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Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum***

Executive summary

This report has been prepared by the Chair of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in response to the requests by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2010/2, and by the General Assembly, in its resolution A/RES/65/141. It gives a brief account of the establishment and the outcome of the two meetings held by the Working Group in early 2011. During these two meetings, the Group sought, compiled and reviewed inputs from member States and other stakeholders on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum, in line with the mandate set out in the Tunis Agenda. The wealth of information as well as the complexity and political sensitivity of the subject and a significant divergence of views among member States on a number of concrete proposals did not, within the short time frame it had been given to complete its task, allow the Working Group to finalize a set of recommendations on improving the Internet Governance Forum. It was therefore suggested that the Working Group extend its deliberations beyond the fourteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD).

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* A/66/50.
** E/2011/1.
*** This document was submitted on the above-mentioned date as a result of processing delays.

1.   On 19 July 2010, the Economic and Social Council adopted by consensus resolution 2010/2 on the "Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society". By this resolution, the Economic and Social Council "invites the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to establish, in an open and inclusive manner, a working group which would seek, compile and review inputs from all Member States and all other stakeholders on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), in line with the mandate set out in the Tunis Agenda, and would make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Commission at its fourteenth session in 2011, in a report that would constitute an input from the Commission to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, should the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum be extended".

2.   Ms. Sherry Ayittey, Minister of Environment, Science and Technology of Ghana, the current Chair of the CSTD, delegated the task of establishing the CSTD Working Group on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) to Mr. Frédéric Riehl (Switzerland), Vice-chair of the CSTD.

3.   Prior to the setting up of the Working Group, Mr. Riehl organized a number of face-to-face and online open consultations. A first open consultation meeting was held during the fifth IGF meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 16 September 2010.[1] An online questionnaire was then published in November 2010 to which 23 responses were sent in. The results of the questionnaire were discussed during a second open face-to-face meeting in Geneva, Switzerland on 24 November 2010.[2]

4.   At its sixty-fifth session, the General Assembly decided to extend the mandate of the IGF,[3] underlining the need to improve the IGF "with a view to linking it to the broader dialogue on global Internet governance" and that particular consideration should be given to "inter alia, enhancing participation from developing countries, exploring further voluntary options for financing the Forum and improving the preparation process modalities, and the work and functioning of the Forum's secretariat".

5.   On 17 December 2010, during the CSTD intersessional panel, the representatives of CSTD member States discussed the composition of the Working Group on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum. The following was decided:

"The Chair of the CSTD establishes a Working Group of 15 member states plus the five member states which hosted the IGF meetings plus the two member states which hosted WSIS. This Working Group will seek, compile, and review inputs from all member states and all other stakeholders on improvement of the Internet Governance Forum, in an open and inclusive manner throughout the process.

"The Chair invites the following stakeholders to interactively participate in the Working Group, bearing in mind the established rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, who will remain fully engaged throughout the process: 5 representatives from the business community; 5 representatives from civil society; 5

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[1] A summary of this preliminary consultations session is available at:
http://www.unctad.org/sections/un_cstd/docs//cstd2010d01_en.pdf.

[2] The responses to the questionnaire and the discussion of the Geneva open consultations were summarized in a report that is available at http://www.unctad.info/upload/CSTD-IGF/Documents/IGFsummary.pdf.

[3] General Assembly resolution 65/141, "Information and communications technologies for development", 20 December 2010.

representatives from the technical and academic community; 5 representatives from Intergovernmental organizations.

"Pursuant to the Economic and Social Council decisions 2010/226, 2010/227, and 2010/228, maximum possible assistance, diversity of ideas, and equal representation of stakeholders from developing and developed countries in the Working Group should be ensured in consultation with the stakeholders.

The report of this Working Group will be adopted by consensus."[4]

6.   Subsequently, the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum held two meetings: the first took place on 25 and 26 February 2011 in Montreux,[5] Switzerland, and the second on 24 and 25 March 2011 in Geneva,[6] Switzerland. During these two meetings, the Group sought, compiled and reviewed inputs from member States and other stakeholders on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum, in line with the mandate set out in the Tunis Agenda.

7.   A questionnaire was sent to all members of the Working Group and invited participants prior to the first meeting in Montreux.[7] Another questionnaire, which had been elaborated during the Montreux meeting was published at the beginning of March and sent to all member States and relevant stakeholders. Thirty responses to this questionnaire were submitted. A compilation of the responses was discussed at the Group's second meeting in Geneva and can be consulted online.[8] This compilation reflects the many ideas and proposals discussed by the Working Group and should be read together with the present report.

8.   The wealth of information as well as the complexity and political sensitivity of the subject and a significant divergence of views among member States on a number of concrete proposals did not, within the short time frame it had been given to complete its task, allow the Working Group to finalize a set of recommendations on improving the Internet Governance Forum. Some member States therefore suggested to extend the mandate of the Working Group beyond the fourteenth session of the CSTD in order for the Group to be able to debate the issues in greater detail and to submit recommendations, if appropriate, to the CSTD at its fifteenth session, in May 2012, as an input from the Commission to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council.

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[4] The full list of members and participants can be found in the annex to this report.
[5] Chairman's summary of the first meeting of the Working Group on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum http://www.unctad.org/sections/un_cstd/docs/UN_WGIGF2011d04_en.pdf.
[6] Chairman's summary of the second meeting of the Working Group on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum, http://www.unctad.org/sections/un_cstd/docs//UN_WGIGF2011d07_summary_en.pdf.
[7] Compilation by the Chair of contributions from members and invited participants of the Working Group to the questionnaire of 18 January 2011, http://www.unctad.info/upload/CSTD-IGF/Contributions/BM1/Compilation.pdf.
[8] Working Group on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) "Questionnaire on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) – Compilation of contributions", http://www.unctad.info/upload/CSTD-IGF/Contributions/M1/CompilationWGIGF.pdf.

Annex

List of participants of the first and second meeting of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum

Geneva, Switzerland, 24 and 25 March 2011

Member States

Brazil

Mr. Hartmut Glaser, Executive Director, Brazilian Internet Steering Committee

Mr. Alvaro Galvani, Head, Division of Information Society, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Mr. Maurício A. O. Correia, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the World Trade Organization and other economic organizations in Geneva

Chile

Mr. Fernando Guzman, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations in Geneva

Mr. Luciano Parodi, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations in Geneva

Costa Rica

Mr. Norman Lizano, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations in Geneva

Egypt

Ms. Nermine El Saadany, Director of International Relations Division, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology

Mr. Yasser Hassan, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations in Geneva

El Salvador

Mr. Félix Ulloa, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations in Geneva

Finland

Ms. Mervi Kultamaa, Counsellor, Information Society and Trade Facilitation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Department for External Economic Relations

Ghana

Mr. Anthony Kwasi Nyame-Baafi, Minister (Commercial) at the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations in Geneva

Greece

Mr. George Papadatos, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations in Geneva

Hungary

Mr. Árpád Csányi Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations in Geneva

Mr. Istvan Erenyi, Senior Counsellor, Ministry of National Development, State Secretariat of Infocommunications and Media

Mr. Peter Major, Special Advisor, Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations in Geneva

India

Mrs. Kotthapally Nandini, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in Geneva

Mr. Manharsinh Yadav, Embassy of India, Brussels

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Mr. Alireza Tootoonchian, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in Geneva

Lesotho

Mr. Lefeu Ramone, Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the United Nations in Geneva

Lithuania

Mr. Donatas Tamulaitis, Head of International Economic Organizations Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Pakistan

Mr. Ahsan Nabeel, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations in Geneva

Portugal

Ms. Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves, Head, International Affairs Knowledge Society Agency (UMIC), Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education

Prof. Luis Magalhães, President of the Knowledge Society Agency (UMIC), Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education

Mr. Giacomo Mazzone, Radio Television Portugal / European Broadcasting Union

Mr. Ricardo Pracana, Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations in Geneva

Russian Federation

Mr. Igor Kokoshkin, Deputy Director General, Russian State Enterprise, Radio Research Institute (NIIR)

Mr. Arkady Kremer, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Association for Documentary Electronic Communication (ADE

Mr. Vladimir Minkin, Deputy Director General, Russian State Enterprise Radio Research Institute (NIIR)

Mr. Alexander Petrov, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations in Geneva

Mr. Alexander Pisarev, First Counsellor (Political Affairs and ITU), Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations in Geneva

Ms. Natalia Timofeeva, Head of the International Organizations Division, Ministry of Communication and Mass Media of the Russian Federation

Slovakia

Mr. Anton Frič, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

Mr. Igor Kucer, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Slovakia to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva

South Africa

Ms. Tshihumbudzo Ravhandalala, First Secretary, South Africa Mission to the United Nations in Geneva

Sri Lanka

Mr. Vijaya Kumar, Chairman, Industrial Technology Institute, Colombo

Ms. Lakmini Peins Mendis, First Secretary, Sri Lanka Mission to the United Nations in Geneva

Switzerland

Mr. Frédéric Riehl, Director, International Relations, Federal Office of Communications, Bienne

Mr. Hassane Makki, Scientific Advisor, Swiss Federal Office of Communications, Bienne

Mr. Thomas Schneider, Dept Head, International Affairs, Swiss Federal Office of Communications, Bienne

Tunisia

Mr. Moez Chakchouk, Chief Executive Officer of Tunisian Internet Agency

United States of America

Mr. Richard Beaird, Senior Deputy United States Coordinator, International Communications and Information Policy, United States Department of State

Ms. Robyn Disselkoen Foreign Affairs Officer, United States Department of State

Mr. Christopher Hemmerlein, Telecommunications Policy Analyst, National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Mr. Craig Reilly, First Secretary, United States Mission to the United Nations in Geneva

Invited participants

Business community

Ms. Marilyn Cade, CEO, mCADE LLC

Mr. Patrik Faltstrom, Distinguished Consulting Engineer Cisco Systems – Sweden

Mr. Jimson Olufuye, President Information Technology Association of Nigeria (ITAN) & Vice-Chairman WITSA (sub-Saharan Africa), Nigeria

Mr. Christoph Steck, Public Policy Director, Telefonica S.A.

Ms. Theresa Swinehart, Director - Global Internet Policy, Verizon

Civil society

Mr. Izumi Aizu, Senior Research Fellow & Professor, Institute for InfoSocinomics, Kumon Center, Tama University

Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen, Executive Director, Association for Progressive Communications

Mr. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, Professor Department for Media and Information Sciences, University of Aarhus (excused)

Ms. Marilia Maciel, Project leader and researcher, Center for Technology and Society at Fundação Getulio Vargas

Mr. Parminderjeet Singh, Executive Director, IT for Change

Technical and academic community

Ms. Constance Bommelaer, Senior Manager Strategic Global Engagement, Internet Society

Ms. Samantha Dickinson, Internet Governance Specialist APNIC

Mr. Baher Esmat, Manager, Regional Relations – Middle East Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers Cairo, Egypt

Ms. Nurani Nimpuno, Outreach & Communications Manager, Netnod (Autonomica)

Mr. Oscar Robles-Garay, General Director for NIC México, LACNIC Board of Directors (Regional IP Registry for Latin American and Caribbean region)

Intergovernmental organizations

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Mr. Preetam Maloor, Corporate Strategy Division
Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Corporate Strategy Division

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)
Mr. Patrick Spearing, Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer
Mr. Roberto Villarreal Gonda Chief, Development Management Branch, Division for Public Administration and Development Management United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Mr. Adam Rogers, Senior Adviser, Strategic Communication

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. Cédric Wachholz Programme Specialist, Information Society Division, Communication and Information Sector

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
Mr. Joe Bradley, Head, Intergovernmental Organizations and Partnerships, Department of External Relations
Mr. Victor Owade, Consultant, Intergovernmental Organizations and Partnerships Section, Department of External Relations

Others

IGF Secretariat
Mr. Chengetai Masango, Programme and Technology Manager