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| **Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues**  **Eleventh meeting – Geneva, 25-26 January 2018** |  |
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Republic of India

CONTRIBUTION TO CWG-Internet

**I Preamble**

1. At the outset, the delegation of India would like to put on record its appreciation for the reporting on ITU internet activities as mandated under resolutions 101, 102, 133 & 180 vide document WG-Internet 11/2 dated December 12, 2017 and for capturing the essence of varied activities. We commend the activities of the Council Working Group on Internet and the progress made thus far. While supporting the multistakeholder form of internet governance, India supports that the governments should have equal footing in the internet governance involving stakeholders in their respective roles and responsibilities as envisaged in the Tunis agenda. India supports the importance assigned to recognizing and acknowledging the divergence of views among the member states and stakeholders.

2. The sections 2, 3 of the report provide several developments in terms of ITU-T standardization, ITU-D study group and IPv6 activities. The section 4 briefly provides activities on internet related public policy issues including domain names and addresses. Overall, the report captures wide spectrum of activities in the development of IP networks and ITU’s engagement on different platforms on the subject.

3. It is apt to mention that the WTDC – 2017 consolidated the study aspects of emerging technologies under question 3/1 including cloud computing, m-services, and OTTs in view of their significance in the context of challenges and opportunities, economic and policy impact for developing countries.

4. In this context, there is an enhanced need to strengthen the ongoing work of CWG Internet so that it could identify, study and develop matters through proposals on internet related public policy issues supporting the work of Council and ITU Member states in the context of WSIS outcomes and WSIS+10 high level review.

5. Considering the specialized nature of the subject and activities taking place on different platforms, there is a need to consolidate the similar work in UN structures appropriately avoiding duplication of work.

**II Indian contribution for the Council session 2017 (C17-86)**

1. Consideringthe important role being played by the ITU in the development of Internet Protocol based networks and policy issues, the Indian Administration proposed that as provided in the mandate of PP-14 Resolution 101, the SG report could play an important role in building necessary capacities in the membership to bridge knowledge and ‘opportunity to contribute’ gap especially for the benefit of developing countries by comprehensively elaborating the following:

1. development of NGNs and future networks
2. roles and activities of other relevant international organizations, describing their involvement in IP-based network issues
3. degree of cooperation between ITU and these organizations

Considering constant and quick transformation in telecommunication / ICT technologies, services and respective emerging challenges, as mandated in the Resolution, the ITU, it was proposed that the report should include concrete proposals on improving ITU activities and such cooperation. The proposal was endorsed by the Council during its session in 2016.

2. It is relevant to recall the PP-14 resolution 102, which emphasizes the role of governments to provide a clear, consistent and predictable legal framework, in order to promote a favourable environment, among others, to ensure adequate protection of public interests in the management of internet resources, including domain names and addresses.

3. Further, the PP-14 mandates vide its resolutions 101, 102 that the SG report to contain concrete proposals and CWG is also instructed to continue to identify, study and develop matters on the subject taking into account relevant ITU resolutions.

4. In view of this, the CWG Internet being the working arm of ITU Council shall continue to identify, study and develop matters on the subject and it is important and necessary that the CWG Internet should develop proposals for further consideration of the Governing Council.

**III Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation (WGEC)**

1. Discussions on the WGEC point to a thought process (Draft report[[1]](#footnote-1) of the Working Group on enhanced cooperation Chairman´s initial proposal of 11 November 2017) that one of the options is to establishment of UN body/mechanisms (UN organization, Committee or Standing Open Working Group) in regard to the institutional framework required to further implement enhanced cooperation. Some of the envisaged objectives of the group include -

* Could develop and establish international perspectives, norms and public policies with a view to ensuring coordination and coherence in cross-cutting Internet-related global issues
* Would develop appropriate relationships with relevant existing policy bodies inside and outside the UN
* Should build a close association with the IGF but be distinct and separate from it
* A focal point for knowledge creation and curation should be created in the UN system, affiliated to the mentioned new institutional mechanism, specifically for issues related to international Internet related public policies. It would undertake the required research and analysis and develop papers, reports, etc in an ongoing manner, especially, but not exclusively, with regard to emerging policy issues.

2. Several of the above activities are already under progress at ITU. The PP-14 resolution 101 resolves that the ITU shall clearly identify, for its Member States and Sector Members and for the general public, the range of internet related issues that fall within the responsibilities incumbent on the Union under its basic texts and the activities in the WSIS outcome documents where ITU has a role. The Council resolution 1305 and the annex thereto elaborate various public policy issues along with relevant ITU mandate.

3. Another option in the WGEC draft indicates alternate stream of thought from the members that there is no need for any new institutional mechanisms with the following rationale.

* International Internet-related public issues should be addressed by existing mechanisms
* New mechanisms could confuse work that is already going on elsewhere (duplicate and undermine)
* Creating more International internet governance meetings could make the current landscape more complex and difficult to navigate, especially for developing countries
* Recommendations should extend and improve existing processes

4. Considering the above inputs, specialized & facilitating nature of the work and also considering the work already in progress under ITU, the ITU may suitably take up through UN processes to consolidate the work, if feasible under ITU as appropriate, to prevent duplication of work in different UN processes and institutions.

5. This is in line with ITU’s mandate vide PP resolution 102 under instructs the SG, “ to continue to take the necessary steps for ITU to play an active and constructive role in the process towards enhanced cooperation as expressed in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda; to continue to take the necessary steps in ITU's own internal process towards enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet as expressed in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda, involving all stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities;”.

**IV Proposal**

1. Considering the importance of the work under the CWG Internet and its relevance for developing countries for their effective participation in the work related to public policy issues in the global internet governance, it is proposed that the CWG Internet shall continue its work on international internet related public policy issues within ITU’s mandate.
2. While acknowledging the current reporting in the SG report on ITU Internet activities on PP-14 resolutions 101, 102, 133 & 180., there is a need to expand the reporting to cover “the roles and activities of other relevant international organizations, describing their involvement in IP-based network issues; the degree of cooperation between ITU and these organizations, drawing the required information wherever possible from existing sources, and containing concrete proposals on improving ITU activities and such cooperation“, elaborating substantive issues and developments. A separate report on Internet-related public policy issues could be produced considering the importance of the work of CWG Internet.
3. Appropriately, the ITU should take up through UN processes, to bring together the relevant work on enhanced cooperation as per the thought processes elaborated under item 3 above, as feasible under ITU as an effective specialized mechanism to provide institutional framework to further implement enhanced cooperation and to prevent duplication of work.

1. http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/WGEC2016-18\_m5\_DraftReport\_InitialProposal.pdf [↑](#footnote-ref-1)