14 May 2012

Mr. Hamadoun Touré
Secretary-General
International Telecommunication Union
Place des Nations
CH-1211 Geneva 20
Switzerland

Re: Participation to the 2013 World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF)
Informal Expert Group (IEG) and Theme of the conference

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

The Internet Society was actively engaged in the preparation of the fourth World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF) that was held in 2009 in Lisbon. As a member of the Informal Expert Group (IEG), ISOC valued this opportunity for a multi-stakeholder dialogue and the opportunity to provide factual and technical information to ensure the discussions in Lisbon were constructive, and informed.

The Internet Society would welcome again the opportunity to participate in the Informal Experts Group (IEG) preparing for the fifth World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF) and to discuss the issues raised in Resolutions 101, 103 and 133 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010). We would like to propose including Mrs. Constance Bommelæer (Director, Public Policy, bommelæer@isoc.org) in the IEG.

We encourage the ITU Secretariat General to continue opening its conferences to all interested stakeholders, and broadening participation, beyond its Member States and Sector Members, to the Civil Society, the Internet community and the research community. We strongly believe there is an overarching need to develop appropriate multi-stakeholder forums that involve knowledgeable, interested and capable people in crafting solutions that enhance the strength of the Internet as a vital tool for communication and innovation.
With regards to the theme of the Forum, several delegations have contributed suggestions for themes or opinions that the WTPF should consider. The Internet Society wishes to express its appreciation for those suggestions and the opportunity to put forth a proposal that “Strategies for increasing affordable global connectivity: the critical role of IXPs” be considered as the main theme and core topic for the Secretary-General’s initial report and as the focus for discussions at the fifth WTPF in 2013.

The Tunis agenda (paragraph 50.b\(^1\)) clearly emphasizes the importance of this issue. For further consideration of our proposal we have attached a report that examines the critical cost and performance benefits of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) in Kenya and Nigeria—two sub-Saharan countries that have been on the leading edge of Internet growth in Africa.

The Internet Society respectfully submits this additional proposal and contribution with the goal of informing the process.

Sincerely,

Markus Kummer
Vice-President, Public Policy
Internet Society

\(^1\) Paragraph 50.b of the Tunis Agenda: “We acknowledge that there are concerns, particularly amongst developing countries, that the charges for international Internet connectivity should be better balanced to enhance access. We therefore call for the development of strategies for increasing affordable global connectivity, thereby facilitating improved and equitable access for all, by: (…) Setting up regional high-speed Internet backbone networks and the creation of national, sub-regional and regional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs).”