

## Internet Governance Forum Mandate

The mandate and terms of reference of the IGF are set out in paragraphs 72 to 80 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (the Tunis Agenda).

“Paragraph 72: We ask the UN Secretary-General, in an open and inclusive process, to convene, by the second quarter of 2006, a meeting of the new forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue -called the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The mandate of the Forum is to:

- Discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet;
- Facilitate discourse between bodies dealing with different cross-cutting international public policies regarding the Internet and discuss issues that do not fall within the scope of any existing body;
- Interface with appropriate inter-governmental organizations and other institutions on matters under their purview;
- Facilitate the exchange of information and best practices, and in this regard make full use of the expertise of the academic, scientific and technical communities;
- Advise all stakeholders in proposing ways and means to accelerate the availability and affordability of the Internet in the developing world;
- Strengthen and enhance the engagement of stakeholders in existing and/or future Internet governance mechanisms, particularly those from developing countries;
- Identify emerging issues, bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public, and, where appropriate, make recommendations;
- Contribute to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise;
- Promote and assess, on an on-going basis, the embodiment of WSIS principles in Internet governance processes;
- Discuss, inter alia, issues relating to critical Internet resources;
- Help to find solutions to the issues arising from the use and misuse of the Internet, of particular concern to everyday users;
- Publish its proceedings”

The United Nations General Assembly endorsed the Tunis Agenda in its resolution 60/252. The initial mandate of IGF was for five years, from 2006 to 2010. Recognizing the importance of the Forum to fostering the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet, as well as its role in building partnerships among different stakeholders, the United Nations General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to examine the desirability of the continuation of the Forum.

As a result of the five-year review, IGF's mandate was renewed by the General Assembly in its resolution 65/141 in 2010 for a further five years, under the patronage of the Secretary-General from 2011 to 2015.

To further enhance the value of the IGF and its Secretariat, the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2010/2, invited the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to establish a working group on improvements to the IGF. The report of the working group (A/67/65–E/2012/48) was considered at the 15th Session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in May 2012. Subsequently, the General Assembly in its resolution 67/195 requested the Secretary-General to report on the progress made in implementing the recommendations of the Working Group as part of his annual reporting on the progress on WSIS follow-up.

The end of the current mandate of IGF puts it in line with the general WSIS review which will take place in 2015. The project document for the IGF Secretariat envisions an independent external project evaluation in 2014. The future of the IGF and its Secretariat beyond 2015 will be decided in the context of the 10-year review of WSIS by the General Assembly.

### **The Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG)**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations established the Advisory Group (now referred to as the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG)). The purpose of MAG is to advise the Secretary General on the program and schedule of the Internet Governance Forum meetings. The MAG comprises of 56 Members from governments, the private sector and civil society, including representatives from the academic and technical communities. The MAG holds meeting throughout the year to review the progress of the IGF and to substantively and logistically plan the IGF annual meetings. Each year the MAG is renewed by 1/3 through a nomination process from the IGF stakeholders.

### **Chronology of the IGF**

Seven annual meetings have been held thus far:

2006: Athens;

2007: Rio de Janeiro;

2008: Hyderabad;

2009: Sharm el Sheikh;

2010: Vilnius;

2011: Nairobi;

2012: Baku.

2013: The 8th IGF is being held in Bali, Indonesia.

The IGF continues to grow each year as more and more people are attending the meetings both physically and remotely.

**For more information visit: [www.intgovforum.org/cms/](http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/) follow @intgovforum #IGF2013**