UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation

Amendments/additional recommendations to document
"Compilation of recommendations contained in contributions from WGEC members and Observers to the two guiding questions agreed during the first meeting of the WGEC"

Submitted by

THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Contribution of the Government of the United States of America
to the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation
March 31, 2017

The United States is pleased to provide the following contribution to the third meeting of the CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC). This contribution builds on our previous contribution to the second meeting. The United States proposes the following recommendations to further implement the process of enhanced cooperation as envisioned by the Tunis Agenda.

- The primary purpose when considering international Internet-related public policy issues is to ensure the Internet remains an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable platform where everyone can create, access, utilize, and share information and knowledge to achieve their full potential, exercise human rights and fundamental freedoms, promote sustainable development, and improve quality of life.
- Institutions and processes should recognize the principles and spirit embodied in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, UNGA Resolution 70/125, and the NETmundial principles.
- Institutions and processes dealing with international Internet-related public policy should entertain proposals from all stakeholders related to ensuring the Internet remains an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable platform and strive to reflect areas of consensus.
- Institutions and processes should encourage and facilitate the full participation of all stakeholders when considering international Internet-related public policy issues, including at the national and local levels.
- Institutions and processes should encourage the participation of developing countries, women, persons with disabilities, youth, and unaffiliated users in institutions and processes that are considering international Internet-related public policy issues.
- Institutions and processes should not erect barriers that impede or prohibit the full participation of stakeholders when considering international Internet-related public policy issue, and should try to lower any existing barriers as much as possible.
- Stakeholders should avoid promoting the role or interest of one stakeholder group over other stakeholder groups in international Internet-related public policy discussions wherever they occur.
- Institutions and processes should be open to strengthening and improving their existing structure and processes in order to continually improve Internet-related public policy discussions.
- Institutions and processes should be open to learning from other relevant institutions and adopt successful processes, including procedural and participation improvements, best practices, and lessons learned.
- As appropriate, the participation of all stakeholders should be welcome at the annual Internet Governance Forum, the National and Regional IGF Initiatives (NRI), and other bottom-up multistakeholder fora at the international, regional, national, and local levels.