



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

MAY 25 2007

Dear Mr. Kelly:

The United States of America wishes to express our appreciation to the Secretary General for Circular DM-07/1009, requesting that all ITU members provide input for Council 2007's consideration on the ITU's role with respect to Resolution 102 (Antalya, 2006). We note that the questions contained in Annex A to DM-07/1008 are largely derived from Resolution 102. We note further the importance of linking the ITU's role and work related to Resolution 102 to the ITU's mandate, purposes, and core competencies as outlined in the ITU Constitution and Convention (CS/CV) and as agreed by the ITU membership. Certain purposes of the Union as instructed by Article 1 of the ITU CS/CV are: to promote and enhance participation of entities and organizations in the activities of the Union; to promote and to offer technical assistance to developing countries; and to promote, at the international level, the adoption of a broader approach to the issues of telecommunications in the global information economy and society, by cooperating with other world and regional intergovernmental organizations and those non-governmental organizations concerned with telecommunications.

The ITU's request for information comes at a critical juncture for ITU members, relevant international organizations, and interested stakeholders. Debates in many venues around the world are shifting to re-energize and re-focus on how to bring enhanced communications infrastructure and its benefits to citizens. Countries have seen the benefits that multi-platform technology choices allow, providing for more accessibility and availability of communications infrastructures. Reduced prices for mobile hand-sets, inexpensive lap-top computers, wireless technology options, all contribute to and allow for more widespread uptake and realization of the benefits that new services provide. Along with the benefits that these new technologies and services provide, the ITU and its membership have chosen to focus on cyber-security issues as a key issue moving forward. With appropriate collaboration, the ITU is uniquely poised to not only work on global standards that impact cyber-security, but to also reach out to train and inform its diverse membership on issues of cyber security.

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The ITU has a wealth of technical knowledge to share, information to impart, and the ability to facilitate fora for discussion and collaboration. As highlighted by the consensus reached at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the ITU is uniquely structured to coordinate action lines C2 (information and communication infrastructure) and C5 (building confidence and security in the use of ICTs) of the Tunis Agenda, and to contribute to work coordinated by other United Nations' agencies on other WSIS action lines. We would like to respond broadly to the questions raised in Annex A and to identify areas where we believe the ITU should continue its activities and identify areas where we believe the ITU can play a critical coordinating role.

Question 1: What specific activities should be undertaken for ITU "to continue to take a significant role in international discussions and initiatives on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU, taking into account future developments of the Internet, the purposes of the Union and the interests of its membership as expressed in its instruments, resolutions and decisions?"

We believe that the ITU should continue to facilitate meetings and provide a neutral Secretariat for meetings, should continue to participate in the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers' (ICANN) Government Advisory Committee (GAC), and should conduct workshops on a variety of relevant Internet issues, coordinated closely with the membership and the three Sectors as appropriate, and other relevant organizations (i.e., ICANN, the Internet Society (ISOC), and the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)).

Question 2: What specific activities should be undertaken "to take the necessary steps for ITU to continue to play a facilitating role in the coordination of international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, as expressed in Paragraph 35 d) of the Tunis Agenda, interacting as necessary with other intergovernmental organizations in these domains"?

We believe that the ITU should continue to coordinate with IETF, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), the OECD, and other relevant entities, by providing updates and information to these entities in order to facilitate greater coordination and avoid duplication of efforts.

Question 3: What specific activities should be undertaken "in line with Paragraph 78 a) of the Tunis Agenda, to continue to contribute as appropriate to the work of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)"?

We believe that the ITU should participate in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), providing an updated report from ITU-T Study Group 3 to the November meeting. The ITU may want to consider hosting a web-site that highlights what it and other U.N. organizations are doing to fulfill WSIS follow-up obligations.

Question 4: What specific activities should be undertaken “to take necessary steps for ITU to play an active and constructive role in the process towards enhanced cooperation as expressed in Paragraph 71 of the Tunis Agenda”?

We believe that the ITU can play a critical role through enhanced information sharing between and among U.N. agencies by providing access to information via a website as noted above about its own activities related to the Internet within existing budgetary resources. The ITU should continue to contribute to the WSIS portal for access on WSIS follow-up events, work-shops, and activities.

Question 5: What specific activities should be undertaken “to take the necessary steps in ITU’s own internal process towards enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet in Paragraph 71 of the Tunis Agenda, involving all stakeholders, in their respective roles and responsibilities”?

We believe that the ITU should designate internal ITU “leads” for WSIS action lines C2 and C5 and inform the membership and other interested WSIS stakeholders. The latter “leads” should help streamline ITU activities across sectors so that work is coordinated and so to avoid duplication of efforts. The Secretary-General should provide an annual update to Council on ITU WSIS action line C2 and C5 activities and any coordinated activities that advance the work of other Tunis Agenda action lines where the ITU has been identified as a key participant (C1, C3, C4, C6, C7, and C11).

Question 6: What specific activities should be undertaken by ITU-T “to ensure that the ITU-T performs its role in technical issues related to the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU, such as IP version 6 (IPv6), ENUM, and IDNs, as well as any other related technological developments and issues; and continues to play a facilitating role in coordination and assistance in the development of public policy issues pertaining to Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU and their possible evolution; and works ... on issues concerning Member States’ ccTLDs and related experiences”?

We believe that the ITU should continue the good work that it is doing in ITU-T SG-2 on numbering and ENUM, in ITU-T Study-Group’s 4 and 13 on Next Generation Networks, and in ITU-T Study Group 17 on network security issues and internationalized domain names, collaborating with ICANN as appropriate. We also believe that the ITU should continue to participate in ICANN’s GAC as noted above.

Question 7: What specific activities should be undertaken by ITU-D “to organize international and regional forums and carry out necessary activities . . . to discuss policy, operational and technical issues on the Internet in general, and on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and other Internet resources within the mandate of ITU in particular, including with regard to multilingualism; to promote through ITU-D the exchange of information, fostering debate and the development of best practices on Internet issues, and to continue to play a key role in outreach by contributing to capacity building, providing technical assistance and encouraging the involvement of developing countries, LDCs and SIDS in international Internet forums and issues.”

We appreciate the good work being done in ITU-D, Study Group 2, on cyber-security issues, noting that the World Telecommunications Development Conference (Doha, 2006) focused on cyber-security and the importance on an informed and educated membership. ITU-D should consider how best to maximize resources and prioritize regional workshops on cyber-security issues, coordinating with relevant ITU and technical experts. We applaud the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General to

provide key contact points in the Secretariat and in the Telecommunication Development Bureau on cyber-security matters. We also believe that the ITU should consider providing scholarships to ITU Member State participants to attend relevant WSIS follow-up workshops coordinated by the ITU within existing budgetary resources. The ITU could develop workshop modules on relevant topics related to Action Lines C2 and C5 to maximize regional training efforts.

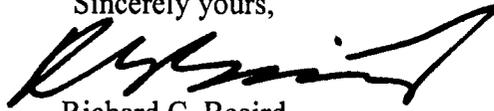
Question 8: Do you have any other contribution or comments, of a general or specific nature, on any other issues contained in Resolution 102 (attached), including the role of the ITU secretariat and the three Bureaux? You may also wish to upload relevant documents to Resolution 102 website.

We believe that the ITU should consider inviting regional telecommunications organizations to participate in and provide expert advice to regional workshops, focusing on access to infrastructure and access-options. In particular, the ITU could encourage regional internet registries (RIRs), the ISCO, and Internet Exchange Point (IXP) development experts to participate in regional workshops and the upcoming WTPF.

The United States believes that the ITU's considerable strengths lie in its core competencies along with the input of its Membership – Member States and Sector Members. The ITU's work contributes not only to cutting-edge standards-making, but also to a more inclusive and robust global debate on key issues like cyber-security in a rapidly changing networked world. We look forward to the consolidated report that will be submitted to Council 2007 as a result of this consultation on Resolution 102 (Antalya, 2006). We appreciate the diligence of the Secretary General through the General Secretariat in following-up on the work done in Antalya and look forward to Council 2007's review of this issue.

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard C. Beard', written in a cursive style.

Richard C. Beard

Senior Deputy Coordinator

International Communications and Information Policy