

**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

the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA)

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ESCWA Contribution

Following is the input of UN-ESCWA - based on consultations on the regional level - on the two guiding questions:

(1) What are the high level characteristics of enhanced cooperation?

Over the last decade, the Arab Region has increasingly acknowledged the value of IG AIGF as a multistakeholder dialogue non-outcome platform. That's why, the envisaged Enhanced cooperation process should provide complementarities to the IGF in being distinct from it in many aspects, but at the same time follow a similar governance style.

First, IG EC needs to be similar to the WSIS process itself; i.e all governments at equal footing in a multilateral paradigm where every country has a multistakeholder participation. That's one distinction that provide complementarity to the IGF. Similar to the WSIS Community, IG EC should become a community on itself led by governments and involving all stakeholders in various capacities and mandate..

Second, it needs to be outputs producing and decision making machinery. That's another differentiator from IGF which provides complementarity. Outputs can vary from recommendations to declarations to joint statements to resolutions to agreements.

Third, it needs to have a clear linkage to IGF per se. Dialogue is IGF should land somewhere for Decisions to be taken. That should be the EC platform. Input to such a platform can also come from any dialogue platform like the IGF or even different. All to be put on the table for the perusal of IG EC community. Of course this machinery would have to be creative, innovative, and geared towards text building negotiations/consensus.

The above 3 distinctive characteristics are paramount in making the IG EC meaningful: ***multilateral led with multistakeholder engagement; geared towards output; linked to other dialogue platforms.*** Otherwise, IGF needs to develop such characteristics itself which is impossible, and a major vacuum will continue to exist in the international sphere regarding the above.

(2) Taking into consideration the work of the previous WGEC and the Tunis Agenda, particularly paragraphs 69-71, what kind of recommendations should we consider?

* Develop ways to define a distinctive characteristics for IG EC process to make it different from IG IGF process.

* Encourage regional efforts to develop models for IG EC platforms among governments of particular regions.

* Acknowledge and recognize the same regional zoning. For example and for the Arab countries, use the same countries covered in the Arab IGF.

Best regards

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