**WTPF-IEG/3/19**

**OPINION (X)**

**ON THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT IN**

 **THE MULTISTAKEHOLDER FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNET GOVERNANCE**

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

***considering***

that one of the purposes of ITU laid down in Article 1 of the ITU Constitution is “to maintain and extend international cooperation among all its Member States for the improvement and rational use of telecommunications of all kinds”.

***recalling***

that the outcomes of the Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005) phases of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) indicate:

* that Internet governance shall be effected through the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures and programs that shape the evolution and use of the Internet;
* that Member States should cooperate to establish policies aimed at meeting public requirements with respect to Internet access and use, and at assisting all stakeholders in supporting the operation and development of the Internet;
* that Internet governance is an essential element for a people-centered, inclusive, development oriented and non-discriminatory Information Society and should be based on the full participation of all stakeholders, from both developed and developing countries, within their respective roles and responsibilities;
* that Policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues is the sovereign right of States, and that they have rights and responsibilities for international Internet-related public policy issues;
* that Intergovernmental Organizations have had, and should continue to have, a facilitating role in the coordination of international Internet-related public policy issues.

the recent United Nations General Assembly Sixty-seventh Session Resolution **A/RES/67/195,** which 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***

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.

***recognizing***

that various organizations, within the current framework, provide valuable contributions on numerous issues relating to Internet Governance;

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

the relevance of the international Internet-related technical, development and public-policy issues raised during the World Conference on International Telecommunications (Dubai, 2012).

that a significant number of issues on Internet Governance are strictly linked with telecommunications.

***is of the view***

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;

that Resolution 3/PLEN of the World Conference on International Telecommunications (Dubai, 2012) clearly indicates a willingness by Member States to further discuss public policy issues relating to the Internet.

***invites the Secretary-General***

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;

to assist interested Member States in organizing and implementing their own national models of Internet Governance, while recognizing the sovereign right of States in the field of Internet-related public policy issues;

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

***invites Member States***

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).