

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

**MEETING ON ENHANCED COOPERATION ON PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES
PERTAINING TO THE INTERNET**

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Contribution by

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Open Consultation on Enhanced Cooperation on Public policy pertaining to the Internet
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Mr. Chair, Fortunato de la Pena, Chair of CSTD; Ministers and Dignitaries,
Distinguished Stakeholders; Ladies and Gentlemen.

My name is Marilyn Cade, I am the CEO of a small business that focuses on Internet governance. I welcome this open and interactive consultation on Enhanced Cooperation. Thank you, Chair, for the opportunity to join this group of Experts.

Enhanced Cooperation is happening today, but Challenges Remain. I fully agree that we have more work to do. But, I find strong evidence that Enhanced Cooperation is underway in many aspects, in many groups, and institutions. Should it be improved, and strengthened? Yes. Should we start over? No.

WSIS week in Geneva is only one excellent example of Enhanced Cooperation -- the WSIS Action Line Forum which is co organized by the four UN agencies: UNDP, UNCTAD, UNESCO, and ITU and which is an excellent opportunity to focus in detail on how the WSIS Action Lines are being fulfilled – and to share and learn, so that further progress can occur is a stellar example of how the four UN agencies took to heart the WSIS Tunis Agenda and the UN Secretary General’s call to action. Those agencies did not wait; they started to engage. The examples of national implementation of the Action Lines were exciting, and informative illustrations of enhanced cooperation.

WSIS Week also includes the IGF Consultation, which brings together even more contributors to achieving the outcomes of the Summit by 2015. The IGF is also an excellent example of enhanced cooperation that is making a real difference in progress toward fulfilling the goals of the WSIS. This year, the IGF will meet in Baku, Azerbaijan, November 6-9, 2012, in the seventh Internet Governance Forum. As you all recall, Kenya hosted the sixth IGF in Nairobi in 2011.

Enhanced Cooperation must be seen as a journey – a process of continual assessment, identifying the priorities for improvement and continual evolution, as it contributes to fulfilling the WSIS objectives, and it must be accepted as co existing and contributing to other processes, such as the IGF, the WSIS [Action Line] Forum, and so many efforts and activities that are underway. It must affect national interactions, where different ministries and the various stakeholders focus on improving and enhancing cooperation to benefit a country’s citizens, and as an illustration of further examples of enhanced cooperation, already, by 2011, there are 11 regional IGF Initiatives, and 17 national IGF Initiatives – each of which is addressing public policy questions in Internet governance, and which are examples of enhanced cooperation underway.

We recognize that there is much change since Tunis. The face and the distribution of the Internet is changing, and the growth of Internet users globally should both please us all, and challenge us to accelerate further access - to infrastructure, to informational

resources, to content, and to competency skills for the digital era that we are so rapidly enhancing, with a focus on the developing world's citizens.

With a deeper penetration of the Internet into our daily lives, and with the growing interest of ensuring how the Internet and the services and benefits it can bring, in many forms, to all, of course, we have to understand that our challenges and the need to further enhance our cooperation in meeting these challenges remains a shared priority.

More work is needed, of course. More participation in particular from developing country participants in all aspects of the discussions and events. Thoughtful responsible discussions and debates. A further search and dialogue about balanced policy solutions. I think all acknowledge that. As I said: this is a continual process – a journey, not a destination.

The eco system of organizations that are contributing and have important and critical functions to fulfill is growing, as is acceptance of multi stakeholder involvement and participation. Yet today, how Multi stakeholder recognition and participation is incorporated into existing/older structures has been challenging. Continued improvement in open and inclusive interactions will only enhance the effectiveness in how all contribute. If we are to fulfill the Outcomes of the WSIS effectively and meaningfully, we must continue to work toward such acceptance. And we should continue to strengthen and improve all institutions and organizations, striving for open, inclusive, effective, useful and non-duplicative mechanisms for improving and enhancing cooperation.

Starting over, or centralizing is also not an effective solution. Fulfilling the outcomes of the WSIS cannot be accomplished by a new entity located in, or under the direction of an existing UN entity to “govern the Internet”. The UN is an important player in the larger eco system, but the role and participation of other stakeholders and a wide number of organizations is absolutely critical.

This week, the WSIS +10 session announced an important calendar of sessions, which will allow the assessment of the WSIS – an important process ending in 2015. This assessment will consume significant time from all of us. The next 2.5 years until 2015 demands that we continue to make progress, even while we layer an assessment process on top of that critical work and progress in deepening the benefits of ICTs and the Internet to the under and un-served citizens, wherever they are.

And these processes are not alone in consuming our time and resources. We need to all do our ‘day jobs’ and to continue to work in the other bodies and organizations on achieving core missions and critical functions. Several key meetings – CSTD; UNESCO; ITU; ICANN, IGF, IETF; WITSA's WCIT; Rio+20... will all require our participation, thought leadership, and focus, and will co exist with the WSIS + 10 assessment process.

Whatever mechanisms or activities are undertaken to advance Enhanced Cooperation need to be pragmatic, practical, achievable, open, inclusive, and funded. And they should

be centered at the CSTD.

Others have proposed different models for how to proceed in assessing EH. I will offer a possible approach as well.

The CSTD Working Group on Improvements achieved consensus, and has the benefit of full support of the Working Group. That time was well spent, and I was honored to be one of stakeholder representatives from business, the technical community, civil society, collaborating with governments and IGOs. I appreciate the work of our two chairs: Switzerland and Hungary, of the Secretariat, and all who were part of the Working Group. We worked hard, and we made substantial progress. It took us, though two years. Under the CSTD's guidance, we have now an agreed Report that pushes for strengthening and improving the IGF so that it can continue to address the growing participation, broadening issues discussions; and evolving discussions. In fact, many of the topics that are raised as in need of enhanced cooperation in this consultation belong at the IGF, and I look forward to supporting further and deepened discussions and examinations within the IGF.

We have so much work – quite simply – to accomplish in the remaining 2.5 years before 2015. The press of time and limited resources drives us to find a shortened path to achieving further enhancing our cooperation.

A Plan for Action: One way to advance quickly and efficiently, but also in an open and inclusive manner is to return to an existing practice established by the UN Secretary General, in calling for annual reports from institutions and intergovernmental organizations, and broadening that call for inputs. This call for reports should be launched by CSTD with a plan to receive such reports by the time of the CSTD Intercessional in December. The CSTD Intercessional could include a one to two day open and inclusive discussion and consideration of the state of Enhanced Cooperation across the organizations with inclusion of those stakeholders who submit responses as well.

Rather than asking if Enhanced Cooperation should happen, this call for input should ask how organizations and entities are participating in Enhanced Cooperation today, and how they plan to increase their cooperation within their respective organizations, and with others. It should ask for concrete achievements, such as examples of outcomes -- how this enhanced cooperation is supporting the Information Society.

As a second step, after the gathering, compiling, and discussion in a meeting held in conjunction with the CSTD Intercessional, then, in February or March, CSTD could convene a second 1-2 day meeting, open to all stakeholders, with remote participation available, to discuss the Contributions document further. The results of that consultation and the Compilation should form the basis of a draft report for consideration during CSTD in May, 2013. This report should then provide guidance to existing institutions and to all about existing or remaining gaps.

This approach should be open and inclusive, and while inviting specific international organizations to submit reports, all other stakeholders should be encouraged, and welcomed to submit contributions as well.

Other proposals have been made, ranging from a highly bureaucratic, and governmental dominated approach to govern the Internet, to a working group on examining options for new models of governance, or changing existing organizations in a variety of ways.

Frankly, starting over is risky. Bringing the benefits of the Information Society to the remaining billions, and enhancing how the existing users are supported, protected, and benefit has to be our priority. Debates about new mechanisms, an increased form of intergovernmental oversight, or a new UN agency, or modifying an existing UN agency runs the risk of abandoning the importance of improving and strengthening existing entities and processes. Is change and improvement in all entities important? Yes. But, we need to collaborate to improve and strengthen from where we are.

Use of a multi stakeholder working group, established by CSTD, as called for by others, is, of course, one of the options open to CSTD. It could be that such a more formalized group could be examined after this approach to a review and mapping process is completed in May of 2013. However, I believe that logically, it would make more sense and be more effective and sustainable to incorporate an ongoing annual review process as a formalized annual reporting into CSTD, using the Intercessional each year to convene the initial discussion of the mapping/reports gathered, followed by a January or February working session, [perhaps held back to back with the IGF Consultation session], followed by the preparation and presentation of the Report on status on Enhanced Cooperation to the CSTD in its May meeting.

Any approaches should be centered in CSTD; and should follow the model of enabling multi stakeholder participation in an open and inclusive manner, consistent with the intent and spirit of the Tunis Agenda.

Mr. Chair, I believe from my discussions and interactions that we continue to have shared goals – bringing the benefits of the Information Society to all the world’s citizens. Concerns about how the Internet is governed deserve to have multi stakeholder involvement in understanding, examining how to improve, and in working to make improvements from within, and rapidly, in order to ensure that we are demonstrating the kind of progress envisioned by Heads of State when we reach 2015.

Thank you for this opportunity to join with others in the opening panel, and for your leadership. I look forward to listening to all contributors for the rest of the session and to the Chair’s Report next week, in CSTD.

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