

**REPORT OF THE
COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL INTERNET-RELATED
PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES (CWG-INTERNET)**

1. Introduction

The Secretary-General, Dr. Hamadoun Touré, welcomed the participants to the fourth meeting of CWG-Internet. He highlighted that this was a particularly important meeting, as it is the last meeting of CWG-Internet prior to PP-14. Dr. Touré thanked the membership for its guidance and commitment to the Group, and warmly congratulated the Chairman, Majed AlMazyed, for his very able leadership. Dr. Touré emphasized that as a key working group within ITU, CWG-Internet is an important component of the overall multi-stakeholder global dialogue on Internet-related matters – not just within ITU, but also among other forums and deliberations.

The Chairman thanked the Secretary-General, Deputy Secretary-General, and Directors of BR, and BDT for their participation in the meeting. On behalf of the Group, the Chairman expressed his appreciation to all the Member States who responded to the questionnaire contained in Circular Letter 168 on the role of governments related to the issues in Council 2009 Res. 1305. Responses were received from 37 Member States, with over half providing opinions on the general nature of the role of governments in Internet governance and all providing specific examples of actions on Internet issues. This is a significant and important contribution to the topic of Internet public policy, and the Chairman encouraged all Member States to take the received inputs into account in the preparation of their current and continuing contributions to the Group. The responses will also make an important repository of specific actions that have been and can be taken by governments.

The Chairman also appreciated the other contributions from Member States.

2. Summary of Contributions

The contributions could be summarized as follows.

2.1 Summary INF-39: “Compilation of Responses Received on Questionnaire to Member States”

In this document, the Secretariat compiled all responses, without edits, received from Members States to the questionnaire in Circular letter 168.

2.2 Contribution WG-Internet 4/2 from the United Kingdom: “Opening Up the Policy Making Process: the UK Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group on Internet Governance”

This paper describes one example of how the UK Government has sought to open up its policy making process to different stakeholders: the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group on Internet Governance (MAGIG). The MAGIG is an example of how governments can involve a range of stakeholders in developing policy.

2.3 Contribution WG-Internet 4/3 from the United Kingdom: “UK Paper on an Open Consultation” and Contribution WG-Internet 4/4 from the United States of America: “Open Consultation”

The two contributions noted that, as it was agreed at the previous meeting, immediately following this meeting, the Group would undertake a consultation on the role of governments that would be open to all stakeholders. Both the UK and the USA proposed that the same question be asked of other stakeholders as was asked of governments.

3. Discussions

The CWG examined the various contributions, which were appreciated by the Group.

3.1 Summary INF-39: “Compilation of Responses Received on Questionnaire to Member States”

1. The Group thanked all Member States who responded to the questionnaire on the role of governments related to the issues in Res. 1305. Responses were received from 37 Member States providing specific examples of actions on Internet issues, with 20 also providing opinions on the general nature of the role of governments in Internet governance. This is a significant and important contribution to the topic of Internet public policy.
2. The Chairman encouraged all Member States to take the received inputs into account in the preparation of their current and continuing contributions to the Group. The responses will also make an important repository of specific actions that have been and can be taken by governments.
3. During the discussion of replies received to the questionnaire addressed to Member States - on whether or not these replies should be posted on the ITU webpage without password protection - some Member States supported making the received responses publicly available without password protection so that all stakeholders can take advantage of the repository. Some other Member States did not share this view. The Group in conclusion decided this matter was outside the mandate of the group as this matter falls under the competence of PP. The Group noted that there was ongoing deliberation on reviewing document access policy in ITU at the Council Working Group on Financial and Human Resources.

3.2 **Contribution WG-Internet 4/2 from the United Kingdom: “Opening Up the Policy Making Process: the UK Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group on Internet Governance”**

1. The Group thanked the UK for this submission on their national public policy experience which may benefit all Member States.
2. The Group agreed that such sharing of national experiences would be very beneficial as a reference to the other Member States in their own efforts.

3.3 **Contribution WG-Internet 4/3 from the United Kingdom: “UK Paper on an Open Consultation” and Contribution WG-Internet 4/4 from the United States of America: “Open Consultation”**

1. It was agreed to modify the previous question addressed to governments to now be addressed to all stakeholders. In this regard, an informal group was set up under the chairmanship of Ms. Caroline Greenway, Australia.
2. Based on the result of the informal group, the Group agreed that the question should be phrased as follows:

“Recognizing the scope of work of ITU on international Internet-related public policy matters, represented by the list of topics in Council 2009 Resolution 1305 Annex 1 which was established in accordance with decisions of ITU membership at the Plenipotentiary Conference, the Council Working Group on International Internet Related Public Policy invites all stakeholders to provide their position on following question:

Q1. What actions are to be undertaken by governments in relations to each of the international Internet-related public policy issues identified in Annex 1 to Resolution 1305 (adopted by Council 2009 at the seventh Plenary Meeting)?”

3. The Group agreed that the question and responses should be posted on the CWG website in a manner similar to the previous open consultations (publicly accessible) and that the closing date for responses should be 26 April 2014. Member States should also be encouraged to resubmit their previous responses to the questionnaire targeted towards Member States to this open consultation, if they consider it appropriate.
4. The Secretariat was requested to compile the responses, without edit, in one document.

4. **Conclusion and Actions**

- 4.1 Member States are invited to consider the responses submitted to the Group in their preparation to the ITU Council and to the Plenipotentiary conference.

- 4.2 A repository should be established containing the responses received to the questionnaire included in Circular Letter 168.
- 4.3 Member States are encouraged to continue submitting their national public policy experiences with respect to the Internet in order to enrich the repository for the benefit of all Member States.
- 4.4 Member States are also invited to provide regular updates as necessary to this repository.
- 4.5 The CWG approved the question listed in 3.3.2 to be sent to all stakeholders for their response.

In this regard, the ITU Secretariat is asked to:

- 1. Post the question on the CWG website, and also widely disseminate information on the open consultation (including through a circular letter to Member States inviting them, if they wish, to resubmit their contributions).
 - 2. Compile the responses received in a convenient format, without edits, for the benefit of all stakeholders.
- 4.6 Responses received to the open consultations (under 4.5) should also be included in the repository.

5. Summary of the Meeting

- 5.1 The report of the fourth meeting of the Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues was approved by the CWG and was posted on the CWG website (<http://www.itu.int/council/groups/CWG-Internet/index.html>).
- 5.2 In closing, the Chairman thanked all the ITU Member States who made contributions and participated in the work of the CWG, Ms. Caroline Greenway for ably leading the informal drafting group, the ITU Elected Officials, and the Secretariat for their efficient assistance during the meeting.

Chairman: Eng. MAJED M. ALMAZYED (Saudi Arabia)