



## **ETNO Statement on the Review of the IGF, in particular the desirability of the continuation of the Forum**

As active participants within the Internet Governance Forum, ETNO - the European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association - has participated in IGF meetings, in the preparatory process and has submitted many written contributions on most IGF issues, including the Review of the IGF. On the desirability of the continuation of the Forum according to Paragraph 76 of the Tunis Agenda, ETNO would like to highlight the following:

In 2005, WSIS outlined a consensus for a global approach to the Information Society. The IGF is one of key outputs of WSIS and today we can safely say that it is the most innovative UN process in this regard, which started as an experiment but soon became an institution.

In ETNO's view the most important objective of the IGF is to create a forum for dialogue and exchange of information on Internet governance, public policy issues and furthermore to establish a reliable global basis for a cooperative, pluralistic dialogue that embraces all stakeholders. Much of its success stems from its open and inclusive character and its multi-stakeholder nature. This success also relies on the non-decisive, non-binding character of the IGF, which allows all parties to explore difficult issues without political tensions and to speak freely. Such an approach is essential in dealing with the challenges the Internet faces, and will assist in taking advantage of the opportunities it presents for further economic and social development.

Hence, ETNO offers full support for the continuation of the IGF and its current structure, past its initial 5 year mandate.

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