UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation

Revised recommendations submitted as a follow-up to 4th WGEC meeting

Submitted by

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ICC BASIS revised recommendations to the CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation

The fourth meeting of the CSTD Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation saw substantive discussions on the possible recommendations the working group could make.

Echoing the collective voice of its over 6 million members in more than 100 countries around the world, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) through a representative of ICC's Business Action to Support the Information Society (BASIS) initiative conveyed the views of global business during the meeting and took note of the feedback of the working group.

Based on these discussions and the feedback received, ICC BASIS would like to submit the following revised recommendations. These revised recommendations take into account the language and phrasing of similar recommendations submitted by others in an effort to contribute to the consensus draft the group has set out to produce.

We would like to underline our call expressed at the last meeting for the group to stay on the path for an outcome reflecting consensus. When mandating this working group, the UNGA asked for it to provide recommendations that can be implemented to further enhanced cooperation. Any report that responds to this ask needs to be impactful, actionable and easily implementable. Spanning divergent points of views from the group in the report would fail to offer value back to the UNGA and to our stakeholders. Our mandate, as per paragraph 65 of the UNGA WSIS+10 resolution says the group should take into account the diversity of views – which it has undeniably been doing – but it does not say the report should. Therefore, the group should not be derailed in its mission by fragmenting the views we have achieved convergence on. Of course, diverging views expressed in members' various contributions can and should be reflected in their entirety in the report's annex.

In view of our mandate, we strongly support the draft report structure presented by the United Kingdom on the third day of the fourth meeting and provide the below suggestions to fit that structure.

We submit these revised ideas and recommendations in the hope they benefit both working group members when reflecting on their own contributions and the Chair when taking stock of the meeting and drafting a revised draft report. We note with approval the substantive support expressed at the meeting in favour of a draft report reflecting the consensus items the group has agreed on and express our hope that this would be reflected in the revised draft report to be proposed by the Chair.

General considerations

1. The Working Group recognized that the development of international Internet-related public policies should be an on-going activity based on a culture of cooperation between stakeholders, including relevant organizations, guided by the objective of information sharing, creating more awareness and where appropriate, coherence in work programmes and continuing collaboration.

2. The Working Group recognized that well-established processes for the creation of international Internet-related public policies have been initiated in the past years, and continue to be initiated, through outreach to and between relevant UN agencies and also relevant multistakeholder and technical organizations within and outside the UN remit including all stakeholders,

Recommendations

1. Processes aimed at the development of international Internet-related public policies should be strengthened and opened, to the extent possible, with the goal of well-informed, better-equipped deliberations on important international public policy issues concerning the Internet.

2. The development of international Internet-related public policies should be supported by open, accessible and timely procedures for information sharing among all involved institutions and actors, in order to raise awareness, explain opportunities and cross-link initiatives and thus increase the participation and engagement of all stakeholders.

3. Continued and collective efforts should be made by all institutions and actors involved in the development of international Internet-related public policies to facilitate and increase the participation of and entertain proposals and contributions from all stakeholders, particularly from least developed and developing countries, small island states, marginalized groups and others that have not been engaged in cooperative processes and forums at national, regional, and international levels, taking into account the language barriers and capacity constraints these groups face.

4. When considering international Internet-related public policies, institutions and actors engaged in their development are invited to encourage and facilitate the full participation and consultation of all stakeholders, in particular those impacted by the results or those responsible for or necessary to their implementation, including at the national and local levels.