

## **Remarks on the Contribution from the United States of America**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am honored to address the fifth World Telecommunication Policy Forum; and I would like to thank the Secretary-General of the ITU, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, for the invitation.

The United States of America appreciates the opportunity to engage with all participants in a good faith exchange of views on the issues raised in the ITU Secretary-General's report and the six draft opinions prepared by the Informal Expert's Group (IEG).

The opinions attached to the Secretary-General's report were prepared with input from a broad range of stakeholders because the IEG was open to all those who wished to participate. As a result, these consensus products were developed with valuable contributions from individuals from the technical community, industry, and civil society.

During the IEG, the United States expressed its belief that the WTPF should also be open to all stakeholders. We recognize and appreciate the steps taken by the ITU in that direction and welcome our friends from civil society and industry with us here today. Nonetheless, we continue to believe that the quality of Internet policy discussions benefit from a fully open and inclusive process where all participants stand on an equal footing.

The United States believes in the multistakeholder approach to Internet policymaking and governance. We continue to support existing multistakeholder organizations including the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs), the Internet

Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Society (ISOC) and the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). We support these organizations because they have proven effective, flexible, and inclusive. And in the process, they have helped enable the growth and development of the Internet as one of the most dynamic platforms for innovation and communication that the world has ever seen.

During the next three days, we will consider the draft opinions forwarded by the IEG, by consensus, to WTPF-13 for further discussion. We believe that those discussions should focus on advancing the important issues before us – the build out and development of broadband and ensuring that the Internet is a robust, open platform for innovation, investment, economic growth, and entrepreneurship throughout the world.

In that regard, the United States is prepared to endorse the consensus achieved by the IEG and adopt the six non-binding opinions as presented in the annex to the Secretary General's report. We take this approach based on our desire for a successful forum, despite some concerns with respect to the opinions on multi-stakeholderism and enhanced cooperation. But we recognize, as we hope all participants do, that to attempt to renegotiate the text or introduce new topics or opinions during this meeting would cause significant difficulties and upset the consensus already achieved.

By endorsing the work of the IEG and the carefully crafted opinions before us, we believe that all participants will leave this forum enriched by the discussions and better equipped to achieve our shared goal of an Internet that flourishes and provides the economic growth and social welfare we all deserve.

Thank you.

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