

# **Workshop Proposal from the Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus for IGF, Rio**

## **Workshop Title: Fulfilling the mandate of IGF**

1. Provide a concise formulation for the proposed workshop theme

The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society mandates the IGF to perform the following functions:

- a) Discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet Governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet;
- b) Facilitate discourse between bodies dealing with different cross-cutting international public policies regarding the Internet and discuss issues that do not fall within the scope of any existing body;
- c) Interface with appropriate inter-governmental organisations and other institutions on matters under their purview;
- d) Facilitate the exchange of information and best practices, and in this regard make full use of the expertise of the academic, scientific and technical communities;
- e) Advise all stakeholders in proposing ways and means to accelerate the availability and affordability of the Internet in the developing world;
- f) Strengthen and enhance the engagement of stakeholders in existing and/or future Internet Governance mechanisms, particularly those from developing countries;
- g) Identify emerging issues, bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public, and, where appropriate, make recommendations;
- h) Contribute to capacity-building for Internet Governance in developing countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise;
- i) Promote and assess, on an ongoing basis, the embodiment of WSIS principles in Internet Governance processes;
- j) Discuss, inter alia, issues relating to critical Internet resources;
- k) Help to find solutions to the issues arising from the use and misuse of the Internet, of particular concern to everyday users;
- l) Publish its proceedings.

Based on the experience of the Athens conference and the draft program outline for the Rio conference, it could be argued that the IGF is contributing to the realization of some of these objectives. However, other items in the list are more difficult to promote solely through annual conferences comprising main sessions with panels

of speakers and an assortment of workshops. Accordingly, it would be useful to have an open, inclusive, positive and constructive dialogue about what additional steps, if any, could be taken on a consensual, multistakeholder basis to help the IGF community achieve the mandate. To that end, the workshop would consider such matters as:

A. The thinking behind the formulation of the mandate, which derives from the WGIG Report and the discussions held during Prep-Com 3 of the WSIS Tunis phase;

B. Whether some or all of the functions enumerated in the mandate are important, value-adding, activities that are not being performed elsewhere, would benefit the global community, and are uniquely suited to the IGF;

C. Operationally practical steps that could be pursued on a consensual, multistakeholder basis by the IGF community in order to perform those functions identified in B, above.

2. Provide the Name of the Organizer(s) of the workshop and their Affiliation to various stakeholder groups. Describe how you will take steps to adhere to the multi-stakeholder principle, including geographical diversity.

The Internet Governance Caucus comprises a diverse range of individual and organizational civil society actors who are committed to the promotion of global public interest objectives in Internet governance decision-making.

The caucus was created in early 2003 and played a leading role on Internet governance issues for the broad civil society coalition that participated in the WSIS process. Some of its members were early proponents of an IGF and active participants in the WGIG, and in the current IGF Advisory Group. The caucus strongly supported the WGIG's proposal of an IGF, as well as the mandate given to it by the Tunis Agenda.

The caucus has many connections to all relevant stakeholder groups. For example, a number of caucus members are employed in the private sector; and many members, and indeed the caucus itself, have had productive collaborative relationships with international organization, government, and business representatives in the course of the WSIS and IGF processes, as well as in other Internet governance-related contexts.

The caucus has every intention of organizing a multistakeholder panel of speakers representing all groupings involved in the IGF and diverse range of views on the subject matter.

The caucus would warmly welcome the co-sponsorship of any stakeholder entity that would like to participate.

3. Why do you think the proposed theme is important?

The theme concerns the purpose and possibilities of the IGF.

4. Describe the workshop's conformity with the Tunis Agenda in terms of substance and the mandate of the IGF.

The proposed workshop is about the Tunis Agenda's mandate for the IGF.

5. Provide the Name and Affiliation of the panelists you are planning to invite.

We are soliciting panelists, and a list will be submitted in the next 2-3 weeks. The panel would comprise known representatives from the international organization, government, business, technical and administrative, and civil society communities who are well informed about the mandate, have a diversity of perspectives on the issues, and can engage in a constructive and collegial dialogue.

6. Describe the main actors in the field. Have you approached them and asked whether they would be willing to participate in proposed workshop?

See # 5, above.

7. List similar events you have organized in the past.

Caucus members have organized many related panel discussions during the WSIS process (including workshops on the nature and mandate of the then proposed IGF), at the Athens conference, and elsewhere, and are involved in various proposals for the Rio conference as well.