**WTPF-IEG/3/33**

**DRAFT OPINION (USA-1) IN SUPPORT OF PARTICIPATION IN MULTISTAKEHOLDER POLICY PROCESSES**

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

 *recalling*

Resolution 102 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010), which clarifies the ITU’s role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet,

recognizing

a) the WSIS Outcome Documents including Geneva (2003) and Tunis Phases (2005);

b) thatthe Internet is a central element of the infrastructure of the Information Society, has evolved from a research and academic facility into a global facility available to the public;

c) the importance of broadband infrastructure development to facilitate the delivery of a broad range of services and applications, promote investment and provide Internet access at affordable prices to both existing and new users;

d) that the management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues,

 and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations in accordance with § 35 a)-e) of the Tunis Agenda;

e) that a multistakeholder approach can improve coordination of the activities of international and intergovernmental organizations and other institutions concerned with  Internet governance and the  exchange of information among themselves as expressed in §37 of the Tunis Agenda;

f) that the existing arrangements for Internet governance have worked effectively to make the Internet the highly robust, dynamic and geographically diverse medium that it is today, with the private sector taking the lead in day-to-day operations, and with innovation and value creation at the edges as expressed in §55 of the Tunis Agenda;

g) that multistakeholder processes succeed by their nature of openness and inclusiveness, encourage broad and creative problem solving, and are capable of attacking issues with the speed and flexibility required in the rapidly changing Internet environment;

h) that all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the Internet, while also recognizing the need for development of public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders, as expressed in § 68 of the Tunis Agenda;

1. the need for enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues, as expressed in § 69 of the Tunis Agenda,

 *is of the view*

that existing multistakeholder processes related to various aspects of Internet development and policy provide opportunities for governments to participate,

 *invites Member States*

1. to actively contribute to and participate in the diverse multistakeholder processes in which they, along with all other stakeholders, may elaborate on their respective position on international Internet-related technical, development and public policy issues;
2. to encourage and promote policies that are conducive to launching creative and innovative technologies and businesses, and that will uphold the decentralized and dynamic nature of the Internet.