



## **STATEMENT BY CANADA WTPF-13**

Canada welcomes the opportunity to participate in this 5<sup>th</sup> Policy Forum, and looks forward to engaging in discussions with colleagues on this important subject of Internet-related public policy matters. Canada did offer comments on the Secretary-General's Report to the Forum, and participated in the Informal Expert Group (IEG), which provides us with an excellent opportunity to reach consensus on the six draft Opinions which served as the key outputs from the Expert Group.

The consensus reached at the IEG is in part a result of its open nature and broad composition, underscoring the importance of strengthening the current multistakeholder model of Internet Governance that has proven to be particularly effective in promoting competition, investment, private-public sector partnerships and technological innovation.

While we do understand and appreciate that there may be differences of opinion engendered by the theme of this year's Forum, we need to recognize the success attained by the IEG in reaching consensus on the six Draft Opinions submitted for our consideration. It is also important to acknowledge that the essential purpose of a Policy Forum is to serve as a venue for exchanging views and information on policy and regulatory matters, with no prescriptive regulatory outcomes.

Taking these factors into account, the anticipated outcome – agreement by consensus on six draft Opinions – will serve to enrich the debate on the theme of the 5<sup>th</sup> Forum, and provide valuable information for those not fully engaged in the subjects addressed by these Opinions. Moreover, the Opinions as drafted provide valuable insights and information on key topics, such as draft Opinion 1 on IXPs, Opinion 2 on broadband deployment and its importance for all countries, Opinions 3 and 4 on the transition from IPv4 and adoption of IPv6, Opinion 5 on supporting the further implementation of multi-stakeholder practices in Internet governance, and Opinion 6 concerning the need for enhanced cooperation to enable governments to develop international Internet-related public policy in consultation with all stakeholders.

It is our view that the Report of the Secretary-General, as well as the positive outcome of the Strategic Dialogue, will provide all participants with greater understanding and appreciation of the issues associated with the theme of this year's Policy Forum.

While we could propose certain improvements and refinements to the texts of the six draft Opinions, we are prepared to support the consensus texts developed by the IEG in the interest of achieving a successful outcome.

In closing, we would like to provide our full support to Chairman Ivanovski and the Working Group Chairs, and to reiterate our commitment to an outcome that can be supported by all.