Commission on Science and Technology for Development 17th Session, 12 - 16 May 2014

Substantive session on the WSIS+10 Review, pursuant to ECOSOC Resolution E/2013/9 para 47

14 May 2014

Statement by Mr. Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat

Talking Points – IGF Secretariat – Seventeenth Session of the CSTD – 14 May 2014

Background:

The session will address key activities and progress made in the implementation and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), as mandated by paragraph 47 of ECOSOC Resolution E/2013/9. The session will address, inter alia, the CSTD report on the WSIS+10 Review slated for completion by the 18th annual session of the CSTD, policy approaches for Internet governance, progress and plans for the Internet Governance Forum, the NetMundial conference outcomes, the current status of the WSIS+10 High-Level Event Open Consultation Process, and related observations from UN Regional Commissions. The session will conclude with a progress report from the CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation established by the Commission in 2013. It is expected that the discussion will also provide an opportunity to discuss broader issues related to the ten-year review of WSIS (WSIS+10).

TALKING POINTS:

- Exellencies (?), Ladies and Gentleman, colleagues and friends, I would like to thank the Chair and the CSTD Secretariat for inviting me to sit on this panel today.

- As the chair of the MAG Ambassador Karklins will be concentrating on the ongoing preparatory work for the 9th IGF set to take place in Istanbul in September, I will try to give a brief overview from the perspective of the IGF Secretariat on the progress and plans for the IGF and specifically our rolling implementation of the recommendations of the working group on improvements to the IGF.

- The Secretariat has submitted an interim report to the Secretariat of the CSTD on the current actions taken towards implementing the recommendations of the working group. It is not an exhaustive report but instead intends to outline some of the key areas where the Secretariat, UNDESA and the MAG have been working in response to the recommendations of the working group since they were formally accepted and adopted by the GA a little more than two years ago. I'd like to thank the CSTD Secretariat for allowing us to submit such a report and I would refer everyone here and following remotely to this document for more information.

- So, as many of you already know the IGF was set up by the UN Secretary-General as a major outcome of the WSIS. The IGF's mandate comes from the Tunis Agenda. When the mandate of the IGF was renewed in 2010 in the General assembly resolution 65/141 after its first five years, for an additional five years, a CSTD working group was established to make recommendations for how the IGF could improve and grow based upon its own experiences and the experiences of all stakeholders over the first five years.

- The recommendations of the working group have been extremely helpful to the work of the Secretariat and the MAG. The working group itself was multi-stakeholder in nature and as a result the recommendations were unique and true to the needs and preferences of all stakeholder groups.

- This is the core work of the Secretariat, listening to all stakeholders and facilitating the discourse as it is after all a bottom up participatory structure. We pride ourselves on our openness, working in a transparent manner, and being as inclusive as possible to all interested individuals and organizations interested in Internet governance issues.

- Much of the report called for strengthening and improving upon the existing working practices and modalities of the Secretariat and MAG. Other innovative recommendations have already been acted upon and were implemented in last year's preparatory process for the 8th IGF in Bali. Others of course are contingent upon funding to the IGF Trust Fund..

- This has been one way that our work has strengthened in response to the recommendations of the working group, for the past year we have been convening virtual MAG meetings every fortnight to carry on the preparations.

- We've also been working constantly to try and improve our remote participation. Remote participation is extremely important, in our open consultations and MAG meetings and in the annual IGF meetings and the National and Regional meetings. Through the WebEx client and we now also broadcast and record our meetings thru YouTube live.

- One of the primary cross-cutting recommendations of the working group is to increase and broaden participation in the IGF process, particularly the participation of developing and least-developed countries. We have increased our outreach in a response to this and work with the MAG to get the messages of the IGF to as many people as we can, also using the National and Regional IGFs to help us with this. We have also increased the amount spent on travel support. Which is of course based on funding and, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all donors to the IGF, both monetary and in-kind, for their generous contributions. Without the support of our donor community of course we could not carry out any of the recommendations ....

- We have done our best to increase our fundraising over the past couple of years and have worked with UNDESA to open up new avenues for donors to contribute to the

trust fund. We now have the TIDES initiative as one of the conduits that people can donate money to the IGF.

- One specific recommendation of the working group directly related to our meeting this week is the importance of improving existing and new linkages between the IGF and other Internet governance-related entities. We have been working extremely hard to improve such linkages, by participating in events such as the WSIS forums, the afore mentioned NETMundial the CSTD working group on enhanced cooperation, ICANN and IETF meetings, and National and Regional IGFs. This work will continue and we look forward to strengthening existing partnerships and collaborator work with All of the other actors in the fast-evolving Internet governance ecosystem to ensure that the stakeholders are getting everything they possibly can out of the IGF and that the IGF plays a complimentary role in this ecosystem.

- There is now a draft terms of reference for MAG members that will how integrate new members into the MAG

- On strengthening the secretariat we have added one new G staff member to help on administrative issues and we will shortly issue an announcement for P staff member soon to the secretariat . We are also endeavouring to increase the length of contracts that people serve under when they come to the Secretariat.

- Thank You very much.