

**WTPF-IEG/3/17**

**OPINION (n+4) Exploring the Enhanced Cooperation Process**

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

*recalling*

1. the resolution on Information and Communication Technologies for Development of the UN General Assembly at its Sixty-Seventh Session (A/RES/167/195), invites the chair of UN Commission on Science and Technology Development (CSTD) to establish a working group on enhanced cooperation to examine the mandate of WSIS on enhanced cooperation involving all Member States and all other stakeholders;

b) that the same Resolution reaffirms the role of the United Nations General Assembly in the overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes to be held by the end of 2015 as recognized in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda on information society, and

c) the continuing work of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN Commission on Science Technology Development (CSTD) in the sphere of Internet governance and WSIS,

*noting*

1. the importance of ensuring that all stakeholders, including governments, have due and full regard for the provisions in paragraphs 69, 71 and 89 of the Tunis Agenda relating to enhanced cooperation;
2. That paragraph 70 of the Tunis Agenda calls for organizations responsible for essential tasks associated with the Internet to contribute to creating an environment that facilitates this development of public policy principles;
3. That paragraph 71 of the Tunis Agenda identifies that the process towards enhanced cooperation will involve all stakeholders in their respective roles; and
4. Internet governance issues are complex and require cooperation between, and expertise from, a wide range of organisations – inter-governmental, international, governmental, technical, private sector and civil society organisations which have experience in dealing with different Internet governance issues. Organisations already engage in cooperation to address these issues in line with their mandate and skills, and this should continue to be encouraged,

*Considering*

1. 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 and that this has been enabled by the bottom-up, multi-stakeholder approach used for addressing Internet governance issues,
2. That paragraphs 68-71 of the Tunis Agenda recognised the need for development of public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders and the need for enhanced cooperation to enable governments to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. It called upon the organisations responsible for essential tasks associated with the Internet to contribute to creating an environment that facilitates this development of public policy principles,
3. That, in response to the call for enhanced cooperation, the relevant international organisations is coordinating their activities in a way that enables governments to address public policy issues associated with the remit of the organisation.

*invites the ITU Secretary General and all ITU Directors of the Bureaux*

1. To ensure that, in line with paragraph 37 of the Tunis Agenda, the work of the ITU is carried out in consultation with all stakeholders,
2. In line with Resolution 101 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2012), Resolution 102 (Rev. Guadalaraja 2012) and Resolution 133 (Rev. Guadalajara 2012), to explore ways and means for greater collaboration and coordination between ITU and relevant organizations and to encourage, and if appropriate to help, all ITU Member States to engage with these organisations, including but not limited to, the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs); the Internet Society (ISOC); the Internet Engineering Taskforce (IETF); the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN),

*Invites Member States*

To take full advantage of the environment that facilitates the development of public policy principles that have been put in place as set out in paragraph 70 of the Tunis Agenda,

*invites relevant organisations*

To continue to foster an environment which facilitates the engagement of governments in public policy discussions related to the work of their organisations.

*invites All Stakeholders*

1. To engage with all relevant organisations; and
2. To participate in processes, including but not limited to the work of the CSTD working group on enhanced cooperation, to map the existing Internet governance institutions and the modalities of multilateral and multi-stakeholder approaches, in order to identify any gaps in addressing international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet.