NOMINATION of Anriette Esterhuysen for the United Nations Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation to be convened by the Commission for Science and Technology for Development, 14 March 2016

Bio
Anriette Esterhuysen is the executive director of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), an international network of organizations working with Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) to support social justice and development. Prior to joining APC Anriette was executive director of SANGONeT, an internet service provider and training institution for civil society, labour and community organizations in southern Africa. She was active in the struggle against Apartheid and from 1987 to 1992 did information and communication work in development and human rights organizations in South Africa and Zimbabwe. With many others, she helped establish email and internet connectivity in Southern Africa. SANGONeT hosted a Fidonet hub that provided universities and nongovernmental organizations in Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe, with email links to global networks as part of a collaboration between the APC and the United Nations Development Programme. Anriette served on the African Technical Advisory Committee of the UN's Economic Commission for Africa's African Information Society Initiative and was a member of the United Nations ICT Task Force from 2002 to 2005, the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Task Working Group on Financing Mechanisms, and the Commission for Science and Technology for Development Working Group on Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Improvements. She was a member of the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group from 2012-14. Anriette was one of five finalists for IT Personality of the Year in South Africa in 2012, an award which recognises a person who has made an outstanding impact on the South African ICT industry. She was inducted into the Internet Hall of Fame as a global connecter in 2013. Currently Anriette is a member of the Global Commission on Internet Governance. She has published extensively on ICTs for development and social justice. She holds a BA in social sciences and two postgraduate qualifications (one in musicology and one in library and information science) from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Motivation
This is a very important working group in my view, and one that can be used to to talk about the role of government in internet governance - what it should be and what it need not be - one of the conversations that seems to always be either truncated, or avoided. I believe that having this conversation, and recognising that there is a role for government and that there is a need for conversation among them does not imply abandoning multistakeholder approaches.

Talking about governments role and about how they interact with one another and about how regulation can counter monopolies without encroaching on rights should and could contribute to creating more inclusive of civil society processes at national level and a more open and public internet.

The previous group did make progress but also struggled to really break new ground. Now that the WSIS+10 review has happened, and the IGF has been renewed, and the IANA transition is in process, I think it will be easier to engage in constructive and critical discussion.

This group has the potential to develop a common understanding of principles for "enhanced" or "effective" cooperation, and come up with proposals for mechanisms that can complement and reinforce existing processes.

Substantive proposals and vision on "how to further implement enhanced cooperation as envisioned in the Tunis Agenda"
For me enhanced cooperation should be are about more transparency and accountability in how governments make internet policy - nationally and globally. But it is also about recognising that there is a need for governments to talk about internet-related policy issues, as governments - and of the role government need to play in making sure the internet operates as a public good. This does not mean they should be allowed to have this conversation in ways that are not inclusive and transparent.

APC first proposed the formation of a working group on enhanced cooperation in 2012. Below is

an extract from an APC statement at a May 2012 meeting on enhanced cooperation convened by the CSTD:

> "Structural differences exist between governments, the technical community the private sector and civil society – four stakeholder groups that make up the current internet governance ecosystem. APC is a civil society network that has not shied away from actively participating in the global policy dialogue and seven years after release of the Tunis Agenda still believes that internet governance should be, participatory, inclusive, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical community and international organisations. This implies recognizing and curbing imbalances not only between stakeholders, but also within stakeholder entities.
>
> APC stresses the principle of democratic global governance of the internet. Building legitimacy of global internet-related policy spaces and mechanisms is a complex process that requires the acknowledgement of power dynamics, diverse interests and the political climate. APC therefore requests future internet governance mechanisms to engage stakeholders on an equal footing and ensure they are effectively represented.
>
> APC further requests that as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on internet policy, established as an outcome of the World Summit on Information Society, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) establish a multistakeholder working group on unresolved issues related to 'enhancing cooperation' in internet governance. The Tunis Agenda states very clearly that taking enhanced cooperation forward is central to the mandate given to the IGF."
> http://www.apc.org/en/pubs/enhancing-cooperation-among-stakeholders-internet

We followed this up with an in-depth response to the CSTD questionnaire on enhanced cooperation in 2014. In this document we say:

> "Our view is that the purpose of EC is to improve and democratise the governance of the internet at all levels, not simply to establish greater influence for sovereign states. Multi-stakeholder participation is not an end in itself, it is a means to achieve the end of inclusive democratic internet governance that enables the internet to be a force, to quote from the Geneva Declaration, for "the attainment of a more peaceful, just and prosperous world." (paragraph 2). Improving multi-stakeholder processes, and thereby, the outcomes of those processes, cannot take place by only looking at the role of governments."
>
> We support the Best Bits submission that the scope of EC "should include the development of globally-applicable principles on public policy issues" (para 70 of the Tunis Agenda) and "also could envisage creation of a suitable framework or mechanisms, where justified" (para 61), but does not envision the involvement of governments "in the day-to-day technical and operational matters, that do not impact on international public policy issues" (para 69)." The full response is available at http://www.apc.org/en/system/files/APC_response_CSTD_WGEC_10092013.pdf

Experience or qualifications to represent civil society on the WGEC
I have worked in internet governance since the first phase of the WSIS and have previous experience in working with governments and on multistakeholder task forces and working groups in my capacity as a civil society person. In my APC capacity I have been involved in various submissions and events on the topic of enhanced cooperation. Being part of the CSTD Working Group on IGF was a positive experience, and in spite of the process not being easy, we did achieve enough consensus to produce a useful report.

I am not sure I can effectively represent all the diversity in views that exist in civil society on the CSTD WGEC. My personal priority is making sure that African concerns are kept on the global agenda (one of these being the fact that many Africans still do not have quality affordable access). But I do believe I have the capacity to work cooperatively with other stakeholders while also upholding what I believe are core civil society values in internet

governance: participation, transparency and inclusion; with governance being accountable, and taking place in the public interest for an internet that enables human rights and advances social justice.

Name: Anriette Esterhuysen
Gender: Female
Region: Africa, based in South Africa
Affiliations: Member of the Internet Governance Civil Society Caucus, Best Bits, ICANN's Non Commercial Users Constituency and the Internet Society among others. My primary affiliation is to the APC network.