



**OPEN CONSULTATIONS ON THE PARTICIPATION OF RELEVANT
STAKEHOLDERS IN THE ACTIVITIES OF ITU RELATED TO WSIS**

QUESTIONNAIRE TO ITU WSIS ACCREDITED ENTITIES

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a) What “added value” might stakeholders (that are not members of the ITU) bring to the work of ITU in its WSIS-related activities?

Under the auspices of the United Nations, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) has organized the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva and the second phase in Tunis. The level of concern of making use of ICTs to build an information society benefiting everyone has been increasingly enhanced, due to a wide participation from global community including the multi-stakeholders who are beyond the national sovereignty. Especially, private sectors and civil societies relevant to WSIS themes have increased efforts on building and promoting the information society. Internet Governance Forum, generated by the WSIS, offered a platform for multi-stakeholders participation at the relevant WSIS process. Stakeholders can discuss, share ideas, suggestions and experiences relevant to the themes of WSIS, which greatly carries out the WSIS?Plan of Action.

b) What criteria could be suggested for defining which stakeholders (that are not members of the ITU) might be “relevant” to participated in ITU activities related to WSIS, taking into account a) above ?

As the representative of the Internet industry in China and qualified to participate in the first and second phase of WSIS, as well as the two Internet Governance Forums held in Greece and Brazil respectively, Internet Society of China, like other participants, has organized (or co-organized) a series of forums contributing both experiences and proposals. It is recognized that IGF is a good platform where various parties and stakeholders can be able to communicate and contribute to the realization of the WSIS goal and promotion of the relevant WSIS activities. As a governmental organization, ITU should play a key and leading role in the development of WSIS activities, facilitating the approach of UN commitment. Although the IGF is opened to various organizations, civil societies and private sectors, even non stakeholders, sometimes voices, advice or best practice directly relevant to WSIS can not be formed an effective proposal or report. Fully opening up for participants to attend the summit without any prerequisite is likely to cause disharmony, and the influential voices might be

reduced, which would inevitably affect the WSIS effectiveness and authoritativeness. In order to keep the international influence of ITU, as well as IGF is under the framework of UN, it is very important to qualify the stakeholders who apply for participating in the activities including their titles, missions and qualifications, etc. to meet the relevant requirements of UN.

- c) **What are the challenges (including financial) to stakeholders (that are not members of the ITU) posed by their participation in the activities of the Union related to WSIS, and how can such challenges be met ?**

ITU has received external criticism on its large body, slow reaction and weak enforcement. On the one hand, stakeholders need a platform to participate in relevant activities. On the other hand, the increasing different opinions, voices and advice will drive the process of solving conflicts and balancing different benefits into a more complicated situation. This is a very serious challenge that would cause negative impact on effectiveness of future events. Over participation would result in the themes of discussion being scattered, and it will greatly increase the cost. We suggest that firstly the ITU build a reasonable and effective confirmation mechanism for stakeholders; Secondly, the organizations without qualification should be charged fee, thus easing the pressure on funding.

- d) **How can existing mechanisms (e.g. partnerships, symposia, seminars, workshops, focus groups, policy forums, experts) for participation by stakeholders (that are not members of the ITU) be used more effectively, and what other mechanisms could be suggested ?**

The existing mechanisms of ITU are considerate for the participation of multi-stakeholders, particularly the IGF model. It is appreciated that different opinions could be heard, but some necessary mechanisms need to be strictly set up for ITU decision-making. Base on analyzing and selecting the valuable output produced in IGF, ITU could make further discussion and policy so as to ensure all the stakeholders have full participation, while improve the efficiency of decision-making in ITU.

- e) **What specific efforts may be needed to mobilize and ensure the meaningful and effective participation of all relevant stakeholders (that are not members of the ITU) from developing countries, and stakeholders in the development field?**

The numbers of relevant non governmental organizations, private sectors in developing countries are far less than those from developed countries. It will result in the developing countries voice being reduced in multi-stakeholder events. In order to ensure the full participation of stakeholders from developing countries, we suggest that prerequisite be set to the number of stakeholders from developed countries. In addition, it is stressed that the effectiveness of developing countries participating in WSIS will be affected by the barrier of knowledge, technology equipment, human resource, financing, even language, which should by all means be support.