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1. Which stakeholder category do you belong to?

Non-Government

If non-government, please indicate:

Civil society

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 significance of the enhanced cooperation is that people and organizations from many backgrounds and with different expertise are involved. Their participation is based on knowledge and need, rather than formal membership. We agree with Markus Kummer, Vice-President for Public Policy of the Internet Society, that this encourages broad participation and reduces any barriers to enter Internet standards and policy development processes.

(b) Purpose: multi-stakeholder cooperation. It is essential to the growth of the Internet and the Information Society. It's not an option, but a must - setting out a plan for multi-stakeholder implementation at the international level of the WSIS Geneva Plan of Action, describing the multi-stakeholder implementation process according to eleven action lines and allocating responsibilities for facilitating implementation of the different action lines. There is no organization that is responsible for the Internet; therefore there is need for an engagement of all relevant stakeholders in many organizations. We believe the purpose of the enhanced cooperation is "to keep Internet going" and make it available for more users.

(c) Scope: The enhanced cooperation takes place within and between existing organizations. Therefore there is no central mechanism or a new body to discuss "enhanced cooperation."

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.

The current status of the implementation with opinions varying on the amount of progress made on this matter since 2005, with some of the view that the process, as highlighted in the Tunis Agenda, is still in its preliminary stages, while others have noted that significant enhanced cooperation is already happening in varying degrees between organizations and through different forums.

One of the persons that believes significant enhanced cooperation is happening is Mr. Kummer. According to him, the spreading of the multi-stakeholder approach helps governments reach better decision. For example, in Kenya it has led to a change in the constitution. Kenya has introduced a mandatory requirement for multi-stakeholder processes in all policy area, thus enhancing participatory democracy. This can serve as an example for

the impact and of enhanced multi-stakeholder cooperation. Another example is that the Internet Society and other Internet organizations have reached out to governments and intergovernmental organizations and encouraged them to become involved in Internet governance processes.

According to Intellectual Property Watch the UN system so far has failed to implement important aspects of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the so-called enhanced cooperation resolution from the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) – which organized the WSIS – is the most relevant specialized institution that has continued to violate the multi-stakeholder principle by excluding civil society stakeholders.

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

The most important issues pertaining to the Internet that have to be remembered are freedom of expression and users' privacy in the digital world. These principles have so naturally applied to digital world as they have to our physical existence.

Data protection is the one right without which other rights, such as freedom of expression and user's privacy, will be undermined. The list of the needs to be protected has to be updated according to the development of technologies.

Thanks to Internet people have access to an unlimited source of knowledge and educational material. It empowers people to innovate without asking for permission. This global and open network is a space for creativity and new ideas. Therefore there is need for sustainable Internet.

This space for creativity and new ideas leads to intellectual property issues. In order for the Internet to be a place where people can learn a lot and at the same time show their knowledge to the rest of the world intellectual property rights have to be followed.

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

Governments should give the appropriate attention to the Internet and other information technologies through positive policies. They should not undermine their importance. They have to ensure that freedom of expression is provided, to continue providing funding for the infrastructural development required for adequate Internet access in all areas of the society that serve as economic hubs. For instance when necessary, governments should lower the taxes for national ICT infrastructure projects. On the other hand not only governments but also multilateral institutions and bilateral public donors should provide more financial support. There should be public finance for the ICT access and services in rural areas and disadvantage populations. Vendors of technologies should understand that when lowering the prices they will attract more customers.

Examples for possible actions in developing countries are the following actions from different stakeholders:

1. Telecommunications providers willing to package and market prepaid and subscription (post-paid) broadband offerings with limited speed or data packages at a lower cost;
2. An excited local ecosystem offering creative, affordable bundles and/or financing; and
3. Government and regulatory incentives, sponsorship, and alignment to national broadband and overall ICT objectives.

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?

We believe that the best way for enhanced cooperation to be implemented in order to enable government to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet is to set regular meetings for the governments, non-governmental organizations, IT specialists and other stakeholders. The IGF is a good place to start the cooperation between the stakeholders. However, we believe that the meeting of the IGF should happen at least once a year. The development of technologies (both software and hardware) is so fast that stakeholders should not be left behind.

The exchange of ideas and experiences should be frequent. Besides the regular meetings of the IGF, some additional measures should be envisaged to ensure this cooperation. Should it be some kind of a newsletter/a website/live online communication/online forum/regular monthly meetings of different Work Groups of stakeholders, etc., is up to the stakeholders to decide on the IGF meetings.

During these meetings and through the exchange of ideas and knowledge, governments will receive a lot of information that they can use while creating regulations and policies that deal with the Internet. Without this information the regulations that govern the Internet on national level will be just words that hardly apply to the reality.

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

Having these regular meetings and constant exchange of information as noted in the previous point will enable and the other stakeholders to make decisions that are up to date with the development of technologies and the needs of the Internet users. This Forum for cooperation without binding decision is the best way for stakeholders to stay informed what is going on in relation to the Internet. Stakeholders will be aware of the attitudes and the desires of the other players. As many others state, the Internet cannot be governed neither by the governments, not by intergovernmental organizations. However, in order for it to continue working the way it does now stakeholders need to consider a lot of aspects before making any decisions in the sphere of their expertise.

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?

Incomprehensively: Common government policies. Engagement of the civil society representatives. Funding projects for implementing the public policies.

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

The Tunis Agenda created two tracks – the Internet Governance Forum and a process of 'Enhanced Cooperation'. It is carefully crafted diplomatic language, full of creative ambiguity. The Secretary General's report on the consultative process, carried out so far, reflects this well.

As Mr. Kummer pointed out, the IGF has turned into a catalyst that enhances cooperation among all stakeholders involved in Internet governance. This process has proved extremely valuable and has triggered off many IGF-type national and regional initiatives, in all parts of the world. Strengthening the IGF would, therefore, also strengthen enhanced cooperation.

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

By giving them a voice. The role of developing countries can be more effective in global Internet governance by giving them an equal voice as the other countries. However, before that, they should establish and implement national public policy on matters of Internet governance. They should also take part in forming the international policies on such matters. The rest of the world should recognize their willingness to be part of the global Internet governance.

By participating in Internet governance structures, the developing countries have the opportunity to advocate for the participatory models and specific technical policies that will lead to more and cheaper connectivity, secure the free flow of information, and ensure home grown entrepreneurs have a fair playing field in global markets.

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?

Most common barrier for stakeholders to fully participate in their respective roles in global Internet governance is the economic barrier. Both governments and other stakeholders see the economic development as an obstacle to fully participate.

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

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

ICT investments can have a positive impact on jobs, productivity, GDP growth, and innovation. The demonstrated effects of investment in the ICT infrastructure include: the creation of high-skilled, high-paying jobs; improved international competitiveness; a spillover effect, which can create opportunities in many other industries; a better quality of life through enhanced education, healthcare, etc.; and stronger and more competitive small and medium businesses. If ICT investment can have this positive effect on employment, education, healthcare, this means it is addressing the global, social and economic development. If the IGF can promote all the benefits that ICT investment can bring, more stakeholders will be willing to participate in this exchange of ideas. Therefore, their participation will not be just formal.

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

Developing social media platforms, search engines and entertainment portals should promote local language content.

- Telecommunication authorities'/Internet service providers role in promoting local language content is quite important. They can for example offer free domains for those who would develop local content websites;
- The biggest ICT companies should provide their software tools in local languages, in order to allow local communities to use these tools;
- Governments can provide incentive financing for local content.

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

We believe that all international Internet-related public policy issues have to be relevant to the developing countries.

The public policy issue that is quite important for developing countries is the affordability and universal access. In developing countries the minority part of the population has access to the Internet. Even in the countries's parts where there is Internet access the prices are usually quite high. That is why one of the leading public policy issues is the broadband competition. The existence of competition will guarantee lowering the prices for the end users. The next public policy issue that has special relevance to developing countries is online privacy. When talking about developing countries, we usually refer to countries that lack behind not only with their economic development, but also are not that democratic. Therefore online privacy will guarantee that the governments won't have access to users' information. Freedom of expression has also a special relevance to developing countries.

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?

Recent studies published by ITU reveal that broadband penetration is directly related to its cost, relative to an average family income, as well as to the availability of products and services that accommodate the general population's purchasing ability. For example, as the

annual cost of broadband drops below 3 percent of a family's annual income, its use begins to increase dramatically. For developed countries, this relative cost has already been achieved, but for at least 34 countries worldwide, the cost of broadband remains higher than the average annual family income and thus it remains entirely out of reach.

Extending the penetration of broadband to reach the next billion users becomes more complex because the ability of people in developing countries to afford more advanced technology and communications lessens dramatically.

For at least 34 countries worldwide, the cost of broadband remains higher than the average annual family income and thus it remains entirely out of reach.

Other issues to be addressed are the illiteracy, lack of local content, lack of coherent regional policy.

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?

Incomprehensively: National think tanks. Special government unit dedicated to the issue.

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

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