UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

Agenda item 2: Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society outcomes at the regional and international levels

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Mr. Chairman Ministers, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, dear colleagues,

- It is an honour and pleasure for me to join you at the 16th session of the CSTD
- I am speaking today on behalf of the Internet Society, which is part of the technical community.
- The "technical community" was recognized in Tunis as a de facto fourth stakeholder group, alongside Governments, civil society and the private sector and I am pleased that the Joint Statement by the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS) takes note of this recognition.
- For the Internet Society, paragraph 36 of the Tunis Agenda is of paramount importance. This paragraph recognizes the technical community's "valuable contribution to the functioning and development of the Internet".
- As we look forward towards defining the Post-2015 Development Agenda, there is merit in looking back and taking stock of the progress achieved in the past 10 years.
- Together, we have come a long way, as many speakers have already asserted. For us, the biggest achievement is the recognition of the value of multistakeholder cooperation.
- In Tunis, governments represented at the highest level recognized that they cannot do it alone – on the path towards the knowledge society they rely on the expertise and know-how of the other stakeholders.
- For us, this is also key in the approach of WSIS+10 – the full and active involvement of all stakeholders.
- We believe that at the heart of achieving these goals is the multi-stakeholder approach.

- The technical community has pioneered this approach. All policy and standards developing processes are carried out in an open, inclusive and transparent format. Whoever wants to, can participate in these processes and have his or her voice heard.
- Of course the process is not an aim in itself, but past experience and success stories of countries which have adopted open, inclusive participatory processes show that the multistakeholder approach helps us take better decisions.
- Ultimately, this will prove beneficial to the billions of people who have not yet access to the Internet.
- The Internet is a great enabler and a driver of social and economic development.
- As Internet broadband becomes more accessible around the world, new opportunities also raise complex regulatory challenges.
- **Internet Governance Forum**
- These are issues that are being discussed by the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) where all stakeholder stake part on an equal footing.
- It is important for policymakers to engage in a dialogue with the private sector, with civil society and the technical community. This allows them to benefit from the expertise and experience of the other stakeholders when developing legal, policy and regulatory approaches to maximize the growth and development opportunities the Internet offers.
- The Internet Society attaches great importance to the IGF and considers it to be one of the most significant outcomes of WSIS.
- 22 regional and national IGF initiatives pay tribute to the IGF concept and have started a participatory multistakeholder approach in Internet policy matters in all regions.
- This is in line with paragrapg 80 of the Tunis Agenda which calls for "the development of multi-stakeholder processes at the national, regional and international levels to discuss and collaborate on the expansion and diffusion of the Internet ".
- The same paragraph also reminds us that the Internet should be seen "as a means to support development efforts to achieve internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals." It is important to bear this in mind when approaching the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- For full disclosure purposes, I need to mention at this point that I have been appointed by the USG for Economic and Social Affairs as intermim chair of the MAG the group that is preparing the ptogramme for the 2013 IGF meeting.

- We had a good meeting here in Geneva two weeks ago and agreed to propose "Building Bridges - - Enhancing Multistakeholder Cooperation for Growth and Sustainable Development" as the overarching theme of the meeting.
- This reflects the spirit of the recent World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum of the ITU (WTPF) discussions and echoes remarks by ITU Secretary General Dr Touré who used similar words when opening the meeting.
- We are fortunate to have CSTD Vice-Chair Peter Major as a MAG Member – he chaired the CSTD Working Group on IGF improvement and is able to give his advise on how to take into account its recommendations
- In looking at the programme and schedule of the meeting. the MAG took on board some key recommendations of the working group, in particular to aim for more tangible outcomes and linking the IGF to other related processes.
- The Bali meeting will be able to build on the WTPF and we hope indeed that it will be able to build bridges and bring people together in discussing how best to bring the Internet's benefits to the billions of people who are not yet connected.

- **WSIS +10 review process**
- The first WSIS +10 review event took place in February held at the UNESCO HQ. We were actively involved in the event and greatly appreciated its open and inclusive character.
- The outcome document, developed in a multistakeholder approach, set a benchmark for future WSIS related meetings and we hope it will be the model for the broader WSIS +10 review process.

- To conclude, allow me to reiterate the importance of the multistakeholder approach in shaping the policy framework for the knowledge society and the Post-2015 Development Agenda.
- The Joint Statement agreed on by UNGIS provides a useful reference point and highlights the importance of the Internet and its enabling power in "ensuring rights-based development, especially enabling wider exercise of freedom of expression and press freedom, which in turn are critical to combating corruption, ensuring gender-sensitivity, deepening accountability, and promoting socially inclusive development".
- Thank you. I wish you all a productive week of meetings.