

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

Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation

**Revised recommendations submitted in preparation for the 4th WGEC
meeting**

Submitted by

UNITED KINGDOM

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.

CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC)

Contribution from the UK Government

Introduction

1. The UK Government welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the next meeting of the CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (25-27 September 2017). We would like to thank all those who have made contributions to the Working Group so far and in particular thank the chair for his efforts in taking the work forward.
2. We believe that as we approach the conclusion of the Working Group's discussions, we need now to focus on our mandate and on those areas where we can find common ground and agreement. The Working Group does not have a mandate to try to resolve every issue related to the Internet and we should avoid being distracted by a wide range of issues that are outside our scope. We should focus on the important opportunity we have to deliver consensus recommendations that can improve enhanced cooperation in international Internet-related public policy.
3. We have listened carefully to the comments by all colleagues in previous meetings and we have reflected on the discussion so far. This contribution makes proposals on high level characteristics and it proposes recommendations, which we have revised in the light of the helpful comments and suggestion made at the last meeting.

Q1 - What are the high level characteristics of enhanced cooperation?

4. The United Kingdom welcomes the good progress that has been made in agreeing high level characteristics of enhanced cooperation. We have reviewed the Chair's synthesis of the discussion on high-level characteristics of enhanced cooperation (2 May 2017), which was contributed to our last meeting in May and we agree that our report should identify the following characteristics:
 - Transparent
 - Inclusive
 - Collaborative
 - Effective
 - Sustainable
 - Responsive to innovation

- International
5. We should be clear that this is not an exhaustive list of characteristics and it is not intended as a “definition” of enhanced cooperation, but that we believe this set of broadly agreed characteristics can promote greater shared understanding of the concept, guide the development of recommendations and support their implementation.

Q2 - Taking into consideration the work of the previous WGEC and the Tunis Agenda, particularly paragraphs 69-71, what kind of recommendations should we consider?

6. The United Kingdom government has been clear that we not support recommendations for new institutional mechanisms. We listened carefully to the discussion at our last meeting and we have not seen any convincing evidence to suggest that there is a set of international Internet-related public policy issues that cannot be addressed by existing mechanisms.
7. We believe that new mechanisms are unnecessary and would only confuse work that is already going on elsewhere. There is a serious risk that creating more international Internet governance meetings would make the current landscape more complex and difficult to navigate, particularly for developing countries. International organisations such as the ITU, UNESCO, ILO, UNODC and many others are already addressing international Internet-related public policy issues under their respective mandates. A new mechanism would duplicate and undermine that work.
8. Rather than create more duplication and complexity, our recommendations should extend and improve existing processes so that they better reflect the high level characteristics of enhanced cooperation: to make them more transparent, inclusive, collaborative and effective. We are grateful to those colleagues who made comments and suggestions on the draft recommendations proposed by the UK. We have sought to take these comments into account and we now propose the following set of revised recommendations:

Recommendations proposed by the UK Government

1. Enhanced cooperation processes should follow and promote best practice in consultation and engagement, including reaching out proactively to all stakeholders in an informative and easily understandable way, in developing international Internet-related public policy.

2. Stakeholders should consider making factual information and statistics available in an open, accessible and timely way in order to support meaningful participation and engagement in developing international Internet-related public policy.
3. Bodies should consider how they can promote transparency, inclusiveness and collaboration by opening up their policy-making processes to input from all stakeholders.
4. The development of international Internet-related public policy should support the participation of stakeholders from developing countries, taking into account language barriers and the capacity constraints faced by least developed countries.
5. Multi-stakeholder forums that are involved in the development of international Internet-related public policy should seek to ensure a balance of stakeholder representatives.
6. The development of international Internet-related public policy should support sustainable development, including capacity-building, education and skills, in order to help bridge the digital divide.
7. The development of international Internet-related public policy should promote an enabling environment for investment, including fostering cooperation and partnership to promote investment in infrastructure and increase affordable connectivity in developing countries.
8. The development of international Internet-related public policy should promote an enabling environment for innovation, including fostering cooperation to ensure that the Internet remains an open environment that facilitates innovation.
9. The process towards enhanced cooperation should take account of existing work and develop and improve existing international forums.
10. Stakeholders should consider how best to build cooperation on emerging topics, including issues presented by newly emerging technology, in a way which allows all stakeholders to participate.