



Contribution from France

Creation of an ITU group on Internet matters

1. Introduction

Following the fruitful exchanges that occurred during the last meeting of the Council working group on WSIS in June 2007 and the consultation launched in 2007 by the Secretary General on implementation of resolution 102 of Plenipotentiary Conference of Antalya on ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources including domain names and addresses, France proposes to create within ITU a dedicated group on Internet issues; this dedicated group would help coordinate ITU activities relating to Internet issues, within its mandate, and could enhance ITU's efficiency in rationalizing its activities and interacting with other organizations. It could also attract more efficiently all stakeholders interested in these issues.

France had already made this proposal at the previous meeting of the WG of the Council on WSIS (see paragraph 25 of doc.WG-WSIS-11/10 rev 1, report on the consultation carried out under Res.102), but because of lack of time, this proposal was not discussed.

2. Background

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) during its two phases (Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005) decided to adopt a number of policy principles related to Internet governance (para 48-50 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, para 29-82 of the *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*); the TAIS calls upon "relevant international organizations" to cooperate in "the development of globally applicable public policy issues associated with the coordination and management of critical Internet resources" (para 70).

Taking into account the outcomes of the WSIS and the technological evolutions since PP02, the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Antalya, 6-24 November 2006, decided to **revise Resolution 102**. In particular, Resolution 102 "*invites Member States*

2 to continue to participate actively in the discussions and development of public policy issues related to Internet resources, including domain names and addresses, their possible evolution and the impact of new usages and applications, cooperating with the relevant organizations, and to contribute in ITU study groups on related matters,

invites Member States and Sector Members

to seek the appropriate means to contribute to enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues relating to the Internet, in their respective roles and responsibilities."

In particular, resolution 102 invites the Secretary-General (in instructs 5 and 6):

to take the necessary steps in ITU's own internal process towards enhanced cooperation on .5" international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet as expressed in § 71 of the Tunis Agenda, involving all stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities

as a concrete step, to organize consultations on these issues among the ITU membership and .6 other relevant stakeholders, in order to prepare and submit proposals, based on those consultations and contributions from the ITU membership, to the 2007 session of the Council, through the "(Working Group on WSIS (WG-WSIS

PP06 of Antalya decided also to adopt **Resolution 140** on ITU's role in implementing the outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society. This Resolution "requests the Council

1 to oversee ITU's implementation of the WSIS outcomes, and, within the financial limits set by the Plenipotentiary Conference, to make resources available as appropriate; "

It also " invites Member States, Sector Members and Associates

to participate actively in implementing WSIS outcomes and in ITU's further adaptation to the information society, "

On the basis of resolutions 102 and 140, the council of ITU, at its 2007 session decided to endorse Resolution 1282 of the Council) the WG-WSIS report (Council document C07/21).

The paragraph 6.5 of the annex of this document states that:

"A. ITU has an important role to play in Internet Governance as one of the "relevant organizations" recognized in the WSIS outcome documents. Specific areas of ITU's activities include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

- Communication infrastructure (WSIS action line C2), including quality of service, reliability and telecommunication protocols;
- Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs (WSIS action line C5), including Countering Spam and Cybersecurity;
- Naming numbering and addressing including ENUM, and internationalized domain names;
- Capacity-building and technical assistance;
- IPv6;
- Internet exchange points (IXPs);
- International Internet connectivity.

B. ITU, as appropriate, should collaborate, within the framework of the ITU Constitution and Convention, with other relevant UN organizations involved in Internet Governance, such as WIPO and UNESCO (in line with para 102b of the Tunis Agenda which states that "Each UN agency should act according to its mandate and competencies and pursuant to decisions of their respective

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E. *ITU should take an active, positive and constructive role in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), on an equal footing with other stakeholders, including non-members. In particular, ITU should take advantage of IGF's policy of offering open forums, workshops and best practice sessions and, in partnership with its membership, ITU could host such events at future sessions of the IGF, in areas that fall within its mandate. ITU should also encourage and, where appropriate, assist its membership in participating in the IGF. ITU should play an active role and participate in the IGF advisory group “*

3. Proposal

Taking into account the different decisions listed above, ITU will have to undertake in the next coming years a very important amount of work in a very large scope of activities related to Internet and will face a very important and exciting challenge.

At present, activities related to Internet issues are widely spread in a lot of ITU groups depending from the Council (WG of the WSIS), groups in ITU-T (SG 2, 3, 17) and in ITU-D sector (implementation of Doha Action Plan, ...). The Secretary General of ITU participates in IGF activities and has also taken a very important initiative through the Global Agenda for Cybersecurity.

If ITU wants to achieve its mandate successfully, ITU has to think of its organisation in order to attain the maximal efficiency; one very important decision has already been taken by the Secretary General through the designation of the Vice Secretary General as responsible for the overview of WSIS implementation.

France believes that the creation of a group dedicated to Internet issues is necessary if ITU wants to successfully fulfill its tasks; such a dedicated group would provide two important benefits:

- The first benefit would be a better efficiency of the work undertaken by all stakeholders (ITU staff, Member States, private sector...): it is important to avoid duplication of activities inside ITU but also with the very important number of international organisations or fora (ICANN, OECD, WIPO, IETF...) that deal with Internet issues; a specific group in ITU dealing with Internet matters would avoid lengthy and time consuming and complex coordination procedures; a dedicated group would also contribute to limiting the number of meetings Internet experts have to attend as well as the total duration of the meetings they have to attend : presently, the organisational structure of ITU means that experts have to attend one or two weeks meetings whereas Internet issues are only discussed during few hours; in some cases it leads to situation where Internet experts, particularly from developing countries, don't come at all.
- The second benefit would be to increase visibility of ITU in the Internet community and to attract new stakeholders. At the time being, it is a fact that Internet experts both from administrations and private sector (RIRs, registries and registrars, ISP, experts in cybersecurity...) are not enough used to come to ITU meetings, although ITU with its technical expertise and as a global organisation with 191 members states and more than 600 Member sectors has an important role to play in Internet issues within its mandate. Another advantage of the participation of Internet stakeholders is that they could bring more expertise in ITU works; it could also generate additional income for ITU if they become member sectors or associates.

In that context, we note that Resolution 102 *“invites the Council Working Group on the World Summit on the Information Society*

- 1 *to consider and discuss the activities of the Secretary-General and Directors of the Bureaux in relation to the implementation of this resolution;*
- 2 *to prepare ITU inputs into the above-mentioned activities as appropriate,”*

Accordingly, it appears appropriate to establish a dedicated group on Internet issues within ITU, for example as a subgroup of the WG-WSIS. Other options are nonetheless possible, such as establishing it as a focus group or study group in ITU-T sector.