

Kuwait Information Technology Society (KITS)
Input to the Internet Governance Forum – Geneva 16-17 February 2006

Mr. Chairman, Abdullateef Al-Abdulrazzaq Chairman of Kuwait Information Technology Society, a member of the Internet Governance Caucus. The Society believes that the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) should emphasize on reaching a workable model for collective governance of the internet that is compliant with the WSIS principles, evolutionary in process and acceptable by all stakeholders. The IGF should regard the issue of Internet Governance as a matter that unites the world community; resolves its differences and not dividing it.

Ensuring the effective global participation of multi-stakeholders is essential to its success. We believe that all stakeholders should participate in the IGF activities in an equal manner. The status of the stakeholders should be settled and finalized from the start for all the activities of the IGF and not to be reviewed at a specific stage later. The effective participation of the developing countries and the equal north/south involvement are key issues that need to be considered.

Baring in mind the limited resources of some stakeholders to participate in the upcoming IGF functions, we urge to take into consideration:

1. Holding events in various geographical regions.
2. Giving electronic means of communications more leverage in holding events and carrying open consultations.
3. Organizing back to back IGF events.

The UN rules, procedures contributed to the success of the WSIS and seeing it implemented again on the participation mechanism of the IGF will reflect positively on its activities. Furthermore, a combination of thematic, regional conferences and open consultation meetings that will lead to an annual meeting of the IGF will enhance its process. Establishing national IGF or local community IGF with open participation for all stakeholders will help the IGF process to be more focused.

An acceptable multi-stakeholders model of Internet governance will demand minimum requirements that everyone should comply with. Issues related to:

1. Capacity building such as technical expertise, best practices, and digital inclusion.
2. Information security and privacy in fields such as electronic transactions.
3. Enabling environment such as laws and regulations.
4. Promoting national content and preserving identity

Such issues are all considered some of the most important matters to developing countries which expect to address it with the assistance and involvement of major international bodies.

In that respect, the subject of International Domain Names (IDNs) is an important subject that should be addressed and implemented in a manner that will not create blocks, isolated islands, or harm the Internet integrity. But rather it should promote cultural diversity, national content, and the openness of the net to everyone. In the end, we look forward for the successful outcome of the IGF.

Thank You Mr. Chairman.