

**WTPF-IEG/3/15**

**OPINION (n+2) Supporting the inclusivity of communications for all**

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

 *recalling*

1. All relevant resolutions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Human rights Council on the right to freedom of opinion and expression, in particular Council resolution 12/16 of 2 October 2009, and Council resolution L13 of 29 June 2012
2. the General Assembly Resolution 66/184 of 22 December 2011
3. That Paragraph 42, of the Tunis Agenda, “reaffirms **……** the freedom to seek, receive, impart and use information, in particular, for the creation, accumulation and dissemination of knowledge. We affirm that measures undertaken to ensure Internet stability and security, to fight cybercrime and to counter spam, must protect and respect the provisions for privacy and freedom of expression as contained in the relevant parts of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Geneva Declaration of Principles”

 *considering*

1. Resolution 175 (rev. Guadalajara 2010) on Telecommunications/Information Communication Technology accessibility for persons with disabilities, including age-related disabilities; and
2. Resolution 84 (rev. Guadalajara 2010) on Facilitating digital Inclusion initiatives for indigenous peoples

*noting*

1. The report of the special rapporteur to the UN Human rights Council 16 May 2011, (A/HRC/17/27) that "… emphasizes that censorship measures should never be delegated to private entities, and that intermediaries should not be held liable for refusing to take action that infringes individuals’ human rights. Any requests submitted to intermediaries to prevent access to certain content, or to disclose private information for strictly limited purposes such as administration of criminal justice, should be done through an order issued by a court or a competent body which is independent of any political, commercial or other unwarranted influences."

 *is of the view*

1. that freedom of expression and access to information are the cornerstones of inclusive knowledge societies;
2. that information and services should be open and accessible to support knowledge based societies;
3. that Internet users should be fully empowered to exercise their fundamental rights and freedoms, make informed decisions and participate in the information society.

*invites*

All Stakeholders

1. to encourage and promote an Internet environment which is conducive to launching creative and innovative technologies, businesses and other endeavours that respect recognized legal rights without having to obtain permission from third parties;
2. to uphold the decentralised and dynamic nature of the Internet, working in a co-operative, and collaborative manner to enable its on-going expansion and to contribute to innovation, interoperability, participation and ease of access, and
3. to consider the potential of the Internet and related technologies to provide enhanced services to people with disabilities and special needs.