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**CSTD working group to examine the mandate of WSIS
regarding enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis
Agenda (Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation,
WGEC)***

Executive summary

This report has been prepared by the Chair of the Working Group on enhanced cooperation. It gives a brief account of the implementation of paragraph 20 of the General Assembly resolution A/RES/67/195 in which the General Assembly invited the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) to establish a working group to examine the mandate of the World Summit on the Information Society regarding enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda. The working group held four meetings from May 2013 to May 2014. During these meetings, the group examined the mandate of enhanced cooperation through seeking, compiling and reviewing inputs from all Member States and other stakeholders, as stipulated by the General Assembly. Even though consensus emerged in some issues, there was significant divergence of views in a number of other issues. The complexity and the political sensitivity of the topic did not allow the group to finalize a set of recommendations on fully operationalizing enhanced cooperation.

* This document has been submitted by the Chair of the Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation and is being circulated as received.

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1. In paragraph 20 of its resolution A/RES/67/195 on "Information and Communication Technologies for Development", the General Assembly invites the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) to establish a working group on enhanced cooperation to examine the mandate of the World Summit on the Information Society regarding enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda, through seeking, compiling and reviewing inputs from all Member States and all other stakeholders, and to make recommendations on how to fully implement this mandate. The General Assembly requested the working group to report to the Commission at its seventeenth session, in 2014, as an input to the overall review of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.
2. The working group was established in March 2013 and Mr. Peter Major from Hungary was appointed as its Chair. The working group (WGEC) was composed of twenty-two Member States and 20 invitees from all other stakeholders, namely, the private sector, civil society, technical and academic communities, and intergovernmental and international organizations. The working group's guidelines affirmed that the rules of the ECOSOC and its functional commissions governed its work. Furthermore, they stated that discussions should be open and transparent and respect all proposals and opinions.
3. The WGEC held four face-to-face meetings in Geneva, Switzerland between May 2013 and May 2014. It agreed that the outcomes would be adopted by consensus. Remote participation and live transcription were made available to facilitate the participation of all stakeholders.
4. At its first meeting, held on 30-31 May, 2013, the WGEC produced a questionnaire on public policy issues pertaining to the internet, through which the group solicited inputs from Member States and all stakeholders, as stipulated in its mandate. The questionnaire, comprising 18 questions, was submitted to the Members of the group and to Member States. It was also made available on the website of the working group to all stakeholders. There were 69 responses to the questionnaire by 17 of September 2013. These were posted on the website of the WGEC by questions and by respondents. A summary of the responses was also made available to the working group and posted on its website.
5. In its second meeting, held in 6-8 November 2013, the WGEC reviewed and analyzed the responses received to the questionnaire. The responses were grouped in four categories as follows:
 - (a) Implementation of the Tunis Agenda
 - (b) Public policy issue and possible mechanisms
 - (c) The role of stakeholders
 - (d) The role of developing countries
 - (e) Barriers for participation in enhanced cooperation
6. The group identified categories of different public policy issues pertaining to enhanced cooperation based on the responses provided to the questionnaire and mechanisms through which they were pursued. It was decided to solicit inputs from all stakeholders to the above mentioned five broad categories taken also into account the comments already received. The WGEC decided to establish a correspondence group to review the identified international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and agreed on its Terms of Reference. Mr. Philip Rushton and Ms. Joy Liddicoat volunteered to coordinate the correspondence group inviting all interested stakeholders to take part of it and submit comments.
7. The WGEC continued its deliberations at its third meeting, held on 24-28 February 2014 based on the draft recommendations which the Chair had invited the Members to

submit. Consensus emerged on certain issues. However, wide divergences of opinion persisted in a number of other issues. Mr. Rushton, co-facilitator of the correspondence group, presented the information that the group had gathered into a spreadsheet over twenty-four broad areas.

8. The fourth meeting of the WGEC was held on 30 April-2 May 2014. The group continued the discussion on the draft recommendations under the five broad categories. There were some issues where consensus could be found. The group also noted a number of other issues where divergent views continued. On that account, the group decided not to submit recommendations to the seventeenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).

9. The WGEC took note of the presentation of Mr. Rushton about the work of the correspondence group. Mr. Rushton thanked Ms. Lea Kaspar and Ms. Samantha Dickinson for their efforts to refine the presentation of information collected through the correspondence group and suggested that the result of that work should be considered as a living document.
