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August 9, 2005

Ambassador David Gross  
Deputy Assistant Secretary,  
International Communications and Information Policy  
United States Department of State  
Washington DC, 20520

Via Facsimile: 202-647-7407

*Re: Comments on the July 18 Working Group in Internet Governance Report*

Ambassador Gross:

The Cyber Security Industry Alliance (CSIA) is pleased to provide you with our comments on the July 18 Working Group Internet Governance Report. As you prepare for discussions in Tunis this fall, we hope you take our comments into account as you develop the U.S. government's position on Internet Governance. We will supply these comments to the WSIS as well so that they can be a matter of public record.

CSIA represents the global leaders in the information technology security industry, providing support and solutions to governments and the private sector throughout the world. We are the only CEO-led advocacy group dedicated exclusively to global cyber security policy issues and are uniquely positioned to comment on the security and reliability of the Internet.

CSIA agrees with the World Summit on the Information Society's (WSIS) principle that a stable and secure functioning of the Internet is of paramount importance. The Internet is critical to the *function* of the world economy, and it is creating tremendous opportunities for emerging countries and economies. This change has been brought about largely through private sector market forces, with very limited government involvement except to encourage or finance information infrastructure development. CSIA is concerned that increased government involvement with "Internet Governance" could ultimately contribute to the erosion of the security and stability of the Internet, contrary to WSIS' own principles.

In this context, CSIA offers the following comments on the WGIG report generally.

**Do No Harm.** The current system of distributed, multi-stakeholder governance has allowed the Internet to develop into an engine of the global economy and, in fact, does allow for government advice (for instance, through the Government Advisory Council of ICANN). The creation of a new quasi-governmental mechanism to administer the Internet will likely lead to political

interference with the efficient operation of a truly global facility. If administration is subject to political rather than operational concerns, security and reliability will suffer as a consequence. The livelihood of many in the private sector around the world is dependent on efficient operation of the Internet. There is no lack of incentive for private interests to maintain the open, reliable and efficient operation of the Internet.

CSIA understands that as the use of the Internet is expanded globally there may be international and multicultural concerns which are not being discussed to all parties' satisfaction. The establishment of international fora to discuss and share ideas related to Internet governance related issues may be of value. However, such fora should be designed to discuss and share best practices and issues of common concern. Such fora could be held at regular intervals, but not involve the creation of a permanent or semi-permanent international secretariat. On issues of common concern, every effort should be made to bring together current international experts from government and the private sector. We note that none of the models outlined in the WGIG report appear to support such an approach.

CSIA supports the comments submitted by the United States Council for International Business which are attached.

CSIA believes it would be of great value for the State Department to host a briefing for the private sector on the United States internet governance position from the State Department, and other relevant Departments, prior to the WSIS meeting in November.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul B. Kurtz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Paul B. Kurtz  
Executive Director

Attachments

United States Council for International Business Comments on WGIG Report