

STATEMENT

BY

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OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN
ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF 77 AND CHINA**

AT THE

**CONSULTATIONS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM**

Geneva,
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Mr. Chairman,

I take the floor on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. This intervention primarily aims at providing some preliminary ideas in interacting with some of the important issues raised by you Mr. Chairman and other speakers during the rich discussions we had yesterday.

As mentioned in the statement made on behalf of the Group yesterday, WSIS belongs to the series of UN summits that focused on economic and social development issues. The primary objective of the summit, in all its aspects, including internet governance was to create, “a people-centred, inclusive and development oriented information society”. The Group would like to reiterate that the Internet Governance Forum we intend to create must help realize this vision of a development oriented information society. The mandate, work, agenda, structure, composition, frequency and venues of meetings of the IGF must be geared towards achieving this shared objective in the post Tunis phase.

Mr. Chairman,

Multi-stakeholder participation was referred to in most statements made yesterday. G-77 and China would like to reiterate that the nature, composition and operation of the IGF must be characterized by a balanced approach towards multi-stakeholder participation. Such an approach, from our perspective, would necessitate ensuring adequate and effective participation by Governments, civil society, NGOs and businesses from developing countries, and that are representative of their development aspirations. The objectives must be to seek balanced representation both in terms of physical presence and intellectual input in all formal and informal meetings, in all deliberations and in any decision making processes. This would not only lead to incorporating the diversity of views on the critical issue of internet governance but will also lay a strong foundation for, “a transparent, democratic and multilateral process” with regard to internet governance that would be inclusive and responsive to the needs of developing countries.

G-77 and China believe that the Internet Governance Forum must be structured on the basis of regional representation and convened on the principal of geographical rotation with particular preference to developing countries.

Mr. Chairman,

You inquired about the content of the development agenda of the IGF. I would like to refer once more to Paragraph 65 of the Tunis agenda which clearly underlines the need to maximize the participation of developing countries in decision regarding internet governance in a manner that "should reflect their interests". This paragraph needs to be operationalized through the IGF. It must also be noted that this paragraph is not limited to capacity building issues. It casts the net wider to highlight the systemic perspective of development oriented Internet Governance. G-77 and China would like to mention this because we noticed that many interventions yesterday adopted a Reductionist approach to the development aspects of internet governance limiting it to capacity building. The issue

is more complex and has been addressed in a number of paragraphs in the Tunis Agenda including paragraph 49 which reaffirms commitment on the part of international community, “to turning the digital divide into digital opportunity” by ensuring harmonious and equitable development for all and addressing issues like international interconnection costs, technology/know-how transfer, multilingualism and providing the users with choice of different software models including open source, free and proprietary software.

It would therefore be important for our deliberations to develop a substantive agenda that is development focused. We heard a few delegations that raised some issues of priority to developing countries, and development in general. We invite stakeholders, especially the scientific and academic community to contribute further with specialized ideas in this regard. We could draw on a wealth of literature on issues such as Institutional Arrangements for Equitable and Stable Resource Management, Internet Access and International Transit Arrangements, Multilingualism and Local Content. These are the type of contributions that we need to hear, and look forward to exploring.

Mr. Chairman,

We have had a rich discussion so far during which we have heard views expressed earlier during the WSIS process and a host of new ideas with regard to the nature, structure, composition and mandate of the internet governance of the forum. We expect to hear more views during the course of these consultations today. In view of the importance of the issue that we are dealing with, it would be important for us to take time out in order to reflect on these proposals. This would not only help us digest the essence of various proposals but could also be useful in identifying the essential ingredients of consensus. The Group of 77 and China would, therefore, like to propose that we take time out and reconvene consultations in a month for detailed and substantive discussions.

Let me conclude by assuring you Mr. President that the Group of 77 and China, being the largest stakeholder in this process would be willing to work closely with all the other stakeholders to ensure a development oriented future for internet governance that promotes interconnectivity and affords universal accessibility.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.