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**Item 2: Panel discussion on Progress made in the implementation of and
follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes
at the regional and international levels"**

Statement submitted by

Ms. Lynn St. Amour
Chair, Multistakeholder Advisory Group
Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

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Panel: Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes at the regional and international levels

Remarks from: Lynn St. Amour
IGF - Multistakeholder Advisory Group (IGF-MAG) Chair

Mr. Chairman, Ministers, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words today on the status of the improvements made to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in response to the recommendations from the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF. I'll also provide a brief update on 2017 IGF activities.

Since its creation in 2006, the IGF has endeavored to fulfill its mandate, outlined in paragraph 72 of the Tunis agenda, by providing an open and inclusive multistakeholder platform to address policy issues related to the Internet.

The 11th IGF was held from 6 to 9 of December 2016 in Zapopan, Jalisco, México. The meeting marked the first gathering of the global multistakeholder IGF community since the United Nations General Assembly's renewal of the IGF's mandate in December 2015 for 10 years. The overall meeting theme was 'Enabling Inclusive and Sustainable Growth', providing a platform for discussion on a broad range of Internet Governance developments, including how the Internet can support and help to enable sustainable growth as envisaged by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In the course of four days, more than 2000 delegates from 83 countries participated in approximately 200 sessions at the IGF, with thousands more actively engaging online. The programme was developed in a bottom-up and inclusive manner in consultation with the global IGF community with a view to enabling wide-ranging and diverse multistakeholder participation.

The meeting addressed a broad range of themes and issues including, but not limited to, access and diversity; youth and gender challenges pertaining to the Internet; cybersecurity; human rights online; the Internet and sustainable development; enhancing multistakeholder cooperation; Internet governance capacity-building; and a number of emerging issues such as the Internet of Things.

The 11th annual meeting was a great success, beating many previous benchmarks. I would like to recognize Mexico as the host country for all they did to make it such a success. Specifically Mr. Victor Lagunes, Yolanda Martínez and the entire Mexico team – the event, support and services offered were truly excellent, breaking new ground and setting some very high bars.

Both the preparatory work and the community intercessional work of the IGF was guided by the new 10-year mandate from the UN General Assembly as well as by the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF.

Specifically, the CSTD WG report identified improvements in the following areas:

- the shaping of the outcomes of IGF meetings,
- the working modalities of the IGF, including open consultations, the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and the Secretariat,
- the funding of the IGF,
- broadening participation and capacity-building, and
- linking the IGF to other Internet governance related entities

The UNGA's resolution from the WSIS +10 process called for the IGF to accelerate implementation of the CSTD recommendations, and called for continued progress on working modalities and increasing the participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries.

In its work the IGF followed these recommendations as well as taking thorough note of a 3 day retreat held in July 2016 organized by the UN Dept. of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) which is the Administrative home for the IGF in the UN. At the retreat experts from all stakeholder groups explored ways of enhancing the effectiveness of the IGF and further expanding participation.   A document including all the suggestions from the retreat was published for community comment and this report is now part of a Working Group effort led by the MAG which will engage the entire IGF community, and all stakeholders. Of course, central to that Working Group effort are the CSTD and UNGA Recommendations.

Since its beginning the IGF has implemented a continuous improvement and review process with a yearly "taking stock" session after each annual IGF meeting and periodically between meetings. The IGF has actively participated in consultation processes of the CSTD, the annual WSIS forum, and other WSIS follow-up meetings and conferences to ensure that all stakeholder views are considered when it comes to the work of the IGF. The IGF Secretariat, DESA and the MAG work to respond and react accordingly to the requests and suggestions from all stakeholder groups.

In addition, as one of the major outcomes of the WSIS process we all strive to ensure that the IGF facilitates implementation of all the agreed WSIS action lines, including, but not limited to; C1: The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development; C4: Capacity building and C11: International and regional cooperation.

With respect to the ongoing implementation of the CSTD Recommendations, a formal report was submitted earlier this year by the IGF Secretariat so I will cover just a few of highlights here.

The IGF MAG and secretariat implemented several initiatives to improve preparations for the annual meeting. Last year, these included Working Groups on: Outreach and Communications, on Main Sessions, and on New Session Formats. There was substantive work with the Dynamic Coalitions and Best Practice Forums to strengthen their working modalities and increase their visibility overall. A newcomers track and other efforts were introduced to facilitate engagement by new participants. And, the IGF Village nearly doubled with 40 booths showcasing innovative and important efforts across all Stakeholder groups.

A key goal last year (and this year) was to increase the participation of governments and policy makers, and the private sector. Participation of Governments and policymakers increased significantly over the previous year with far more open forums than in any previous IGF. Organizers of these 32 open forums included the Governments of China, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Japan and Mexico, as well as the African Union, European Commission,

Organization of American States (OAS), and OECD. A delegation of 12 European Parliamentarians, the largest ever to come to an IGF, was also in attendance.

The IGF brought together a number of UN and intergovernmental organizations; and WIPO, the ITU, UNESCO, the office of the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, the World Bank, and the OECD all held sessions. And, for the first time UN Women and UNICEF also organized events - on SDG 5 and the use of ICTs by women, and children's rights research, respectively.   We were also appreciative of the active engagement and participation of the Acting CSTD Chair - Peter Major as well as Amb. Fonseca, CSTD Vice-Chair, in a number of sessions.

To maximize capacity building and to promote stakeholder inclusion, transcripts and webcasts from sessions were immediately available throughout the meeting, and workshop reports and summaries of all 200 sessions were published on the IGF's website. All sessions were live streamed, and session videos were immediately uploaded for online viewing. IGF social media channels such as Twitter #IGF2016 and Facebook were very active during the week, and Elon University's Imagining the Internet Center conducted interviews to gather opinions about Internet evolution and issues. Daily video highlights and UN Press releases were also produced.

Turning to Community Intersessional activities, the IGF has seen a steady increase in these activities since the working group recommendations were adopted. IGF Best Practice Forums, and Dynamic Coalitions, and a major Intersessional Policy project, represent some of the most significant outputs of the IGF, and I will touch upon them briefly here before coming to the National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs).

In 2016, the Intersessional initiative "Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billions – Phase II", focused on local and regional specificities to enabling meaningful access. It also investigated how ensuring Internet access can support the UN SDGs. Both Phase I and II have been very well received. A 3rd Phase has been approved for 2017 by the MAG – preliminary titled "*Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion towards fulfilling the SDGs*". It will complement the first two phases focusing on case studies collected throughout the IGF community. It is an opportunity to document and support the policy options work and also to showcase the concrete work happening in the IGF community to connect and enable the remaining billion(s). The proposed focus would be : SDGs 4 (Education), 5 (Gender Equality) and 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure).

The IGF Best Practice Forums (BPFs) continue to offer unique platforms to investigate topical Internet policy challenges. The BPFs gather knowledge that exists with different organizations and experts, and makes it accessible in the form of tangible best practice outcome documents. Through their outreach efforts, they enabled more diverse and varied participation in IGF processes. This third cycle of BPFs focused on 4 topics: Gender and Access, Understanding the Commercial and Economic Incentives behind a Successful IPv6 Deployment, Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), and Building Confidence and Security in the use of ICTs through Enhanced Cooperation and Collaboration.

IGF Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) held monthly meetings and made significant progress toward synchronising their work and adopting common standards of transparency and inclusiveness (open archives, open membership, open mailing lists), and they published substantive papers. There are currently 16 DCs, though a number of new coalitions are emerging for 2017.

Specifically addressing the recommendations of the CSTD and UNGA, one tangible way to enhance and increase the participation of developing countries is through the National, Regional and Youth IGFs (NRIs) which have been emerging spontaneously since the IGF was convened in 2006. The NRI network nearly doubled in 2016; growing from 37 at the end of 2015 to 72, and currently we are at 96 NRIs. The NRIs are active and immensely useful contributors to the IGF, and the linkages between the NRIs and the global IGF have increased substantially, providing more local and issue-specific perspectives to the IGF and vice versa.

The NRIs have established an effective network for sharing information and experience, and are critical to increasing participation and engagement in Internet governance discussions of all stakeholders but especially stakeholders from developing countries. NRIs are a key part of Internet Governance capacity building. I am pleased to report that 20 of the NRIs are located in countries that are CSTD Members.

Broadening participation and capacity building have always been a priority of the IGF, continually working to increase participation of developing country stakeholders and participants in IGF meetings and preparatory processes and to attract and encourage more participants in intersessional activities.

Each year the IGF trust fund has provided financial support to stakeholders from developing countries to enable them to participate in MAG meetings and the IGF meeting. In 2016 the IGF Trust Fund funded or partially funded 69 trips (up from 54 in 2015). 2017 though is proving challenging as financial resources are very tight. The IGF is an extra-budgetary project of the UN and relies on donations for all its funding. To that end, the Secretariat and the MAG have established a focused effort to increase funding for the IGF. We need to prioritize increasing funding if we are to make all the progress that is needed and requested.

Finally, in regards to recommendations related to Linking the IGF to other Internet governance related entities, the MAG Chair, IGF Secretariat, and DESA staff together with MAG members have represented the IGF at many other major meetings, such as the STI Forum, the ITU and UNESCO Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development, the World Bank and U.S. Department of State's Global Connect initiative (GCI), and the World Economic Forum's development program (Internet for All) to name only a few.   And, efforts have increasingly been made to collaborate with other organizations in our BPF, DC and CENB activities.

IGF 2017

The twelfth annual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18 to 21 December 2017.

The overarching theme for this year's meeting is **'Shape Your Digital Future!'**, emphasizing both the IGF's participatory mechanisms and a forward-looking approach to Internet governance. The sub-themes for the meeting will be determined in part by the workshop proposals received, with proposers indicating their own thematic tags. Tags on new and emerging issues, such as 'Artificial Intelligence', 'Work in the Digital Age', 'Law Enforcement & Encryption', etc., were featured. Other tags include but were not limited to, Internet of Things; Internet Economy; Cybersecurity; Policies Enabling Access; Human Rights Online; Gender Issues; among many others.

The call for Workshops for the IGF has just concluded and 280 proposals were received (slightly more than last year). Improvements were made to this years WS proposal and evaluation

process as well as adding additional tools and resources to aid in the submission of WS proposals, e.g. a Speaker-Session Collaboration space and a generous offer from the Swiss government to aid in making connections with the many international organizations in Geneva.

The call for inter-governmental organizations and Governments to apply for an Open Forum at the annual meeting went out a short time ago and is open until 21st June 2017 .

The MAG has approved three (3) Best Practice Forums (BPFs) :
- BPF on Cybersecurity
- BPF on Gender and Access
- BPF on Local Content

There are 18 Dynamic Coalitions this year with 2 new ones: DC on Community Connectivity, and one on Innovative Approaches to Connecting the Unconnected.

And, as I mentioned earlier a third phase of the Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s) initiative (CENB III) was approved.

There is a high degree of interest amongst the MAG and broader community that the IGF should explore new ways, respecting all mandates, to foster dialogue on how Internet Governance, Internet and ICTs, etc., can help achieve the SDGs.

Finally, as part of our core Improvement efforts, the MAG established five (5) Working Groups to help facilitate the preparatory process:

- Working Group on Communication and Outreach
- Working Group on IGF Improvements
- Working Group on Multi-year Strategic Work Programme
- Working Group on New Session Formats
- Working Group on Workshop Review and Evaluation Process

And, we established a Focused Fundraising effort.

The IGF is more relevant and essential than ever, and the challenges are increasing. A lot is at stake and there is much to be gained for society, Internet Governance, and much to be advanced in support of the SDGs. We expect IGF 2017 to be one of the most interesting IGFs yet as we work to build upon 11 years of success, and the important and innovative contributions to matters of Internet Governance that have marked the IGF to-date.

In concluding, I personally want to thank the CSTD member states, and the CSTD Secretariat for all the support you have shown.   Not only for the WG report on Improvements to the IGF, which has provided a roadmap for continued strengthening and improving the IGF, but it should also be noted that over 60% of the countries that have hosted an IGF were CSTD members at the time of hosting.

And, finally, none of this could have been achieved without the dedication and support of the entire IGF community, the IGF MAG, DESA, IGF Donors and very, very importantly the IGF Secretariat led by Chengetai Masango who is also here with us today.

Thank you.