

**OPINION (1) ON SUPPORTING FULL MULTI-STAKEHOLDERISM IN INTERNET GOVERNANCE**

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

 *recognizing*

a) that, per article 37 of the Tunis Agenda, a multi-stakeholder approach should be adopted as far as possible, at all levels, to improve the coordination of the activities of international and intergovernmental organizations and other institutions concerned with Internet governance and the exchange of information among themselves;

b) that Internet governance consists of policy, technical, standardization and socio-economic factors and that different stakeholders have different roles, responsibilities and expertise;

c) that balanced and effective Internet governance, and proper implementation of the multi-stakeholder model, therefore requires that all stakeholders be able to contribute according to their roles, responsibilities and expertise;

d) that article 35 of the Tunis Agenda defines the stakeholders in Internet governance and their respective roles and, in particular, that policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues is the sovereign right of states and that states have related rights and responsibilities;

e) that, per article 69 of the Tunis Agenda, there is a need for enhanced cooperation to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues related to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues;

f) that governments cannot effectively perform their role in international public policy without the enhanced cooperation process and, therefore, that the multi-stakeholder model for Internet governance has not been fully implemented;

 *noting*

a) that there are many existing initiatives to address various aspects of Internet-related public policy but that they are limited in scope and do not involve the entire community of nations;

b) thatthe United Nations family of organizations has attempted to address some of the policy issues such as, for example, through the ITU Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet);

c) that these attempts by the UN family, such as CWG-Internet, are neither mandated nor structured to effectively address the overriding issues of the Internet, to develop and promulgate related public policy and cooperation agreements in consultation with all stakeholders in their respective roles, and to coordinate the relevant activities of existing initiatives;

d) thatthe UN family has a long history of bringing together the nations of the world to develop and promulgate policies in consultation with all stakeholders and that it is clearly the best choice for establishing an intergovernmental organization to operationalize the enhanced cooperation process to allow governments to perform their role in international public policy related to the Internet and to actualize the role of governments in the multi-stakeholder model for Internet governance;

 *is of the view*

a) to support the multi-stakeholder model via the immediate operationalization of the enhanced cooperation process to allow governments to perform their role in international public policy related to the Internet, in consultation with all stakeholders;

 *invites*

a) the Secretary-General to collaborate with other organizations in the UN family to develop the mechanisms and processes for enhanced cooperation, including identifying or establishing an intergovernmental organization to be responsible for operationalization and continued operation, in order to fully actualize the role of governments in the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance;

b) Member States and Sector Members to support and contribute to the work, first of the Secretary-General and his collaborators, then of the intergovernmental organization responsible for operation of enhanced cooperation.