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Contribution from the Federative Republic of Brazil

DRAFT OPINION

**ON THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN THE MULTISTAKEHOLDER FRAMEWORK
FOR INTERNET GOVERNANCE**

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

*considering*

that the mandate and role of the ITU are established in the ITU’s Constitution and Convention and in relevant decisions and resolutions of conferences and assemblies,

*recalling*

a) Paragraph 34 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (Tunis, 2005), which affirms that the working definition of Internet governance is the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet;

b) Paragraph 35 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (Tunis, 2005), which affirms that the management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations; and which recognizes the respective roles of the cited entities;

c) Paragraph 55 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (Tunis, 2005), which recognizes that the existing arrangements for Internet governance have worked effectively to make the Internet the highly robust, dynamic and geographically diverse medium that it is today, with the private sector taking the lead in day-to-day operations, and with innovation and value creation at the edges;

d) that all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the Internet, while also recognizing the need for development of public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders, as expressed in § 68 of the Tunis Agenda;

e) the need for enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters that do not impact on international public policy issues, as expressed in § 69 of the Tunis Agenda,

f) Plenipotentiary Resolutions 101, 102 and 133, which resolve, inter alia, to explore ways and means for greater collaboration and coordination between ITU and relevant organizations involved in the development of IP based networks and the future internet, through cooperation agreements, as appropriate, in order to increase the role of ITU in Internet governance so as to ensure maximum benefits to the global community;

g) Resolution **A/RES/67/195** of theUnited Nations General Assembly**,** which in paragraph 19 stresses the need for the enhanced participation of all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in all Internet Governance Forum meetings, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in the preparatory meetings,

*taking in to account*

a) that several Member States have adopted high-level principles for Internet Governance, with a focus on the complementary roles of governments, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in Internet-related public policy issues;

b) that some Member States consider that the key trend in the development of modern information society is the increasing role of Internet in the system of International telecommunications/ICT, and also a part of national telecommunication infrastructure. Accordingly, they consider the Internet numbering, naming, addressing and identification resources as a critical international resource,

*recognizing*

a) that various organizations provide valuable contributions on numerous issues relating to Internet Governance;

b) that many Member States still seek adequate representation in the current framework for government participation on issues of Internet governance;

c) that Member States have equal roles and responsibilities for ensuring the reliable allotment, assignment and reclamation of Internet numbering, naming, addressing and identification resources;

d) that a significant number of issues on Internet Governance are linked with telecommunications;

e) the sovereign right of States in the field of Internet-related public policy,

*emphasizing*

a) the constructive role played by the ITU in fostering the continuing development of the Internet, in particular through the contributions of its members and the activities of its three Sectors;

b) that ITU is a multistakeholder organization, open to the private sector and to civil society, which can participate both as members in their own right and as members of national delegations;

c) the important and constructive role of open and inclusive multistakeholder consultations at the national level,

*is of the view*

1 that the ITU, the specialized agency for telecommunications of the United Nations, is uniquely qualified to provide Member States with the necessary and adequate support to ensure broad government participation, within the framework of international Internet Governance, on issues related to telecommunications;

2 that Member States have rights to establish and implement national public policy, on matters of Internet governance, as well as to propose international policy on such matters;

3 that governments are provided opportunities to participate in existing multistakeholder processes related to various aspects of Internet development and their policies;

4 that multistakeholder governance of the Internet must continue to involve all parties, each in their respective roles;

5 that all parties should continue to cooperate in good faith in accordance with their respective roles and mandates;

6 that the ITU, within its mandate, must continue to facilitate intergovernmental discussions on Internet governance,

*invites the Secretary-General*

1 to support, through the ITU Secretariat, the participation of developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in the appropriate organizations within the current framework for Internet Governance, including the offer of capacity building on specific issues;

2 to continue promoting openness and transparency in the decision-making process within the ITU;

3 to ensure that the ITU continues to play an active role in the Internet Governance.

*invites Member States*

1 to contribute to the discussion of cooperation and participation within the Internet governance framework, both in the current WSIS agenda and in preparation for the Overall Review of the Implementation of the WSIS Outcomes (WSIS+10);

2 to contribute constructively to the further development of the Internet and to discuss relevant issues within ITU as appropriate;

3 to actively contribute to and participate in the multistakeholder fora, together with all other stakeholders.