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

Mexico

WORKING GROUP ON ENHANCED COOPERATION (WGEC),

The concept of enhanced cooperation arises from the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society. In particular, paragraphs 69 to 71 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society provide a general guide on the processes of enhanced cooperation that should be supported by all interested parties.

In addition to the Summit documents and the evaluation result process, this Working Group must take into account the work of the previous Working Group (WGEC 1.0), established by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Both, the Summit documents and the WGEC 1.0 sessions provide an important guide on which it is necessary to build-up.

For the Government of Mexico, the work of this new Working Group represents an invaluable opportunity to identify the best practices and challenges that the internet community faces to continue enhancing cooperation. There are several cooperation opportunity areas for stakeholders which are a tangible and concrete reality, although we recognize the need to improve the respective mechanisms in many other fields.

In this context, the Government of Mexico provides the following answers to the questions rose by the Chair of the Working Group, with the aim of fostering dialogue among members of the group and contributing to its work.

What are the high-level characteristics of enhanced cooperation?

While paragraph 69 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society explicitly refers to the role of governments, we consider that efforts aimed to strengthen cooperation should involve all community stakeholders under the multiple stakeholders' approach. For the Government of Mexico there are several successful examples of the implementation of this approach in which cooperation among actors has been fundamental and decisive. For instance, the IANA functions transition to the global community included a number of meetings within the framework of the diverse community and multiple ICANN stakeholders. In the same sense, the meetings of the Internet Governance Forum - in particular the work of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group - are a benchmark for the global community, not just for the diversity of views and actors present during the meetings, but for the deep cooperation during the preparatory process. Having this in mind, we consider that enhanced cooperation has the following top level characteristics:

Adaptable.

The efforts undertaken by the community to strengthen cooperation between stakeholders should be adaptable to the broad range of the Internet public policies. The Internet ecosystem offers several examples of multi-stakeholder processes with different mechanisms of participation, actors and purposes. We believe that enhanced cooperation should be applied to this diversity, without attempting to unify formats and respecting the characteristics of each mechanism.

Collaborative.

The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society recognizes the need to involve all stakeholders in public policy issues related to Internet. The Government of Mexico considers that a genuine enhanced cooperation should involve all community stakeholders. The results achieved under this approach must be produced from the beginning in a collaborative way, without limiting the stakeholders to a mere role of observers or as part of non-binding consults.

Consensus-based

The best outcomes in public policy issues related to the Internet result from a broad, plural and diverse discussion and take into consideration the views of all interested parties in the Internet community. Enhanced cooperation should be based on consensus, in order to promote an informed, active, plural and diverse participation of all stakeholders.

Evidence-based

It is widely recommended that the cooperation efforts are based on accurate evidence. The community of stakeholders produces diverse reports, studies and documents of invaluable interest for discussion by the Internet community. Enhanced cooperation should take into account the already existing material and, if necessary, promote its dissemination in open and accessible formats, including the use of open data.

Transparent.

Enhanced cooperation is strengthened by practices that generate certainty around the positions and decisions taken by all multiple stakeholders. An informed, plural and diverse dialogue is necessary in the discussions on public policies related to the Internet.

Sustainable.

In addition to the characteristics outlined before, enhanced cooperation should take into account the relationship between the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development and the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of

the World Summit on the Information Society. Such efforts must take into account the favorable role of information and communication technologies, especially the Internet and its decentralized management model of multiple stakeholders.

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

The work of the previous WGEC shows the importance of fostering the debate and involvement of all multiple stakeholders of the Internet community. The outcome of previous group should not be a burden for the new Group but an opportunity to avoid starting from zero.

As for the Tunis Agenda provisions, it is important to note that while paragraphs 69 to71 explicitly mention the role of governments in strengthening cooperation, both the Agenda itself and the outcome document on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society recognize the importance of the involvement of all stakeholders. In addition, the Internet ecosystem fosters the collaboration among stakeholders on a permanent basis. Recommendations should focused on the role of a single interested party might not lead to consider the full potential of the subject.

In this context, the recommendations should be relevant for the work of governments and other interested parties. The adaptability of enhanced cooperation, should allow that the recommendations issued by the Group could resist their analysis under various schemes and existing collaboration mechanisms among the various community organizations.

The recommendations should have to be flexible and resilient enough to be implemented in different fields at different levels. They should encourage innovation *per se* as a feature of the Internet, its applications and services. At the same time, the recommendations should be compatible with the multi-stakeholder approach for Internet Governance.

The recommendations should be a sign of the willingness and commitment of interested parties and adopted by consensus by all participants. For this reason, it is of particular importance that its drafting takes place in an open, participatory and inclusive environment, making use of various mechanisms - including the virtual ones – to empower stakeholder's participation.