Summary of accessibility related issues
discussed during IGF Open Consultation, MAG and CSTD Working Group meetings
in February 2012, in Geneva

1. The IGF Open Consultation and the MAG meetings were held in Geneva from 14-16 February, 2012. The Working Group of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the improvements to the IGF had its 5th and last meeting from 20 -22 February 2012 in Geneva.
2. During the Open Consultation accessibility problems of the IGF 2011 in Nairobi was brought to the attention of the participants. IGF 2012 will be held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 6-9 November 2012. Organizers of the event seem to be quite circumspect and will make taxis available free of charge for people with disabilities. These taxis can transport wheelchairs as well. The importance of including accessibility and disability as topic in the upcoming IGF was also mentioned.
3. During the MAG meeting it was accepted by MAG members that the overarching team of the IGF 2012 will be “Internet governance for sustainable human, social and economic development”. The main themes are more or less unchanged and accessibility for disabled people will be included in “Access and diversity” main theme.

 Transcripts of the Open Consultations and the MAG meetings are available on the IGF website  <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>.

 Finalization of the subthemes will be done by the MAG members by correspondence followed by call for proposals for the workshops.

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development Working Group on improvements to the IGF has been mandated to give recommendations for the improvements to the IGF without changing its basic features. In its Final Report the Working Group agreed on 39 recommendations (<http://www.unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/a67d65_en.pdf> ).

Participants of Working Group finalized the recommendations around the main themes:
**I** .Shaping the outcomes of IGF meetings
II. Working modalities including open consultations, MAG, and Secretariat
III. Funding of the IGF
IV. Broadening participation and capacity building
V. Linking the IGF to other Internet governance related entities

1. There are 4 recommendations related to persons with disabilities under the main theme IV. Broadening participation:

5.1 Although participation in the IGF has increased with time, it should be further broadened, both at the annual meeting and its preparatory phase, to involve new stakeholders, in particular from developing countries, especially LDCs, persons with disabilities and other underrepresented groups.

 5.2 Remote participation is an integral part of the IGF. While remote participation has improved, in particular through remote moderators and hubs, there is still room for improvement in the following areas:

 mechanisms that facilitate remote participation, such as live transcripts, should be kept as an integral part of the IGF. Such mechanisms are invaluable not only to remote participants, but also to non English speakers, and people with disabilities, whether they are onsite or not.

 5.3 It is important to ensure the accessibility of IGF’s facilities to persons with disabilities.

 5.4 A first step in this direction should be to enhance the IGF’s Website by providing interactive functionalities and making it more attractive and inclusive. It should also maintain its conformance with open standards and further improve accessibility to persons with disabilities.

6. Conclusion

 There was consensus on making IGF more accessible for persons with disabilities. The result depends on the implementation of the recommendations