|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |

WTPF-IEG/3/40

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN ON**

**THE THIRD MEETING OF THE INFORMAL EXPERT GROUP (IEG)**

 **6-8 February 2013**

The third meeting of the Informal Expert Group (IEG) for the World Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum (WTPF) took place at ITU Headquarters in Geneva on 6 (p.m.) to 8 February 2013.

1. **Welcome remarks**
	1. In his welcome remarks, Mr. Petko Kantchev, Chairman of the IEG, noted the considerable time and effort invested by members of the IEG, with around 35 contributions and comments received to date, on the Secretary-General’s Report and over 30 contributions on various Draft Opinions. He reemphasized the aim of striving towards a Secretary-General’s Report and Opinions that are correct, credible and of good quality, and shared his own belief that indeed we are not too far away from this objective. He reiterated that while the IEG does not have the mandate to predetermine the work of WTPF, the IEG’s work will facilitate the work of the Forum. His opening remarks are attached as Annex 3.
	2. On behalf of the ITU Secretary-General, the Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Houlin Zhao, thanked the Chair of the IEG for his expertise and dedication. He welcomed all participants[[1]](#footnote-1) and thanked the IEG for their excellent work in debating key issues, and acknowledged:
	* the importance of multi-stakeholderism as a key outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and as a principle guiding the discussions at WTPF-13.
	* In the modern era, improved understanding of stakeholders’ mutually complementary roles in today’s integrated communications infrastructure is necessary.
	* The WTPF is an open global forum for debate on key issues in the world of ICTs, with non-binding outcome “Opinions”;
	* The Secretary-General’s report has benefitted from five rounds of intense scrutiny and rigorous review, so he hopes that changes at this stage would be mainly refinements and corrections;
	* ITU is grateful for over 30 contributions on Draft Opinions, and encourage all Members of the IEG to work together to resolve divergence in opinion and consolidate the Opinions.
	* In response to requests by IEG that certain documents referenced in the ITU Secretary General’s Report be made publicly available and following the approval of the Chairman of the ITU Council, the ITU has made these documents accessible to the general public
	1. Mr. Houlin Zhao acknowledged the invaluable contribution of Dr. Richard Beaird, who has recently retired as the Senior Deputy Coordinator of Policy for the US Department of State, to all of ITU’s work over the years.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda and other organizational matters**

* 1. The Chair briefly outlined the structure of the meeting, before the [Agenda](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0001/en) ([WTPF-IEG/3/1](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0001/en))[[2]](#footnote-2) was adopted. One delegation sought clarification on the Group’s working methods and schedule for planning purposes.
	2. Following the adoption of the Agenda, the delegate from Saudi Arabia expressed their thanks and warmest wishes for the many contributions and happy retirement of Dr. Richard Beaird. The Chair joined him in expressing the best wishes from all the IEG for his retirement. Mr. Paul Najarian, the Head of the U.S.A. delegation acknowledged these sentiments and promised to convey them to Dr. Richard Beaird.

**3. Presentation of the Fourth Draft of the Report of the ITU Secretary-General**

* 1. The ITU Secretariat presented the [Fourth Draft of the ITU Secretary-General’s Report](http://www.itu.int/md/S12-WTPF13PREP-R-0005/en) ([WTPF-IEG/3/2](http://www.itu.int/md/S12-WTPF13PREP-R-0005/en)). Comments on the Third Draft have been received from: [Iran](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0005/en), [PayPal](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0018/en), [USA](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0019/en), [Russia](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0020/en), [Cisco](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0023/en), [Czech Republic](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0024/en), [the European Commission](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0027/en), [URAXS](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0028/en), [Telecom Italia](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0029/en), [ICANN, NRO](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0022/en), [ISOC](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0030/en), and [Poland](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0032/en).
	2. The Secretariat outlined the procedure followed in developing the [Fourth Draft](http://www.itu.int/md/S12-WTPF13PREP-R-0005/en). Particularly for the benefit of newcomers to the IEG, the Secretariat presented a review of the structure of the Secretary-General’s Report. The [Fourth Draft](http://www.itu.int/md/S12-WTPF13PREP-R-0005/en) is intended to provide a basis for discussions focusing on key issues on which it may be desirable to reach an Opinion at the Policy Forum. It takes into account comments received on the Third Draft and discussions at the Second IEG meeting, while striving to maintain a neutral tone. All contributions have been clearly referenced; key data and facts are incorporated and attributed. This Report reflects a considerable divergence in perspective among stakeholders on the various issues raised herein. The Chair and the Group thanked the Secretariat for their hard work and dedication.
	3. In response to a statement from the delegate from Iran and questions from PayPal distinguishing between refinements and modifications to the Report, the Chair explained that suggestions improving the Report will be taken into account. Furthermore he has stated that all information helpful and pertinent to the work of the IEG and Policy Forum should also be taken into account. The Chair cautioned that modifications to text should be treated fairly and not just to the benefit of latecomers making submissions.
	4. The delegate from Algeria stated that, in their view, the Report should reflect all views expressed. In response to further questions, the Chair emphasized that the Report remains the Report of the Secretary-General. He clarified that according to the text of Council Decision 562, the Report “shall incorporate” contributions from the IEG, but that the Report does not represent consensus text per se – a disclaimer shall be included in the Secretary-General’s Report to this effect.

**4. Presentation of Written Contributions**

1. [Iran](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0005/en) presented its comments on the Fourth Draft in [WTPF-IEG/3/3](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0005/en), citing the possible referencing or insertion of additional sections of text from the Annex to the Council Decision, WSIS outcome documents, 2001 Forum materials on IP telephony and further information about ITU’s valuable work on the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA). Iran has subsequently submitted a revised contribution.
2. [PayPal](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0018/en) presented its comments on the Fourth Draft in [WTPF-IEG/3/4](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0018/en). The delegate expressed three categories of comments: (1) instances where PayPal’s edits were not taken into account; (2) instances where comments have been incorrectly attributed to PayPal (3) Additional amendments and modifications.
3. The [U.S.A](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0019/en). presented its comments in [WTPF-IEF/3/5](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0019/en). The Head of Delegation explained the rationale behind their comments that Internet public policy issues are extremely broad and wide-ranging, but the WTPF – and therefore this Report – are pursuant to issues raised in Res. 101, 102 and 133 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010). The U.S.A. hopes to see a comprehensive Report that presents the facts and sketches the landscape, addressing all the relevant issues without pre-judging. In the opinion of the U.S.A., the report should be country-neutral. Some references to sources that, in their opinion, are not credible and objectionable (e.g. Wikipedia and Zoomerang) should be deleted. The U.S.A. would like to see references to “information infrastructure” replaced by “communications infrastructure”, as they consider that information infrastructure does not exist as such, as information travels and is communicated over communication infrastructure. There are continuing concerns about the cost of data in respect to volume of data. The U.S.A. has also provided some other factual corrections and amendments.
4. The [Russian Federation](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0020/en) presented its comments in [WTPF-IEF/3/6](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0020/en). The Russian Federation proposes to delete the last sentence from Section 2.3.1(a), which is unclear about priorities and historical choices in the development of the Internet referred to. In Section 2.3.1 (n), the Russian Federation continues to be concerned that online freedom of expression and anonymity should not equal impunity, with regards to the non-infringement of the rights and freedoms of other citizens. In 2.3.2.3, they would like to quote Tunis Agenda in third paragraph specifying that policy authority for Internet governance is the sovereign right of States, The Russian Federation also seeks additional text in 2.3.3 (h).
5. [Cisco](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0023/en) presented its contribution [WTPF-IEG/3/7](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0023/en), which includes several proposed deletions, clarifications and additional references with regards to ENUM and DNSSEC.
6. The [Czech Republic](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0024/en) presented its contribution [WTPF-IEG/3/8](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0024/en), which proposes the suppression of text referring to an increase in the ITU’s role in Internet governance, which the Czech Republic considers is outside the mandate of the ITU and could duplicate activities of respective organizations. Duplication could lead to potential uncertainty and destabilization of the Internet.
7. [The European Commission](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0027/en) presented its contribution [WTPF-IEG/3/9](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0027/en), proposing changes which are mainly editorial, with a few corrections in relation to one footnote referring to external reports, which should be easy to take into account.
8. [URAXS](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0028/en) presented its contribution [WTPF-IEG/3/10](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0028/en), which proposes mainly editorial comments and corrections to various sections.
9. [Telecom Italia](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0029/en) presented its contribution [WTPF-IEG/3/11](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0029/en), which included a detailed review of the Report, with additional considerations on the evolution of the Internet, such as network evolution, diversity and intensity of applications, reliability and QoS, the multistakeholder model and the security of DNS. Some references could be further improved.
10. The delegate from APNIC presented their joint contribution with [ICANN and ARIN](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0022/en), [WTPF-IEG/3/12](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0022/en), which provides corrections and comments on various sections throughout the Report. They request that all documents referred in the Secretary-General’s Report be made public (the Chair clarified that this has already been done).
11. [ISOC](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0030/en) presented its contribution [WTPF-IEG/3/37](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0030/en) wherein ISOC encourages the ITU to approach the WTPF as an opportunity to look forward and expand on themes like global connectivity, enabling environments to support growth and interoperability, ICTs and development, and/or multistakeholder’s cooperation and collaboration. ISOC believes that these themes would benefit from more dialogue and, ultimately, action at the local and national levels. ISOC acknowledges that the work of the ITU-D provides an excellent set of building blocks for a high-impact strategic policy discussion that could help inform ITU Members on policy tools to enhance Internet access at the national level. ISOC believes that the role of regional IXPs can be emphasized.
12. [Poland](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0032/en) presented its contribution [WTPF-IEG/3/39](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0032/en). In Poland’s opinion, the Report adequately reflects the main points of the so-far discussion and divergent opinions on Internet governance, in an explanatory and recounting way. In the opinion of Poland, the informative nature of the Report should be balanced with a set of WSIS Action Lines, which could help provide concrete outcomes to the conference.

**5. Discussion on the Fourth Draft and Received Contributions**

* 1. There was considerable discussion surrounding the nature of the Secretary-General’s Report on whether it is a consensus Report, and how it can best reflect and incorporate the contributions from IEG members. Some members asked for clarifications concerning the timetable and process for the Report, and how their comments will be handled and reflected.
	2. PayPal offered to review and correct its contributions. PayPal’s delegate expressed concern that a report in which its name appears frequently as a source might be perceived as being endorsed in some way. PayPal asked that a disclaimer should appear on the front cover of the Secretary-General’s Report to make it clear that the Report does not reflect the consensus view of all participants of the IEG.
	3. The Chair thanked the Group for those excellent comments on the Report, and reminded the Group that the Report will be the Secretary-General’s Report and that the role of the IEG is to help the Secretary-General of the Union. He clarified that IEG members should not expect to have their views or text cut and pasted into the Report since that is neither the goal of the IEG nor of the Secretary-General’s Report. The Report is intended solely to provide an adequate background for consideration to the WTPF on the main outputs, such as “Opinions”. The Chair therefore encouraged the Group to focus on the main output, the Opinions.

**6. Presentation & Discussion of Draft Opinions Received Through Written Contributions**

1. Twenty-one contributions on new Draft Opinions were received as inputs to the Third Meeting of the IEG, in addition to the six contributions on draft Opinions already received as input to the Second Meeting of the IEG in October 2012 (with three of these existing Opinions undergoing revision). These Draft Opinions were grouped into nine clusters:
2. Promoting Internet Exchange Points (IXPs)
3. Capacity-building for the deployment of IPv6
4. IPv6 Adoption/deployment; transition from IPv4
5. Inclusivity of communications for all
6. Enabling environment for Broadband and development
7. Role of Governments in the multistakeholder framework
8. Multi-stakeholder involvement
9. Enhanced cooperation
10. Trust frameworks and X.509 Certificates
11. The IEG split into informal drafting groups on each cluster incorporating relevant contributing proponents. Each drafting group was led by a Convener, proposed by the Chair and agreed by all members. The list of Conveners for each drafting group are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Clusters of contributions according to themes  | Convener |
| 1 | Promoting Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) | Mr Malcolm Hutty (UK) |
| 2 | Capacity-building for the deployment of IPv6 | Ms Cathy Hadley (ARIN) |
| 3 | IPv6 Adoption/deployment; transition from IPv4 | Mr Musab Abdulla(Bahrain)  |
| 4 | Inclusivity of communications for all | Mr Paul Redwin(UK)  |
| 5 | Enabling environment for Broadband and development | Mr Bruce Gracie(Canada) |
| 6 | Role of Governments in the multistakeholder framework | Mr Daniel Cavalicanti (Brazil) |
| 7 | Multi-stakeholder involvement | Mr Petko Kantchev (Bulgaria) |
| 8 | Enhanced cooperation | Mr Peter Major (Hungary) |
| 9 | Trust frameworks and X.509 Certificates | Mr Bill Smith (PayPal) |

1. Concerning the contributions on *Inclusivity of communications for all*, the proponents, UK and Iran, agreed that considering the complexity and delicate nature of the topic, they no longer wish to pursue the matter and that there should be no output from the meeting about any Opinion with respect to that matter.
2. Discussions resulted in six consolidated Draft Opinions to be forwarded by the IEG by consensus to the WTPF in May 2013:

1. [Promoting Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) as a long term solution to advance connectivity](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0047/en);

2. [Fostering an enabling environment for the greater growth and development of broadband connectivity](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0043/en);

3. [Supporting Capacity Building for the deployment of IPv6](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0046/en);

4. [In support of IPv6 adoption and transition from IPv4](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0045/en);

5. [Supporting Multi-stakeholderism in Internet governance](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0042/en);

6. [On supporting operationalizing the enhanced cooperation process](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0044/en).

1. There was no consensus in the IEG concerning two remaining Draft Opinions: *Role of Governments in the multistakeholder framework,* and *Trust frameworks and X.509 Certificate*. Therefore it was decided that these Draft Opinions would not be forwarded to WTPF-13.
2. Regarding the Draft Opinion on *Trust frameworks and X.509 Certificate,* the U.S.A. delegation made a statement that “Technology neutrality is a fundamental U.S. principle. For this reason, the United States Administration does not support the contribution by PayPal to the 3rd meeting of the WTPF IEG, because it would require the U.S.A. to opine on, and endorse (pending the outcome of the WTPF-2013) a specific standard, which leads to the implementation of a particular technology”. Based on the feedback received and due to the lack of time to discuss the Draft Opinion, the original contributor of this Opinion, PayPal withdrew its contribution.
3. The delegate from APIG further commented on the Opinion on *Trust frameworks and X.509 Certificate,* nothing that, even although PayPal had withdrawn its Opinion, APIG and the Russian Federation are supporting this Opinion with comments to further improve the Draft. He asked the Chair to acknowledge that.
4. The Chair indicated to the Group that all non-concluded Draft Opinions be posted on the WTPF website for members, and also be attached to the Chairman’s Report on the Third IEG meeting (see Annex 2).
5. **Conclusion**
	1. The Chair noted that the posting of the Secretary-General’s Report would be in accordance with the schedule approved by ITU Council (see Annex 1).
	2. The Secretariat clarified that the draft Opinions, agreed by consensus by the group, will be posted on the WTPF website as soon as possible.
	3. On behalf of the Secretary-General and the other elected officials, Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Director of TSB, thanked all those who had participated in the IEG. He pointed out that the work of the IEG had benefitted from the input and participation of many experts, from Member States, Sector Members, and non-member organisations, in a real multi-stakeholder gathering, with a very good spirit of conciliation and compromise, resulting in six Draft Opinions. In particular, Mr. Johnson thanked the Chairman, who was kind enough to accept the challenge of chairing the IEG at short notice, and whose leadership helped create this good spirit. Mr. Johnson thanked everyone, wished them a safe trip home, and stated that he is looking forward to seeing everyone at WTPF, which if this newfound spirit is maintained, will be a very successful WTPF.
	4. The Chairman thanked all delegations for their excellent work, demonstrated wisdom, insights, contributions as well as for their pragmatic and open spirit for cooperation The Chairman has wished them safe return home underlying that he will be delighted to see them all again at the WTPF-13 in Geneva.
	5. He has invited to the podium the ITU Secretariat staff assisting the IEG in order that they all face the IEG delegations in the meeting room. He has thanked whole-heartedly all of them for their efficient assistance rendered to the IEG with competence and tireless dedication as from June 2012 until end February 2013.
	6. Finally he has commended the ITU Elected Officials for their particular attention to the WTPF-13 matters in such a way that the IEG was enabled to carry out its mandate fully in open and transparent manner. Furthermore he has thanked the ITU Secretary General for the personal invitation addressed to every IEG participant to attend WTPF-13 without bothering to register (relevant delegate’s registration will be done by the ITU Secretariat instead). Finally the Chairman has highlighted the remarkable atmosphere of mutual trust and respect whereby the ITU Elected Officials have ensured that all requests addressed to them by the IEG have been satisfied promptly.
	7. The meeting closed at 10:30 pm on Friday 8 February 2013.

**Annex 1: Schedule for the preparatory process of the Fifth WTPF**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **9 March 2012** | Deadline for membership to submit materials considered relevant for the First Draft of the Secretary-General’s Report.  |
| **13 April 2012** | Online posting and circulation to membership of the First Draft of the Secretary-General’s Report (drawn up on the basis of available material). |
| **15 May 2012** | Deadline for receipt of membership comments on the First Draft and additional materials for the Second Draft.  |
| **5 June 2012** | First meeting of the IEG.Preliminary Second Draft of the Secretary-General’s Report. |
| **25 June 2012** | Deadline for receipt of comments on the preliminary Second Draft. |
| **3 July  2012** | Online Posting of the Second Draft, incorporating comments received. |
| **1 August 2012** | Deadline for receipt of comments on the Second Draft and request for contributions to develop the Third Draft, including broad outlines for possible Draft Opinions. Invitation letter sent to all stakeholders to participate in the IEG. |
| **31 August 2012** | Online Posting of Third Draft and outlines for possible Draft Opinions. |
| **30 September 2012** | Deadline for receipt of comments on the Third Draft. |
| **10-12 October 2012** | Second meeting of the IEG. |
| **10 January  2013** | Online Posting of the Fourth Draft including Draft Opinions. |
| **6-8 February 2013**  | Third meeting of the IEG. |
| **1 March 2013** | Finalization and publication of the Secretary-General’s Report. |
| **13 May 2013** | WTPF Strategic Dialogue. |
| **14-16 May 2013(in parallel with the WSIS Forum 2013)** | The Fifth WTPF on Internet-related public policy issues. |

**Annex 2: Draft Opinions (with hyperlinks)**

**Draft Opinions that were approved by consensus for further consideration and discussion at WTPF-13:**

1. [Fostering an enabling environment for the greater growth and development of broadband connectivity](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0043/en)
2. [Promoting Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) as a long term solution to advance connectivity](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0047/en)
3. [Supporting Capacity Building for the deployment of IPv6](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0046/en)
4. [In Support of IPv6 Adoption and Transition from IPv4](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0045/en)
5. [Supporting Multi-stakeholderism in Internet Governance](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0042/en)
6. [On supporting operationalizing the Enhanced Cooperation Process](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0044/en)

**Draft Opinions that did not get consensus:**

1. [Role of Governments in the multistakeholder framework](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0039/en)
2. [Trust frameworks and X.509 Certificate](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0017/en)

**Annex 3: Opening remarks by the Chairman**

Esteemed Mr. Houlin Zhao, Deputy Secretary General of the ITU,

Esteemed Elected ITU Officials.

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

* The interest on the subjects to be discussed at last IEG meeting suddenly exceeded my expectations.
* Notwithstanding with this, I still believe that we could progress in constructive and wise manner by getting prepared in advance. Towards this end prior to this meeting I have encouraged some proponents to analyse carefully all inputs within their delegations so that at the IEG we strive to consolidate the outcome of collective knowledge and wisdom in most pragmatic way. Of course this would be possible only if such an approach be agreeable to all proponents.
* We have two and a half days left for actual work at this last IEG meeting while the WTPF-13 may have not more than two days for intensive deliberations.
Therefore, in my humble opinion, it will be best preparation for said Forum to consolidate and agree upon on the last Draft SG Report and relevant Draft Opinions and improve them accordingly. However may I kindly request you at this point of time to avoid making significant changes such as restructuring of the Draft Report, deletion of entire sections of it and so on.
* The Draft ITU Secretary General Report and Opinions elaborated by IEG should be credible and of quality (good for use even by scholars). Therefore we shall aim at this IEG Meeting to elaborate SG Report of due quality (we are almost there) and best achievable quality of the Draft Opinions released by the IEG.
* We may try to consolidate some of them (if agreeable to their proponents) and enter into detailed drafting on all of them to the extent practicable.
* If you remember, at one of the previous IEG meetings Honourable Dr Richard Beaird, Head of US Delegation, has asked formally what will be the future fate of the Draft Secretary General Report and Opinions produced by the IEG. I have replied that we will do our best as competent professionals and experts to produce correct, credible and informative Report on behalf of the ITU Secretary General and Opinions as agreed by the IEG and, last but not least, of quality.
* Furthermore I have stated that while the IEG does not have mandate to predetermine the output of the WTPF-13, its work might be very much appreciated and commended because, as a matter of fact, it will facilitate the preparation and work at the Forum, pinpoint major difficulties and challenges and offer possible ways forward. I went further on in stating that it will not be logical and wise if consensus reached by the 150 IEG experts would prevail over the positions and Opinions of many more stakeholders some of which, although not having the status of Member State or Sector Member, might be registered within ITU Member States' delegations (estimated perhaps around 2000 participants or more).
* The progress of the Draft Report and Opinions is based on formal contributions submitted by relevant stakeholders followed by open discussions at the IEG. Both the Draft Report and the Opinions are well documented in transparent and clear manner, and even more they are accessible to interested stakeholders with precise indication of the sources submitting relevant texts.  This approach was also applied by your Chairman when he was tempted to propose minor inserts for the sake of clearer understanding and perception of very complex Internet related matters! Kindly take note that, upon the IEG request, the Chairman of ITU Council has already given his blessing to make available to outside world the Council documents relevant to WTPF-13 without usual password protection.
* In spite of early warnings to me that the IEG might be a "hot potato" challenge, it has turned out that it is both honour and pleasure to chair work in such an enabling and stimulating environment created within and around the IEG!
* The participants, stakeholders and delegations at the WTPF-13 would be well prepared in advance thanks to a fair “appetizer” of quality, namely the IEG's output submitted by the ITU Secretary General to the WTPF-13 as ITU Secretary General’s Report and Opinions. Let me remind you that this Report is intended to provide background for consideration by the WTPF-13 on its main output: the Opinions.
* Taking into account that the WTPF-13 will be only of three days duration (14 to 16 May 2013) the discussions we have started at IEG should go on much beyond the official closing of WTPF-13. In this regard it would be a very good and considerate planning to foresee relevant skills within the staffing table of your delegations at WTPF-13.

In sharing with you the above considerations I hope you will get clearly my perceptions of what remains yet to be done. Needless to say it, as human beings we may be pardoned to make mistakes but we will not be tolerated to repeat them again. That's why the team work is so important in open and conducive environment where the knowledge deficiencies of any individual are compensated with high return by the knowledge of competent and credible teams.

Thank you all!

**Annex 4: List of Participants**

The list of participants of the third IEG meeting is available at: <http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-ADM-0003/en>

1. see Annex 4 for list of participants [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Please note that two contributions - a [draft Opinion from the Internet Systems Consortium](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0049/en) and [comments from Canada on the Fourth Draft of the Secretary-General’s Report](http://www.itu.int/md/S13-WTPF13IEG3-C-0048/en) – were received after both, the deadline and the adoption of the Agenda of the meeting. Therefore the two contributions were neither presented nor debated at the meeting. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)