

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT

Second Meeting of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation
26-27 January 2017

Geneva, Switzerland

Chairman's summary

16 February 2017

1. The second meeting of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC) was held at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, on 26-27 January 2017. Remote participation and real time transcription of the meeting were made available to facilitate participation from Working Group members and observers. A list of participants will be made available at the website of the meeting.¹
2. The meeting was opened by Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, UNCTAD Division on Technology and Logistics and Head of the CSTD secretariat. This was followed by introductory remarks by Ambassador Benedicto Fonseca, Chairman of the Working Group.
3. It was recalled that a total of 37 contributions to the guiding questions agreed during the first meeting of the Working Group were received and made available on the website of the Working Group as inputs for the second meeting.² In addition, a Synthesis Document elaborated under the Chairman's personal responsibility had been previously circulated with the purpose of facilitating the discussions of the group. It was also announced that the following two additional documents were being made available to participants in the context of the meeting itself: (i) "High Level Characteristics of Enhanced Cooperation"; and (ii) "Compilation of recommendations contained in contributions from WGEC members and Observers to the two guiding questions agreed during the first meeting of the WGEC".³
4. Two substantive issues were proposed for discussion at the second meeting: exchange of views on the contributions on the two guiding questions previously agreed during the first meeting of the Group; and discussion on the way forward. One participant suggested to include in the Agenda, as part of item on the way forward, a discussion on possible outputs. The draft Agenda submitted to the meeting was approved as amended (see Annex).

¹ <http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1215>

² The contributions which were compiled in two separate documents (Contributions from WGEC members and Contributions from Observers) are available at <http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1215>

³ All additional documents are available at <http://unctad.org/en/pages/MeetingDetails.aspx?meetingid=1215>

5. Participants were invited to introduce and highlight elements of their contributions. This was followed by an exchange of views on the contributions. There were divergent views about the approach that should be taken in the discussion of the agreed questions. Some participants expressed preference in discussing "high level characteristics" that emanated from the wording of paragraphs 69-71 while others preferred to discuss "high level characteristics" from the perspective of attributes that should underpin any enhanced cooperation effort but that would not necessarily relate to language contained in the relevant Agenda Tunis paragraphs. Finally, others preferred to immediately start discussion on possible recommendations, as this was the core of the group's mandate.
6. In that context, the Chairman proposed that discussion should follow the order in which questions were proposed by the first meeting of the group, therefore focusing initially on the high-level characteristics of enhanced cooperation. Taking into consideration that a majority of views expressed preference in dealing with this topic on the basis of the document "High Level Characteristics of Enhanced Cooperation" (which contained a spreadsheet and an accompanying text of analysis), he proposed to discuss each topic identified in the document starting by those which had been more frequently mentioned. In the case of "characteristics" that were mentioned by one single contribution, it was decided to only discuss those that would be supported by participants in the meeting. Although no definitive conclusion was made, a first reading of the document was completed and it was proposed that the group should reconsider the topic in the future also taking into account discussions yet to take place on other aspects contained in the contributions.
7. Due to limitation of time and considering that the document of compilation of recommendations had been circulated at the meeting itself, the Chair proposed to the WG to have a more focused discussion on the recommendations during the third meeting. He invited all WGEC members and observers that had submitted contributions to the two guiding questions to revise the proposed document of compilation of recommendations in order to ensure that their proposals were properly reflected, as well as to submit amended or additional recommendations if necessary. The deadline to submit these inputs is 1 April 2017. The Chair reminded participants, on the other hand, that no structured discussion had yet taken place in regard to "high level characteristics" that emanate from the wording of paragraphs, as called for by a number of participants.
8. Based on the additional and revised recommendations received the Secretariat will prepare a revised version of the compilation of recommendations document. This document will be submitted to the third meeting of the Working Group as an input for discussion.
9. The WG agreed to hold its third meeting on 3-5 May 2017, just before the CSTD annual session (8-12 May) at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

ANNEX



Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)

Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation on Public Policy Issues Pertaining to the Internet

Second meeting
26-27 January 2017
10:00 - 18:00 hrs.

Conference Room XVII Palais des Nations
Geneva, Switzerland

ADOPTED AGENDA

Day 1 (Thursday, 26 January 2017)	
1	Welcoming remarks by Ms. Shamika N. Sirimanne, Director, DTL, UNCTAD, Head of the CSTD Secretariat
2	Opening remarks by the Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Benedicto Fonseca Filho
3	Approval of the Agenda
4	Exchange of views on the contributions on the two guiding questions previously agreed upon
5	Stocktaking of the advances of the day and planning for the second day

Day 2 (Friday, 27 January 2017)	
1	Opening remarks by the Chair of the Working Group, Mr. Benedicto Fonseca Filho
2	Continuation of exchange of views on the contributions on the two guiding questions previously agreed upon
3	Way forward (including discussion on possible outputs)
4	AOB and closing remarks

For queries or clarifications, please contact:
Mr. Angel Gonzalez-Sanz, Chief, Science, Technology and ICT Branch,

Division on Technology and Logistics, UNCTAD
(email: angel.gonzalez-sanz@unctad.org, stdev@unctad.org ; tel: +41 22 917 20 83)