

**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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# **UN CSTD Open Consultation on Enhanced Cooperation on Public Policy Pertaining to the Internet. Geneva May 18, 2012**

- Dr Jimson Olufuye WITSA Vice-Chair (Sub-Saharan Africa) and member ICC BASIS

Your Excellency, the Chair of the CSTD, your Excellencies, distinguished panelists, stakeholders and delegates, distinguished remote participants, ladies and gentlemen.

My name is Jimson Olufuye. I run a small IT firm based in Abuja Nigeria and I also have the privilege of being the Vice-Chair for the World Information Technologies & Services Alliance, WITSA. In WITSA, I'm responsible for evangelising ICT in sub-Saharan Africa.

Therefore, it gives me a great pleasure to address this important gathering on the occasion of a 1-day Open Consultation on Enhanced Cooperation on Public Policy Pertaining to the Internet.

I would like to first express my deep thanks to the Chair Mr Fortunato de la Pena and the Secretariat of CSTD for granting me the opportunity to make this intervention. I commend the CSTD secretariat for their excellent support and commitment to the recently concluded work of the CSTD Working Group on IGF Improvement. I think the success recorded in the CSTD Working Group on Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a clear example of Enhanced Cooperation.

## **1.0 What is Enhanced Cooperation?**

From my perspective, Enhanced Cooperation (EC) is about encouraging, deepening and enriching cooperation and collaboration through dialogue on diverse public policy issues pertaining to the Internet.

EC is about enabling the developing economies climb up the ladder of development through a stable, predictable, secure and sustainable Internet governance made possible by increased North–South, South-South and North-North cooperation in the area of :

- Removal of bottlenecks to access through increased dialogues with all stakeholders on for example IPv6 adoption
- Encouragement of innovation by promoting reward system eg WSA Award
- Plugging gaps in the security of the Internet through increased Research and Development eg DNSSEC
- Enthroning the rule of law on the Internet thereby mitigating increasing crimewaves on the Internet through collaborative enforcement and administration of justice
- Creation of Internet based jobs to tackle massive unemployment in the developing world through increased adoption of eApplications (eGovernment, eHealth, eBusiness etc)
- Increase transparency in governance towards reducing endemic corruption and the reduction in the cost of governance which in some economies is more than 75% of the national budget serving less than 1% of the population with less than 25% of the budget to service infrastructural, economic and social well being of more than 99% of the population

It is also my view that EC should have ramifications not only at the regional and international level but most importantly at the national level where law and policy issues emanate in tandem with the bottom up, multi-stakeholder approach to Internet Governance.

## **2.0 Mandate**

Distinguished Chair, your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, my submissions above are premised on the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) Tunis Agenda paragraph 34, 35 and 70. The WSIS Tunis Agenda directs that the enhanced cooperation process should include participation by relevant international organizations, including inter-governmental, multistakeholder and private-sector led organizations.

It is the position of the World Information Technology and Services Alliance (WITSA), (the voice of the global ICT industry) that dialogue among all stakeholders takes place continuously to sustain the momentous impact of the Internet on the global economy.

## **3.0 Implementation of EC till date**

Thus far, at least 10 international organisations handling Internet Policy issues have been playing leading roles in demonstrating Enhanced Cooperation in their operations and policy making as facilitated by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs through its Division for Public Administration and Development Management. The ten organisations are:

- a. Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
- b. International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- c. World Wide Web Consortium (W3C)
- d. Council of Europe
- e. Internet Society (ISOC)
- f. Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- g. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
- h. World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
- i. Number Resource Organization (NRO)
- j. Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)

Of the ten organisations above, five are private sector led. They have all enhanced their collaborative mechanism among their stakeholders with ramifications at the international, regional and national level of decision making. Enhanced Cooperation therefore infers that existing organisations in their unique roles in the Internet ecosystem enhance their cooperation within their respective organisation and among other stakeholders with a view of building trust, stability and confidence on the Internet.

## **4.0 Way forward**

Paragraph 71 of the Tunis Agenda clearly states that “all stakeholders” and “all relevant organizations” should be involved in the enhanced cooperation process, and provides that enhanced cooperation should be a multistakeholder process, not a governments-only process. This principle of inclusiveness is critically important to success in achieving enhanced cooperation.

In this regard, I submit as a way forward that

1. Greater cooperation among existing organizations does not require the creation of new entities or processes, and that such actions could impede progress and our businesses.
2. The objectives of information sharing, creating more awareness, and, where appropriate, coherence in work programmes, and collaboration must guide the relevant organizations that address Internet related issues in order to facilitate enhanced cooperation.
3. All relevant organizations, including those that are private sector-led, those that are intergovernmental (IGOs), those that represent civil society, the Internet technical and academic communities through several organizational structures and those that are multistakeholder are engaged in facilitating enhanced cooperation.
4. Further enhanced cooperation processes should be conducted in a manner that is complementary to the successful Internet Governance Forum (IGF).
5. The dynamic nature and growth of the Information Society and the Internet has meant the organic emergence of certain multistakeholder groups and will constantly develop and evolve. These groups are an important part of enhanced cooperation process and must be allowed to participate in it.
6. The fact that many of the organizations that are addressing Internet-related issues and their decision-making processes are already multistakeholder should be recognized and welcomed as an important foundation for enhanced cooperation.
7. All stakeholders including business, civil society, academic and technical communities should be involved on an equal footing, in any discussions and decisions regarding enhanced cooperation.

## **5.0 Recommendations**

In closing, I wish to make two important recommendations in addition to my suggestions above to underscore the importance of EC on PP issues pertaining to the Internet.

1. That a measuring system/ indicators be developed to measure the degree of compliance of stakeholders to Enhanced Cooperation on Public Policy issues pertaining to the Internet. Such a measuring system may have a scale of 1 to 5 with 5 being the highest maturity level for Enhanced Cooperation on Public Policies (ECP). A multi-stakeholder group of experts can determine the parameters for the rating.
2. As a follow up to the above, a yearly meeting can take place to among other things review the ratings which can be assessed by a group similar to the current IGF MAG. In this regard, the annual report of EC entities will be of immense relevance.

Therefore, standardising EC in the proposed form above will help the economies of developing nations who are increasingly dependent on the Internet to emerge. (For example, I'm talking to you now from a mobile phone & you can see me through a mobile modem powered by the Internet.). In the same manner, if we standardise EC, it will also restore confidence and stability in the economies of the developed nations.

Finally, I wish to thank governments that have been unrelenting in championing openness, inclusivity and equal participation of all stakeholders particularly business, in which, I represent SMEs from developing economies. If they have not stood to be counted, my voice might probably not be heard and my face not seen at this important gathering today. This is to say that the Enhanced Cooperation mechanism in focus

today if fully energised will give more opportunities for delegates from developing nations to play active roles in the evolving process for a truly Information Society that we envision.

Thank you.