

Internet Governance Statement for SUBCOM A – 30 September

We see promise in the proposal from Argentina of 30 September, which takes the WGIG report seriously and includes some general principles that are close to our own.

We welcome the references to the participation of all stake-holders in, for example, the development of multi-stakeholder processes at the national and regional levels, and in training and capacity building activities.

However, the proposal must include explicit references to including all stakeholders as peers, at all levels of the forum, in line with the Geneva principles.

Although the forum has an important role as a space “to facilitate the exchange of information and best practices ... “ (etc), we believe that, as the WGIG report recommended, the forum should be a place where any issue, specific or multidimensional, can be addressed; e.g the issue of international interconnection costs has not been adequately addressed by any single organization.

We agree that the forum should not replace existing mechanisms or institutions and should build on the existing structures, but it should certainly facilitate greater interaction and cooperation between mechanisms.

There is no mention of where and in what form the forum would be constituted; we have suggested that it should be outside of, but related to, the UN. We certainly don't want it based in an existing institution though we do see a role for existing institutions to act as hosts for its meetings.

We are concerned about the process from here to Tunis. How will the multi stakeholder model be accommodated? If the process is closed, the wealth of CS expertise will not be available to the governments. We would like to know whether the proposals made by civil society and other stakeholders are to be considered in the continuing process.

How can we move forward together?