

**OPINION (3) ON SUPPORTING OPERATIONALIZING THE ENHANCED COOPERATION PROCESS**

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

*considering*

a) that the Internet has evolved into a powerful and very successful vehicle for innovation, economic growth, the spread of knowledge and culture, and the delivery of services;

b) that the Internet is now essential for the continuing operation of business and government around the world;

c) that, despite its essential character, the Internet continues to suffer from critical weaknesses in its security protocols and in its governance processes that also make it the vehicle for spam, online child pornography and other abuses of children, identity theft and many other forms of cybercrime, damaging denial of service attacks, and disregard of considerations of national security, public order, public health and public morals while enjoying freedom of expression;

d) that minimal progress can be expected in the fight against cybercrime, abuse of children via the Internet, spam and other abuses of the Internet without relevant international policies, agreed by governments, for bilateral and multilateral cooperation;

e) that international cooperation and support is also essential for bringing the benefits of the Internet to all peoples of the world, including developing and least developed countries;

*recognizing*

a) that, per article 68 of the Tunis Agenda, governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance and there is a need for public policy development by governments in consultation with all stakeholders;

b) that article 35 of the Tunis Agenda defines the stakeholders in Internet governance and their respective roles;

c) 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;

d) that enhanced cooperation, defined by article 69 of the Tunis Agenda, and the Internet Governance Forum, defined by articles 72 and 73 of the Tunis Agenda, have been recognized by the CSTD, ECOSOC and the UN General Assembly as two distinct processes which may be complementary;

e) that, per article 71 of the Tunis Agenda, the process towards such enhanced cooperation was to have started in the first quarter of 2006, involving all relevant organizations and all stakeholders in their respective roles;

f) that, despite the fact that agreed international policies are essential both for the fight against criminal and abusive behavior on the Internet and for the expansion of the benefits of the Internet to all peoples of the world, no process and mechanism has yet been operationalized for enhanced cooperation to allow governments to perform their role in international public policy, in consultation with all stakeholders in their respective roles;

*noting*

a) that there are many existing initiatives to address various aspects of criminal and abusive behavior on the Internet 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 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;

*is of the view*

a) to support 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;

b) that the mechanisms and processes for such enhanced cooperation among governments should be developed by an intergovernmental organization in the UN family, in consultation with all stakeholders in their respective roles;

c) that this intergovernmental organization should be responsible for continued operation of the enhanced cooperation mechanisms and processes;

d) that relevant existing processes and fora within the UN family should be leveraged and possibly integrated to operationalize enhanced cooperation as quickly as possible and to avoid duplication of effort;

*invites*

a) the Secretary-General to collaborate with related organizations in the UN family to develop the mechanisms and processes necessary to operationalize enhanced cooperation that allow governments to develop international public policy in consultation with all stakeholders, including identifying or establishing an intergovernmental organization to be responsible for operationalization and continued operation;

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