

**UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
FOR DEVELOPMENT**

Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation

**Contribution to the guiding questions agreed during first meeting of the
WGEC**

Submitted by

JIMSON OLUFUYE,

**AFRICA INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES ALLIANCE
(AfICTA)**

DISCLAIMER: The views presented here are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect the views and position of the United Nations or the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

**AfICTA Input to the 2 Questions from the 1st Meeting of WGEC 2.0
15 December, 2016**

Introduction

Reflecting on the Tunis Agenda 71

71. The process towards EC, to be started by the UN SG, involving all relevant organizations by the end of the first quarter of 2006, will involve all stakeholders in their respective roles, will proceed as quickly as possible consistent with legal process, and will be responsive to innovation. Relevant organizations should commence a process towards enhanced cooperation involving all stakeholders, proceeding as quickly as possible and responsive to innovation. The same relevant organizations shall be requested to provide annual performance reports.

Acknowledging that WGEC 1.0 identified operation groups towards Enhanced Cooperation viz

- A. Implementation of the Tunis Agenda*
- B. Public policy issue and possible mechanisms*
- C. Role of stakeholders*
- D. Developing countries*
- E. Barriers for participation in enhanced cooperation*

Africa Information and Communication Technology Alliance (AfICTA) is pleased to submit the following contributions to the two (2) posed by WGEC 2.0.

Question 1

What are the high level characteristics of enhanced cooperation?

From the perspective of AfICTA, some of the high level characteristics of enhanced cooperation (EC) include:

- i. Peace: EC we believe should foster peace and harmony in the global Internet community
- ii. Openness: The global Internet community would benefit greatly from an open society where stakeholders are free to share their view points
- iii. Inclusivity: EC through any mechanism should be inclusive of all stakeholders particularly those from developing and least developed nations
- iv. Multi-stakeholderism: EC we also believe should involve all stakeholders and stakeowners involved in the evolution, support and sustenance of the one global Internet
- v. Result driven: EC of any form should be result oriented and benefit driven towards the realization of the sustainable development goals

Question 2

Taking into consideration the work of the previous WGEC and the Tunis Agenda, particularly paragraphs 69-71, what kind of recommendations should be considered?

AfICTA proposes that the following recommendations should be considered

1. That all governments on equal footing should participate in the work of the Government Advisory Committee of Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers in the management of the Critical Internet Resources (CIR)
2. That on need basis, government, business, civil society, technical and academic community should evolve and engage on processes of inclusive cooperation on diverse global public policy matters pertaining to the Internet
3. That efforts be made to increase awareness of diverse global public policy matters pertaining to the Internet especially in the developing and least developed nations
4. All countries including developing and least developed are encouraged to evolve national multi-stakeholder mechanism to address current and emerging regulatory and policy issues pertaining to the Internet.
5. Recognizing capacity gap in addressing Internet public policy matters in developing and least developed countries appropriate support mechanism should be enabled to bridge the gap.

Conclusion

An example of enhanced cooperation was the process operationalized by the global Internet stakeholder community and engendered by ICANN which produced management products that led to the successful transition of the United States National Telecommunication and Information Administration (NTIA) stewardship to the global stakeholder community for which the transition on 1 October, 2016 went smoothly without any hitch to the functioning of the Internet. It is important to note that the process under discourse satisfied the characteristics outlined in answer to question 1 above.

About AfICTA – Africa ICT Alliance

Africa Information & Communication Technologies Alliance (AfICTA) is a concerned private sector led alliance of ICT Associations, multi-national corporations, companies, organisations and individuals in the ICT sector in Africa. Membership is currently from 27 African countries with the vision to fulfil the promise of the digital age for everyone in Africa. For more information on AfICTA, please visit <http://aficta.org>.

Submitted by

Jimson Olufuye PhD
Chair, AfICTA