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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**

The aims of maximising the Internet's contribution to an inclusive, truly global knowledge-based economy, to economic development and growth, to innovation and to enhanced social well-being, can only be achieved through stakeholders from the private sector, the technical community, governments and civil society coordinating their activities in a spirit of cooperation and partnership. Individual entities or organisations, governments or stakeholder group cannot achieve these aims by themselves, acting in isolation. Cooperation across the full range of Internet governance issues is enhanced if there is effective coordination of the respective roles, responsibilities, activities, resources and expertise of relevant stakeholder communities

**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 WSIS in 2005 was an important milestone in the creation of a new multi-stakeholder ecosystem for the global information economy. Prior to 2005, many of the organisations and innovators involved in the development of the Internet worked in isolation from policymakers, civil society and user groups. Since then the global information economy has been transformed by greater openness, inclusivity and communication amongst stakeholders; and greater awareness of technical and economic achievements and opportunities, and of sources of expertise and best practice. Interaction amongst stakeholders (e.g. at the IGF) provides a catalyst for stakeholder cooperation and action which in turn create new opportunities and address challenges such as the growth of cybercrime.

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

In broad summary, the UK highlights the following:

- i. Creating opportunities for building and strengthening the knowledge-based economy in developing countries and small island states;
- ii. maintaining the security, resilience and stability of the Internet's critical infrastructure and combatting threats and cybercrime;
- iv. online child protection;
- v. privacy and data protection;
- vi. protection of intellectual property rights;
- vi. freedom of expression and safety of online media activists.

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

Enhanced cooperation only succeeds through mutual recognition of the respective roles, responsibilities and competence of all stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society and the technical community. In representing the public interest of their respective national and regional communities, and working in coordination with the above stakeholders, governments have many shared public policy goals relating to the knowledge economy and accordingly have important roles to play, notably:

- to empower Internet users by promoting freedom of expression, cultural diversity, access, education and skills;
- to ensure fair and consistent legal frameworks, by making clear that the law applies equally online as it does offline and providing equitable civil processes for dispute resolution;
- to foster a robust global Internet infrastructure by creating a secure and resilient environment for the global information economy which promotes investment and economic growth, and by supporting capacity building, particularly in developing countries;
- to support the multi-stakeholder model of governance, by facilitating and contributing to inclusive and transparent governance processes and promoting the right of all stakeholders to participate

## **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?**

Discussions and decision-making processes relating to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet need to be open to the active participation of government representatives, working alongside those of other stakeholder interests and expertise, in an open and transparent manner, and in accordance with their legitimate roles of safeguarding and promoting the public interest. A template for this equitable, balanced and inclusive approach is provided by ICANN. The progressive introduction of non-Latin script domains, the initiative to expand the number of generic top level domains so that competition and innovation is enhanced while also creating new opportunities for communities and the embedding of consumer safeguards in registry policies, are all being achieved through the active contribution of government policy experts in ICANN's policy processes. Furthermore, the independent reviews (with governmental participation) of ICANN's performance and processes under the Affirmation of Commitments, ensure that ICANN benefits from proper scrutiny and recommendations for improvement in the global public interest.

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

Enhanced cooperation not only facilitates dialogue, exchanges of information and best practice amongst stakeholders from different communities (as takes place at the national, regional and global Internet governance fora), but also enables coalitions of interests to form, bringing together stakeholders with differing but complementary roles and responsibilities. Such cooperative initiatives are then better able to access resources in order to achieve their objectives through activities and thereby securing concrete results. In this way, such open, transparent and inclusive cooperative initiatives provide stakeholders with access to expertise, scale and optimisation of resources. An example of this type of multi-partner cooperation is

the Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative which includes the ITU, Council of Europe, ICANN, UN ODC working alongside law enforcement agencies and national governments which provide funding. The genesis of this initiative was an open discussion at the Commonwealth Internet Governance Forum in Nairobi which identified the need for capacity building in combatting cybercrime in developing countries in the Commonwealth membership

**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?**

The last 10 years has seen initiatives evolve that enable once stand-alone organisations engage more effectively within the ecosystem of the global information and knowledge economies. For example, the rollout of Internet Exchange Points in east and west Africa that reduce access costs and promote local content, has come about through greater sharing of knowledge amongst technical experts, aid funders, private sector investors and government policy makers. Key to this approach are ensuring that the mechanisms that foster this kind of cooperation promote commitment by a diverse but complementary range of stakeholders to shared goals, trust, openness and transparency. These commitments can be formalised in memoranda of understanding and other similar mechanisms or legal instruments. Other examples of such initiatives are the Messaging Anti-Abuse Working Group (MAAWG) and the London Action Plan (LAP) with the active participation of government agencies such as the UK Information Commissioners Office, with the aim of mitigating the problems associated with spam; and ICANN partnering with UNESCO on securing greater multilingualism in the domain name system.

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

The IGF has played an unprecedented and major role in bringing together, in a single global forum, stakeholders across the entire range of public policy interests pertaining to the Internet. Furthermore, this model of open and inclusive interaction on an equal basis has been replicated at the national and regional level. Each year sees new national and regional multi-stakeholder fora emerge. Inevitably the scale of this interaction of shared interests and expertise, benefitting from the focus provided by IGF workshops and open fora that also open the door to new potential partners, leads to active cooperation, coalitions and scaled up cooperative action. The global IGF and the cooperative initiatives, including those that involve governments, that have emerged since 2005 are often linked in this way: the IGF as a global meeting place for 2000+ stakeholders and a forum for dialogue, has also provided the trigger, or acted as a catalyst, for action.

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

The physical participation in global Internet governance activities and events is costly and impacts on the human and financial resources in developing countries. The IGF and ICANN both recognise this critical problem. Their effectiveness as global fora and processes rely on successfully addressing it. There are solutions such as fellowship programmes, ICANN's establishment of regional support centres, and remote hubbing for engaging in IGF workshops that can contribute but more needs to be done: this is a key challenge for all stakeholders. Establishing closer linkages between the global IGF and the national and regional IGFs has also the potential for more successfully engaging developing countries in global Internet governance.

**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?**

The ten years since the WSIS have seen substantial progress in creating the kind of multi-stakeholder eco-system that facilitates active participation by stakeholders. The IGF established by the WSIS and the replication of that open, equitable, focussed and fully

participatory forum at the national and regional levels has accelerated the progress towards a dynamic knowledge economy that serves the interests of all countries and communities. There is still progress to be made to overcome the constraints of traditional governance structures that still persist such as the costs of physical participation and the pressure on resources. There is also more progress to be made in making these processes multi-lingual and user-friendly – and generally increasing the level of awareness of the benefits and opportunities for active engagement. The CSTD has a role for reviewing progress in outreach and stakeholder participation (including from governments) from least developed economies and small island states for whom the impact of the knowledge economy has highly transformative potential.

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

The responses to the previous two questions apply equally to this question with an emphasis on the need for outreach, knowledge sharing and effective practical means for sustained engagement and follow up cooperative activities. Reviews should be undertaken (perhaps under the direction of the CSTD on the recommendation of this working group) of the technology solutions available for active participation and the channels of support for building capacity and enhancing the infrastructural and skills bases in these communities, possibly through public-private initiatives and aid programmes.

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

The challenges for achieving the scale of global development that would render obsolete the notion of the "digital divide" remain significant: this should be a core focus of both the WSIS+10 review and the review of the Millennium Development Goals: the two intersect. The models of open, inclusive, transparent multi-stakeholder Internet governance established by the WSIS and embodied by ICANN have matured in the last 10 years as both successfully serving the interests of all stakeholders and facilitating the kind of enhanced cooperation envisaged in the Tunis Agenda. There needs to be continued vigilance in reviewing progress: there are still improvements to be made, new options to explore especially to facilitate more effective stakeholder outreach in many developing and least developed countries, and in small island states. There are still 50 governments which are not members of ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee. Outreach, dialogue, partnerships and active cooperation will help address these challenges.

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

The public-private partners and government donors who facilitate the roll out of Internet exchange points have a major contribution to make to fostering local language content. Likewise ICANN, in partnership with UNESCO, relevant governments and industry experts, as it progressively introduces non-Latin scripts into the top level of the domain name system. There is more progress to be achieved and the benefits for communities and cultural heritage are significant in the age of the knowledge economy. Information exchange and dialogue at the regional and global IGFs about the possible barriers for the development of content (financial etc) would be very beneficial.

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

In summary:

- inadequate investment in infrastructure for broadband network services that would deliver the kind of transformative benefits and opportunities which the Internet and the knowledge economy provide.
- affordable access to the Internet;
- cybersecurity and capacity to tackle the cybercrime threats which undermine confidence;

- increasing local content;
- achieving the benefits for services offered by mobile Internet access;
- reducing skills gaps;
- engaging effectively in the multi-stakeholder Internet governance processes.

**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?**

There are several components in the package of solutions for addressing this issue:

- i. ensuring national regulatory frameworks serve to drive costs down while attracting investment in service provision, promoting innovation and fostering local entrepreneurship;
- ii. promoting competition amongst providers;
- iii. examining the market potential for competitive mobile networks;
- iv. facilitating the establishment of Internet exchange points linked to regional backbones and broadband networks which significantly reduce transmission costs;
- v. creating sustainable markets for low cost devices;
- vi. engaging with industry analysts and policy experts at events such as the Internet Governance Forum.

**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?**

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- ii. promoting competition amongst providers;
- iii. examining the market potential for competitive mobile networks;
- iv. facilitating the establishment of Internet exchange points linked to regional backbones and broadband networks which significantly reduce transmission costs;
- v. creating sustainable markets for low cost devices;
- vi. engaging with industry analysts and policy experts at events such as the Internet Governance Forum.

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

As the United Kingdom stated at the CSTD meeting on 18 May 2012, it is the view of the UK Government, in consultation with national stakeholders, that enhanced cooperation as envisaged and described in the Tunis Agenda is already successfully taking place, largely as the product of the mechanisms for multi-stakeholder interaction established by the WSIS. ICANN has also demonstrated significant progress in the last decade as a template for multi-stakeholder cooperation, including the active participation of many governments. The UK does not believe, therefore, that any new processes of implementation, direction or oversight, inter-governmental or otherwise, in respect of “enhanced cooperation” is warranted. The UK believes that the CSTD has a valuable role in mapping the cooperative initiatives that have emerged since 2005 and identifying if there are any significant gaps in respect of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet for which there are demonstrably ineffective or inadequate channels for resolution.