



**INDIA**  
**भारत**

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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**DURING THE**

**UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S CONSULTATIONS ON  
'ENHANCED COOPERATION ON INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES  
PERTAINING TO THE INTERNET'**

**NEW YORK**

**DECEMBER 14, 2010**



**Mr. Chairman,**

We welcome the open and inclusive consultations on Enhanced Cooperation and thank the Secretary-General for convening this meeting. At the outset, India aligns itself with the statement made by the delegation of Brazil, on behalf of IBSA.

As you are aware, India was an active participant in the WSIS process and contributed constructively to the WSIS outcomes, including the Tunis Agenda. As stated in para 29 of the Tunis Agenda, we believe that *"the international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic"* and, therefore, attach importance to the democratization of internet governance.

The Tunis Agenda of 2005 recognized the need for enhanced cooperation *"to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the internet"* and mandated the UN Secretary-General to start the process towards Enhanced Cooperation by the first quarter of 2006.

Almost five years later, we are yet to meaningfully discuss or operationalise the enhanced cooperation process. In the meantime, the reach and influence of the internet on public policy issues has grown dramatically. Hence, in our view, these consultations are long-overdue and much-needed. We hope that they signal the beginning of a meaningful process towards a more inclusive and participatory international governance for the internet.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The open, inclusive and all-encompassing global connectivity of the Internet has greatly benefited the world by providing open, affordable and seamless means of communication. Indeed, the Internet today is universally acknowledged as a powerful catalyst for democracy, openness, inclusion and democratic values like liberty and equality. It is therefore paradoxical that the governance of such a phenomenal global force that transcends borders and welds peoples and communities across national borders, continues to lack equitable representation, transparency and inclusiveness at the international level.

It is time for global internet governance to be conducted in line with established UN principles and universally accepted tenets of multilateralism.

Para 35 of the Tunis Agenda recognizes that *"Policy authority for internet related public policy issues is the sovereign right of States. They have rights and responsibilities for international internet related public policy issues"*. It therefore reaffirms that the international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of all States on an equal footing.

It also urges equitable distribution of resources, facilitating access for all and ensuring a stable and secure functioning of the Internet. It is unfortunate that there is no international organization with a clear mandate that provides a platform for

cooperation among Member States on key international public policy issues pertaining to the internet.

In our view, the process of Enhanced Cooperation, therefore, has to fill the institutional vacuum in the decision-making process on international public policy issues pertaining to the internet, so as to provide a level playing field for all Member States in internet governance. Such a distinct and separate platform could partner and complement the multi-stakeholder dialogue under the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) process.

While a global, inter-governmental platform to discuss and deal with internet governance is missing, on the other hand, the role and responsibility of national governments are rapidly increasing, with the exponential growth in the number of internet users and consumers. This has raised critical public policy issues such as management of critical internet resources, cyber security, consumer security, interoperability, stability of the internet, e-governance, multilingualism, the use of the internet in tackling developmental and global challenges, access to knowledge and technology etc.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Apart from providing a forum to address these important issues, the establishment of such a platform for Enhanced Cooperation would enable meaningful implementation of para 39 and para 40 of the Tunis Agenda with regard to enhancing international cooperation to strengthen security, combat cybercrime and internet abuse. It would also facilitate the harnessing of ICT as a *'development enabler'* to achieve the Internationally Agreed Development Goals; promote technology exchange and *"technology transfer, human resource development and training; thus increasing the capacity of developing countries to innovate and to participate fully in, and contribute to, the Information Society"*, as emphasized in para 88 and 89 of the Tunis Agenda.

Keeping in view the urgency and importance of establishing such a platform, we hope that the present consultations result in a clear roadmap for operationalizing Enhanced Cooperation. In order to evolve the mechanism of Enhanced Cooperation as mandated by the Tunis Agenda, we believe that it is important to take into account the views and inputs of all stakeholders. Indeed, in India, even at the national level, the Government of India is working closely with a range of stakeholders on a range of internet-related issues.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We, therefore, propose that an inter-governmental working group be established under the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), which is the designated focal point in the UN system-wide follow up to the outcomes of the WSIS. The Working Group should be mandated to prepare a report on the possible institutional design and roadmap for enhanced cooperation in

consultation with all stakeholders, and asked to submit its report to the UN General Assembly in 2011.

The Working Group should also take into account inputs from all international organizations including the ITU, and should recommend on the feasibility and desirability of placing the Enhanced Cooperation mechanism within an existing international organization or recommend establishing a new body for dealing with Enhanced Cooperation, along with a clear roadmap for the process.

India views this as the beginning of a key process that is central to the future of the internet. We therefore urge the Secretary General to continue the process of consultations with Member States and all stakeholders, in order to meaningfully implement enhanced cooperation as mandated by the Tunis Agenda.

Thank You.

