



JUN 25 2007

Dr. Hamadoun I. Touré
Secretary-General
International Telecommunication Union
Place des Nations
CH – 1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

**Ref: DM-07/1003: Planning schedule for the fourth World
Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF) on convergence and emerging
policy issues**

Dear Dr. Touré:

Canada appreciates the opportunity to submit materials considered relevant for the first draft of your Report, which will serve as the working document for the WTPF to be held in the first quarter of 2009.

Taking into consideration Resolution 2 (Rev. Marrakesh, 2002), Decision 9 (Antalya, 2006) and the results of the previous three Policy Forums, we take careful note of the purpose of such Forums as a venue for discussing strategies and policies of high current policy interest and priority in the changing telecommunication environment, with non-binding outcomes. The first Policy Forum on GMPCS held in 1996 in particular resulted in subsequent agreement on practical measures to facilitate the cross-border use of GMPCS equipment, which has illustrated the usefulness of such broad discussion forums in ultimately generating consensus on high priority topics.

Accordingly, after careful consideration by Canadian stakeholders with an interest in the suggested themes for the Forum, it was agreed that a focus on emerging telecommunication policy and regulatory issues would be the most relevant for discussion. Specifically, it was determined that a highly relevant topic area would be the consideration of policy and regulatory issues associated with WSIS Action Line C5 concerning *building confidence and security in the use of ICTs*, with a particular emphasis on the telecommunication network aspects. Taking into account the results of previous forums, the consideration of this topic could lead to the identification and development of practical measures for follow-up in this critically important area.

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Against the backdrop of the emphasis in ITU on the importance of the topic of security, as reflected in Plenipotentiary Conference Resolution 130 as well as goals 4 and 6 of the Strategic Plan, we have taken due regard of initiatives associated with Question 22/1 of ITU-D including the recently commissioned research paper entitled “A Generic Framework for Critical Information Infrastructure Protection”. Moreover, we have noted with interest recent discussions on the development of a possible ITU Global Cybersecurity Agenda, which would be intended to provide a framework for international cooperation in Cybersecurity. The point we would like to emphasize is that the selection of the proposed theme of building confidence and security in the use of ICTs for the Policy Forum would serve as a focal point for the wide variety of activities and initiatives associated with Action Line C5.

From our perspective the Policy Forum will provide the entire membership of ITU, along with other relevant stakeholders, the opportunity to consider a number of pertinent issues, which are included among the following:

- Establishing policy directions for the mechanism and process for sharing, among Member States and enterprises participating in the work of ITU, best practices in securing the integrity of the global telecommunication network;
- Using ICTs for the purpose of capacity building in the development of expertise and raising awareness of the issues associated with information and network security;
- Establishing a common view on what are the principal areas of threat, within the purview of the ITU, with the potential to undermine trust and confidence in the global telecommunication network;
- Strengthening of the trust and security framework with complementary and mutually reinforcing initiatives in the use of ICTs, which could include guidelines with respect to privacy, identity management and consumer protection;
- Developing guidelines for government and private sector cooperation in the prevention, detection and response to cybercrime and the misuse of ICTs.

It is through the opportunity that a policy forum provides to develop a multi-faceted approach to the discussion of such issues that has encouraged us to propose this particular theme.

In examining the broad range of issues associated with this theme with the engagement of a wide cross section of interested parties, it will be vital to ensure that the ITU concentrates on its core strengths, avoids duplication with other organizations and optimizes the use of resources. Taking steps early to invite relevant organizations already working on the suggested themes will help to coordinate and to draw maximum value from the participation in the WTPF, consistent with their area of expertise. At the same time, the Forum debates can serve to stimulate such organizations to focus on their particular issues, and thereby reinforce the role of ITU as facilitator/moderator of Action Line C5.

We look forward to further discussions on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce A. Gracie', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Bruce A. Gracie,
Special Advisor, International Organizations
Telecommunications Policy Branch