

**WTPF-IEG/3/22**

**Comments of I.R. of Iran for**

**OPINION (1) ON SUPPORTING FULL MULTI-STAKEHOLDERISM IN INTERNET GOVERNANCE**

The fifth World Telecommunication Policy Forum (Geneva, 2013),

*recognizing*

a) that, per article 37 of the Tunis Agenda, a multi-stakeholder approach should be adopted as far as possible, at all levels, to improve the coordination of the activities of international and intergovernmental organizations and other institutions concerned with Internet governance and the exchange of information among themselves;

b) thatInternet governance consists of policy, technical, standardization and socio-economic factors and that different stakeholders have different roles, responsibilities and expertise;

c) that balanced and effective Internet governance, and proper implementation of the multi-stakeholder model, therefore requires that all stakeholders be able to contribute according to their roles, responsibilities and expertise;

d) that article 35 of the Tunis Agenda defines the stakeholders in Internet governance and their respective roles and, in particular, that policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues is the sovereign right of states and that states have related rights and responsibilities;

e) that, per article 69 of the Tunis Agenda, there is a need for enhanced cooperation to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues related to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues;

f) that governments have not yet been given opportunities to effectively perform their role in international public policy without the enhanced cooperation process and, therefore, that the multi-stakeholder model for Internet governance has not been fully implemented;

*noting*

a) thatthere are many existing initiatives to address various aspects of Internet-related public policy but that theyare limited in scope and do not involve the entire community of nations and they do not liaise with or coordinate with each other.

b) thatthe United Nations family of organizations has attempted to address some of the policy issues such as, for example, through the ITU Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet); but due to prevailing circumstances have not yet been able to produce any practical output ;

that these attempts by the UN family, such as ITU CWG- on Internet, are neither clearly mandated nor properly structured to effectively address the overriding issues of the Internet, to develop and promulgate related public policy and cooperation agreements in consultation with all stakeholders in their respective roles, and to coordinate the relevant activities of existing initiatives;

d) thatthe UN family has a long history of bringing together the nations of the world to develop and promulgate policies in consultation with all stakeholders and that itis clearly the best choice for establishing an intergovernmental organization to operationalize the enhanced cooperation process to allow governments to perform their role in international public policy related to the Internet and to actualize the role of governments in the multi-stakeholder model for Internet governance) The close collaboration and mutual cooperation among these stakeholder is paramount to achieve the desired objectives within the ITU and between the ITU and other organizations and entities

*is of the view*

a) to support the immediate operationalization of the enhanced cooperation process to allow governments to perform their role in international public policy related to the Internet, in consultation with all stakeholders;

*invites*

a) the Secretary-General of the ITU to continue to collaborate with other organizations in the UN family to promote and foster appropriate mechanisms and processes for enhanced cooperation, including identifying and suggesting through the appropriate mechanism in the UN for establishing an intergovernmental organization to be responsible for operationalization and continued operation, in order to fully actualize the role of governments in the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governanceas specified in the Tunis Agenda ;

;

b) Member States and Sector Members to support and contribute to the efforts/ tasks ,of the Secretary-General as outlined in a) above and to the intergovernmental organization responsible once identified and established as well as to the dedicated Council Working Group for enhanced cooperation with respect to International Public Policy Issues as contained in its Term of Reference of that Group .