The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the enhanced cooperation process are at an important juncture.

The UN World Summit on Information Society (WSIS Tunis 2006 preceded by WSIS Geneva 2003) created the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), a multistakeholder forum for the discussion of “public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet.” The IGF’s current five year mandate expires at the end of 2010.

In the Tunis Agenda for Information Society, formal outcome of the WSIS, the UN Member States also recognized “the need for enhanced cooperation (EC) in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters, that do not impact on international public policy issues.”

Both processes - IGF and EC - are currently under review by UN DESA. The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and the Internet Society (ISOC) have participated in both of these processes since their inception. The decision on the future course of the IGF and enhanced cooperation rest now with governments, the UN ECOSOC and ultimately UN General Assembly Member State representatives at their meeting September-December 2010 in New York.

The importance of Enhanced Cooperation

The Internet Society and the International Chamber of Commerce were accredited to participate in both phases of the WSIS, and engaged actively in the preparatory process and in the Geneva and Tunis Summits themselves. As a result we recall that the ambitious goals agreed during the World Summit on Information Society. And as we explained during the WSIS process, the Internet model of development remains relevant to successfully achieving enhanced cooperation among all stakeholders.

It is critical for governments, the private sector, civil society, the Internet technical community and intergovernmental organizations to continuously improve their cooperation, each in the area of their competence and mandate.

Since the conclusion of the Tunis Summit, ISOC and the ICC have been actively involved in support of implementing the targets, recommendations, and commitments of the WSIS as they pertain to the Internet, and to Internet governance, as well as in capacity building and support to Internet standards organizations.
Our diverse and global communities continue to deploy efforts in a wide range of areas, working to enhance their cooperation and their contribution to the development on Internet-related public policy solutions around the world.

**Recommendations for Enhanced Cooperation**

In May 2010, at the 13th session of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), Member States recommended that, next autumn, the UN Secretary General “convene open and inclusive consultations involving all member states and all other stakeholders to proceed with the process towards the implementation of enhanced cooperation”. The International Chamber of Commerce and the Internet Society would be pleased to contribute to the preparations for those consultations.

We believe this is a productive path forward and support this resolution’s approval by ECOSOC as is.

ISOC and the ICC would like to put forward three key recommendations to pursue enhanced cooperation.

The first recommendation is that **all stakeholders should take advantage of the opportunity to become more involved in the Internet technical organizations, where technical standards are developed and where public policy issues at the intersection of technology and policy are discussed.** The Internet brings technology and policy together in ways not previously experienced. New approaches, new venues and new forums have arisen to respond to the opportunities and challenges that have been created. It is vital that all stakeholders in turn take up the challenge by participating in these new forums that are so critical to the Internet’s responsible development.

The second recommendation is for **governments and international institutions to make their Internet policy related and decision making activities more open and inclusive of all stakeholders.** Governments, regional and international organizations that have been more open, and that have shown a commitment to enhanced cooperation have proven to be more effective in their work. The ICC and ISOC welcome opportunities to participate in the policy development process at all levels. We suggest that the United Nations look to the OECD as an example and a case study of the benefits of increasing openness in its own organizations, and for recommending mechanisms that member states could implement locally and regionally.

The third recommendation we offer applies to the process of enhanced cooperation at the broadest level. Whether speaking of enhanced cooperation in governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental or international organizations, **it is essential that efforts to advance enhanced cooperation be founded on a commitment to openness, inclusiveness and outreach**, so that the entities that may be affected by decisions are able to participate in the development and implementation of those decisions.

**The importance of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**

Although the call for the Secretary General of the UN to start a process toward enhanced cooperation was quite separate from the establishment of the Internet
Governance Forum, the IGF has undoubtedly been a positive force in bringing all stakeholders into a closer more cooperative relationship.

Our organizations and our membership believe that the IGF is one of the most effective and successful outcomes of the WSIS. The IGF inspires people to work effectively in support of people-centered development – a key goal of the WSIS. It feeds work in communities, in countries, in all regions and at the global level.

The ICC and ISOC support the IGF because:

Without the IGF there is no space for discussion of the full range of current and emerging Internet issues among all relevant actors.

The IGF contributes to all stakeholders’ understanding of issues and to the development of appropriate approaches to vital public policy issues related to the Internet.

The IGF provides an opportunity for governments, business, civil society and the Internet community to share experiences and best practices that can inform decision-making in their home communities to address issues of human, economic and social growth and development essential to achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The IGF encourages open dialogue among all relevant stakeholders at the national, regional, and international levels. This open debate is essential to the process of developing people-centric public policy related to the Internet and to the ongoing effective management of Internet resources.

Time is spent on meaningful exchange that can enrich and inform discussions in other, more formal, forums.

Recommendations for the Internet Governance Forum
In May 2010, at the 13th session of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), member states recommended that, next autumn, the UN Secretary General request for the Chair of the CSTD to convene a working group to discuss IGF improvements.

We believe this is a useful path forward and support the recommendation as is.

We support the continuity of the IGF and of its current multistakeholder principles and structures: funded on a voluntary basis, organised with the participation of all stakeholders (Multistakeholder Advisory Group), coordinated by a Secretariat based in Geneva where the Internet policy networks and the history of the WSIS lies.

About the Internet Society (ISOC)
ISOC is a nonprofit organization founded in 1992 to provide leadership in Internet related standards, education, and policy. With offices in Washington D.C., USA, and Geneva, Switzerland, it is dedicated to ensuring the open development, evolution and use of the Internet for the benefit of people throughout the world.

ISOC provides leadership in addressing issues that confront the future of the Internet, and is the organizational home for the groups responsible for Internet infrastructure standards, including the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) and the Internet Architecture Board (IAB).
ISOC acts as a global clearinghouse for technically sound Internet information and capacity building and as a facilitator and coordinator of Internet-related initiatives around the world. For over 15 years ISOC has run international network training programs for developing countries and these have played a vital role in setting up the Internet connections and networks in virtually every country connecting to the Internet during this time.

ISOC’s participation to enhance cooperation:  http://www.isoc.org/isoc/conferences/wsis/
ISOC’s participation to the IGF:  http://www.isoc.org/isoc/conferences/wsis/IGF.shtml

**About the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)**

ICC is the world business organization, a representative body that speaks with authority on behalf of enterprises from all sectors in every part of the world.

The fundamental mission of ICC is to promote trade and investment across frontiers and help business corporations meet the challenges and opportunities of globalization. Its conviction that trade is a powerful force for peace and prosperity dates from the organization’s origins early in the last century. The small group of far-sighted business leaders who founded ICC called themselves “the merchants of peace”.

ICC has three main activities: rules-setting, dispute resolution and policy. Because its member companies and associations are themselves engaged in international business, ICC has unrivalled authority in making rules that govern the conduct of business across borders. Although these rules are voluntary, they are observed in countless thousands of transactions every day and have become part of the fabric of international trade.

ICC also provides essential services, foremost among them the ICC International Court of Arbitration, the world’s leading arbitral institution. Another service is the World Chambers Federation, ICC’s worldwide network of chambers of commerce, fostering interaction and exchange of chamber best practice.

Business leaders and experts drawn from the ICC membership establish the business stance on broad issues of trade and investment policy as well as on vital technical and sectoral subjects. These include financial services, information technologies, telecommunications, marketing ethics, the environment, transportation, competition law and intellectual property, among others.

ICC enjoys a close working relationship with the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, including the World Trade Organization and the G8.

ICC was founded in 1919. Today it groups hundreds of thousands of member companies and associations from over 120 countries. National committees work with their members to address the concerns of business in their countries and convey to their governments the business views formulated by ICC.

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