



**COMMENTS BY THE INTERNET SOCIETY ON
THE PRELIMINARY THIRD DRAFT OF
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL'S REPORT (18 November 2008)**

ISOC is pleased to provide the following comments regarding the draft Report on the Second meeting of the IEG:

It is our view that it is important the Report (paragraph 3) includes a link to the original written comments received by the Secretary General on its second draft Report regarding the WTPF's planning, which may be found at: <http://www.itu.int/osg/csd/wtpf/wtpf2009/report.html>. These provide a valuable record of the points made by various parties, including ISOC, which may be useful for those preparing to participate in the WTPF.

ISOC is intending to participate actively during the WTPF, offering our expertise on a range of technical issues related to the Internet with the aim to encourage informed discussion during the WTPF.

Turning now to the Preliminary third draft Report of the Secretary General:

ISOC finds that in several cases, the text of the Draft Report lacks balance with the result that it is not appropriately neutral. We believe it is important that the Report not be seen to influence or pre-judge the outcomes of the WTPF. Some examples appear below, but it is recommended that the entire report be carefully reviewed and adjusted as necessary to meet the standards of accuracy and neutrality.

ISOC requests that in drafting the next version of the Report, the comments submitted by this organization in September be taken into account. We make this request because the majority of the comments remain relevant, and do not appear to have been taken up in this current draft. Our comments can be found at the following URL: <http://www.itu.int/osg/csd/wtpf/wtpf2009/report.html>. To highlight just two of these points, we would like to emphasize the following:

We believe that paragraph 1.4, focusing on the importance of IT and public safety deserves greater prominence in the agenda of the WTPF, as described in our comments of 4 July 2008.

Section 2, dealing with convergence needs to be reworked considerably. We would make two points here.

- First, The Internet and in particular the end-to-end characteristic of the network, has proven to be a particular source of creativity and growth. This model must be respected when talking about convergence so as not to disrupt the tremendous potential for creativity and innovation encouraged by the Internet. ISOC believes this concern should be explicitly expressed in this section.
- Second, the section on convergence focuses inappropriately on converging business and regulatory models. The WTPF should instead concentrate on the policy and regulatory implications of converging networks, consistent with the expertise of the ITU and its membership.

Consistent with changes made elsewhere in the draft Report, ISOC recommends that paragraph 4.5.1.1 be amended so that the opening section quotes directly from the WSIS text, to wit: “the management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations.” The portion of the same paragraph in square brackets is rather biased and needs to be re-edited to be balanced, or should be removed.

As soon as the agenda and the structure of the WTPF are decided, ISOC, as a sector member, will be pleased to propose names of potential moderators and speakers for the panels, taking into account the need for regional diversity and gender balance.

ISOC will participate to the next Informal Expert Group meeting on the 26th and 27th of January. We look forward discussing our submissions with our colleagues at the next IEG to prepare the World Telecommunication Policy Forum 2009.

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