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My name is William Drake, and I am President of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility (CPSR). I would like to offer some brief comments on the Forum Function proposed in the WGIG Report.

The caucus supports the establishment of a new Forum to address the so-called "broad agenda" of Internet governance issues. Today's distributed landscape of public and private sector Internet governance mechanisms poses barriers to the participation of developing countries, NGOs, small and medium sized enterprises, and individual entrepreneurs and users. As Internet globalization proceeds in the years ahead, we could witness growing fragmentation and conflict that would not serve anyone's interest, no matter how powerful or technologically adept they may be. The forum would help to avoid such scenarios by promoting "buy in" on Internet governance.

In parallel, there are a number of pressing functions and issues that cannot be effectively tackled solely within the existing landscape of organizations. Some of these are listed in the Caucus, position statement on the WGIG Report, which is on the PrepCom website.

We believe five key design parameters should guide discussions on the forum.

First, in substantive policy discussions, stakeholders from all sectors should participate in the forum as peers. The benefits of this approach were demonstrated by the WGIG.

Second, the forum should not be anchored in any existing specialized international organization, but rather should be a new entity related to the UN or directly under the auspices of the Secretary General.

Third, the forum should not negotiate binding instruments like treaties and contracts. However, the forum could identify "best practices" and develop "soft law" instruments, such as recommendations, guidelines, and declarations; provide pre-decision inputs into other organizations and processes; and promote the convergence of national approaches. This mandate would in no way limit the value of the forum. The OECD's experience is instructive here.

Fourth, the Forum Function should be addressed separately from the Oversight Function. Any oversight reforms should be undertaken in

other organizations, with which the forum would interface.

Finally, the forum should conduct expert analysis and trend monitoring. A lightweight secretariat could coordinate open consultations, as well as networks of external expertise making full use of the Internet for virtual collaboration. The WGIG experience is instructive here.

Accordingly, the caucus recommends that Sub-Committee A create a multi-stakeholder working group to propose a design the forum.

Thank you.