

We also recognize that while some policy issues are dealt with in the existing institutional structure there is a lack of space in particular for cross cutting issues. There is no global-multistakeholder forum to address Internet-related public policy issues.

We recommend the UN SG to initiate a forum that incorporates the Geneva principles for significant multi-stakeholder participation. We recommend that the forum not be anchored in any existing specialized international organization, but rather be organized as a legally free-standing entity. Stakeholders from all sectors must be able to participate in such a forum as peers.

We recommend that the forum provides the following functions:

- a. inclusive dialogue, with a differentiated architecture allowing for peer-level interaction.
- b. comparative, cross-sectoral analysis of governance mechanisms, with an eye toward "lessons learned" and best practices that could inform individual and collective institutional improvements
- c. assessment and monitoring of horizontal issues applicable to all Internet governance arrangements, e.g. the promotion of transparency, accountability, inclusion, and other guidelines for "good governance," such as the WSIS principles;
- d. identification of weaknesses and gaps in existing governance mechanisms, especially multidimensional issues that do not fall neatly within the scope of any existing body;
- e. efforts to promote enhanced coordination among existing governing bodies
- f. provide a clearing house for coordination and resource mobilization to supporting meaningful developing country participation and capacity building;
- g. release recommendations, best practices, proposals and other documents on the various Internet governance issues.

We recommend that operations are designed in such a way that physical attendance is not strictly required and disadvantaged stakeholders (developing countries, civil society organizations, individuals) are proactively supported. We recommend the forum have clear organization and decision-making procedures. It is also important that the structure that will be given to the forum is able to produce practical results.

The forum will not have a mandate to negotiate hard instruments like treaties or contracts. However, in very exceptional circumstances when all stakeholders agree that more formal arrangements are desirable, the forum could request an appropriate international organization to negotiate such instruments. The forum focuses on the development of soft law instruments such as recommendations, guidelines, declarations, etc.

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