meet twice yearly (including remote participation). Standing committees studying particular issues should meet regularly via electronic means and physically as needed. Support the Body and committees by a permanent secretariat.

There should be balanced representation (region, developed vs developing) for the vicechairs, committee chairs and committee members.

There should be formal processes regarding:

- Introduction of issues in the Body.

Establishment of and reporting by committees.

- Rules for debate in the Body and committees.

- Methodology for inputs and multistakeholder collaboration leveraging existing forums, organizations and processes.

- Reaching final agreement (consensus, majority vote, etc.)

- Dissemination of policy decisions.

- Expectations and reporting of adoption and implementation in the national context (including regulation, legislation, inter-agency processes and cooperation, civil concerns and technical issues).

- Expectations and reporting of adoption and implementation in the international context (including treaties, international law, international cooperation, related standards and technical developments).

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

The WGIG report and Tunis Agenda give a fairly comprehensive assessment of the roles of the various stakeholders, many of which are directly related to supporting public policy development or being driven by public policy.

The private sector:

- Research and development of technologies, standards and processes (conforming to public policy).

- Consultative contribution to the drafting of national law and participation in national and international policy development.

- Promoting capacity-building.

Civil society:

- Awareness-raising and capacity-building.

- Promoting various public interest objectives.

- Bringing perspectives of marginalized groups.

- Helping to ensure that political and market forces are accountable to the needs of all members of society.

Intergovernmental organizations:

- Facilitating in the coordination of public policy issues.

International organizations:

- Development of technical standards and related policies (conforming to public policy).

The technical community and academia:

- Interaction with and within all stakeholder groups, particularly in the areas of stability, security, functioning and evolution of the Internet.

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?

See response to Q6. The mechanisms described would apply equally to all international Internet-related public policy issues.

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

Enhanced cooperation and the IGF have been recognized by CSTD, ECOSOC and UNGA as two distinct processes which may be complementary. The response to Q6 indicates that a methodology is needed for inputs and multistakeholder collaboration on public policy development leveraging existing forums, organizations and processes. Certainly, the IGF is an example of an existing forum which could be leveraged for such purposes. The various enhanced cooperation committees might sponsor IGF discussion (both regional and global) on their particular policy issues and/or the IGF meeting chairs might summarize multistakeholder input in their reports.

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

One of the many reasons for enhanced cooperation is to enable governments to carry out their roles and responsibilities on an equal footing. Enhanced cooperation will provide a platform for developing countries to be more effective and to be part of the decisionmaking process in Internet governance.

Also, the role of developing countries is in fact one of the public policy issues listed in ITU Council Resolution 1305 and reflected in the response to Q4. It boils down to three critical factors and it is the implementation that will likely be the primary focus of the public policy formulation and debate:

1. Capacity building via training, education and technical support.
2. Financial support for capacity building, internal development related to the Internet and participation in Internet governance (including remote participation).
3. The willingness of the developed countries to cede part of their control and allow developing countries to participate in a balanced manner.

The response to Q6 has suggested UN funding, remote participation and balanced representation for the vice-chairs, committee chairs and committee members in the enhanced cooperation Body.

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?

Among the various stakeholder groups identified in the Tunis Agenda, it is only governments who are unable to participate in their role in Internet governance. There is no effective mechanism for them to undertake that role, which is the development of international Internet-related public policy in consultation with all stakeholders.

Enhanced cooperation was intended to provide this mechanism and the process toward implementing enhanced cooperation was to begin by 1Q 2006.

So far, implementation of enhanced cooperation has been successfully blocked by a collaboration of interests (regretably including a number of governments) who believe that the multistakeholder model excludes governments, who erroneously claim that governments want to control the Internet, and who want to restrict any meaningful government participation. All these principles are clearly contrary to the WSIS outcomes. Those governments supporting implementation of the WSIS outcomes have finally reached the point of creation of the WGEC, whose purpose is to make recommendations on how to fully implement the mandate of the WSIS regarding enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda.

The barrier to implementation of enhanced cooperation may be overcome if the WGEC makes recommendations truly in line with the intent and spirit of WSIS.

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

The cause of marginalized people is addressed in a number of the issues in the response to Q4 such as multilingualization, international Internet connectivity (including affordability, and developmental aspects of the Internet, for which public policy should be developed by the enhanced cooperation Body. Their principal champion, in terms of roles and responsibilities, is civil society, though governments (including regulators) generally have active programs aimed at universal service and universal inclusion of their populations in the digital society.

Among the key issues to be addressed are training and education, literacy, access to ICTs, affordability, ongoing support and empowerment.

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

See the response to Q6. Enhanced cooperation embodies a Body and its related processes mandated to address international public policy pertaining to the Internet. The processes will address the details of how issues are introduced, studied in consultation with all stakeholders, debated, agreed, disseminated, adopted and implemented.

The first step is to establish the Body, its place in the UN family, funding, secretarial support and high-level processes. The details will follow.

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

This is another issue identified in the response to Q4 under the umbrella of multilingualization. Local language content is a priority for many countries in order to achieve universal inclusion in the digital society. These are the key stakeholders.

Government: Develop international public policy to promote the development of local language content. Provide incentives and funding for research and development and for businesses aimed at content development and dissemination. Collaborate with other countries on regional programs.

Civil society: Champion the cause. Support and enable widespread access to local language content.

The technical community and academia: Research and development related to translation, search engines, multilingual email, and other algorithms to speed, simplify and enable local languages.

The private sector: Businesses to provide existing content in new languages, to develop new content pertinent to the language and the culture, and to distribute the content.

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

Of the issues identified in the response to Q4 which should be addressed by the enhanced cooperation Body, these are probably among the most relevance to developing countries.

- Multilingualization: This includes local language content, search engines and multilingual email.
- International Internet connectivity: This includes affordability, Internet exchange points, and differences in the cost of carrying traffic.
- IPv6 transition: Most developing countries have limited fixed line infrastructure and communication is primarily via wireless technology. IPv6 is much better suited to mobility than IPv4.
- Contributing to capacity building for Internet governance: This includes financing, training and support. Developing countries must be involved in the development of public policy and must be able to represent their interests in the evolution of the Internet.

- Developmental aspects of the Internet: This includes programs aimed at the populations of the developing countries and improving their quality of life.

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?

We would expect this issue to be studied in depth by the enhanced cooperation Body, building on the work of ITU and other intergovernmental organizations. Some of the factors to be considered may include:

- Development and use of suitable technologies which are simple and low cost.
- National and regional Internet exchange points.
- National and regional servers for major content providers.
- Minimizing differences in the cost of carrying traffic.
- Possibly subsidization of service.

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 responses to Q5, Q6 and Q7 provide a lot of information pertinent to this question in terms of structure and processes to be developed for enhanced cooperation and consultation with all stakeholders.

Regarding national capacities, some of the key issues to be addressed (such as security, privacy, cybercrime and spam) will involve significant levels of international cooperation and open-mindedness. Among the capacities and modalities required is collaboration among all stakeholders, leveraging what each does best for the benefit of the entire global Internet community. Art. 35 & 36 of the Tunis Agenda break down the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder group in terms that define what they best. All parties will need to approach these global Internet issues from the perspective of good will and cooperation in order to be able to solve them.

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

Many of the questions in this questionnaire were directed more at defining and discussing Internet issues rather than at the enhanced cooperation process. The WGEC is entrusted with recommending how to fully implement the mandate of WSIS regarding enhanced cooperation. It is enhanced cooperation in its operationalized form which is needed to address these issues, and the WGEC should concentrate more on operationalizing enhanced cooperation rather than on defining issues for the enhanced cooperation Body to address.