

Mongi Hamdi

Head of the Secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development,
UNCTAD

Sherry Ayittey

Chairperson

UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Ref: Composition of CTSD Working Group on IGF improvement

We write on behalf of the Center for Technology and Society (CTS), part of Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), a non-profit educational foundation in Brazil. CTS has actively been involved in the IGF process and in ICANN. By means of this letter, we would like to contribute to the discussion about the composition of CSTD working group on IGF improvement.

1. The endorsement of WSIS Commitment and Tunis Agenda by the UN general Assembly by [Resolution 60/252](#) represents a commitment of UN member states with the principle of multistakeholderism when it comes to WSIS implementation and follow-up.
2. Resolution 60/252 requested UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) to oversee the follow-up of WISIS and to review the mandate, agenda and composition of CSTD, strengthening the Commission **taking into account the multi-stakeholder approach.**
3. ECOSOC [Resolution 2010/2](#) invited the Chair of CSTD to establish, **in an open and inclusive manner**, a working group which would seek, compile and review inputs from all Member States and all other stakeholders on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum, **in line with the mandate set out in the Tunis Agenda**, and would make recommendations, as appropriate, to CSTD at its fourteenth session in 2011. According to this resolution **this group is not a group of CSTD, but rather a Working Group to be convened by the chair. Thus, the resolution gave flexibility on the composition of this WG**
4. The vice-Chair of CSTD organized a preliminary consultation with stakeholders at the fifth IGF. The aim was to share views and exchange ideas on the composition, modalities and working methods of the Working Group. According to the summary of the vice-Chair, **“it was emphasised by a large number of interventions that it was essential that the working Group be composed of a balanced number of representatives from all stakeholders - governments, civil society and the private sector”**, while only “one participant indicated that the group should operate under the rules of procedures of ECOSOC and the General Assembly”
5. In spite of the strong support for convening a multistakeholder Working group, as all the previous informal consultations have demonstrated, the group of CSTD members gathered on

December 6 decided **on a majority basis** that “the Working Group shall include twenty member States”, **without any further explanation about the reason why the participants believed that an intergovernmental working group would deliver better outcomes than an inclusive multistakeholder group.**

6. This decision does not seem to be in conformity with ECOSOC resolution calling for the creation of the Working Group.

7. The IGF has been open to participation without accreditation. It is important to notice that **the list of organizations accredited to WSIS does not reflect the greater group of organizations involved with Internet Governance nowadays.** Most organizations from developing countries, for instance, were not aware of the debate about Internet Governance during WSIS, so they have no accreditation. Moreover, requiring future ECOSOC accreditation to take part on discussions about the improvement of the IGF is to place a burdensome requirement and an obstacle to organizations that have a specific interest to take part on the discussion about the IGF improvement. **Accreditation rules should not be introduced on the work of the CSTD WG on the improvement of the IGF.**

8. To preserve the multistakeholder principle that has guided the governance of Internet since WSIS Tunis and that have been appointed as “critical to the successful implementation of WSIS objectives” (Report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow up to the outcomes of WSIS. A/65/64 E/2010/12, paragraph 165), **we would like to ask the chair of the CSTD:**

- a) **To convene a multistakeholder Working Group**, in accordance with Tunis Agenda, with [Resolution 60/252](#), with ECOSOC [Resolution 2010/2](#) and with the [Chair’s summary](#) of the preliminary consultations on the CSTD Working Group on the IGF.

We would like to **suggest that the composition of this Working Group follows the composition of the WGIG:** half of the members would be government representatives and half of them would be representatives from other stakeholder groups.

- b) **To make available options for remote participation in CSTD consultation meetings about the IGF.** Webcast of meetings and options for remote participation were successfully implemented in IGF and in open consultation meetings convened by the IGF Secretariat in Geneva.

We look forward to receiving your response at the earliest convenience.

Marília Maciel
Center for Technology and Society
Fundação Getúlio Vargas – Brazil
<http://diretorio.fgv.br/cts/>
Marília.maciел@fgv.br