

The Enhanced Cooperation Process

ONE OF THE KEY OUTCOMES of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and a process for *enhanced cooperation* on governance issues. These have generally been recognized as two distinct processes¹.

The need for *enhanced cooperation* was recognized in Paragraph 69 of the *Tunis Agenda* (2005) “in order 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” [emphasis added].

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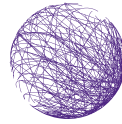
Paragraph 71 of the *Tunis Agenda* further stated that “the process towards enhanced cooperation, to be started by the UN Secretary-General, involving all relevant organizations by the end of the first quarter of 2006, will involve all stakeholders in their respective roles, will proceed as quickly as possible consistent with legal process, and will be responsive to innovation. Relevant organizations should commence a process towards enhanced cooperation involving all stakeholders, proceeding as quickly as possible and responsive to innovation. The same relevant organizations shall be requested to provide annual performance reports” [emphasis added].

Discussions concerning the implementation of the enhanced cooperation process have continued at various forums over the last few years² with the following issues receiving particular attention:



¹ Resolution 102 of the 2010 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference recognized “§§ 71 and 78a) of the *Tunis Agenda* with regard to the establishment of enhanced cooperation on Internet governance and the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), as two distinct processes”.

² E.g. at the [UN General Assembly, Commission on Science and Technology for Development \(CSTD\)](#), [ITU](#)



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- a. The role of different stakeholder groups and the nature of their cooperation under the implementation framework. The role of governments vis-à-vis other stakeholders has been an issue of considerable focus. One view is that the process towards enhanced co-operation involves all stakeholders in their respective roles, a recognition of the need for all stakeholders to recognize the ongoing roles of each stakeholder. Another view is that there is a specific emphasis on governments in the stated need for enhanced cooperation, as defined in Paragraph 69 of the Tunis Agenda.
- b. The current status of the implementation with opinions varying on the amount of progress made on this matter since 2005, with some of the view that the process, as highlighted in the Tunis Agenda, is still in its preliminary stages, while others have noted that significant enhanced cooperation is already happening in varying degrees between organizations and through different forums.

Draft [Opinion 6](#) of the World Telecommunications/ICT Policy Forum ((WTPF-13) on *Supporting Operationalizing the Enhanced Cooperation Process* reaffirms the need for enhanced cooperation to enable governments to develop international Internet-related public policy in consultation with all stakeholders, as outlined in paragraph 69 of the Tunis Agenda, and urges all stakeholders to work on these issues.

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