

Note: The following is the output of the real-time captioning taken during Fourth Meeting of the IGF, in Sharm El sheikh. Although it is largely accurate, in some cases it may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages or transcription errors. It is posted as an aid to understanding the proceedings at the session, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

Closing Ceremony  
Wednesday, 18 November 2009  
IGF Meeting  
Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

>>H.E. TAREK KAMEL: We'd like to start the formal closing session and we promise you we will try to be brief and we will try to finish the session as soon as we can. We know some people have a flight to catch but others have a match to watch, so a combination of both makes us very brief. I'm delighted to introduce our first speaker this evening, Mr. Sha Zukang, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs and the co-chair of this event to give his closing remarks.

>>SHA ZUKANG: Well, thank you, Mr. Minister, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen. Let me begin by thanking the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, our most able and generous host. I'm sure you agree with me.  
[Applause]

>>SHA ZUKANG: We are extremely grateful by the unprecedented support given by Her Excellency Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, the prime minister Dr. Ahmed Nazif and particularly, of course, national but not least, our minister, Tarek Kamel. I believe this has been a good opportunity for us to come together and express our views on the many challenges we face in Internet governance. With each IGF, we have seen progress from year to year, as we build our shared understanding and knowledge of Internet-related issues.

The meeting here in Sharm El Sheikh has built on the experience of the previous meetings. Athens, in many ways, was an experiment, and Rio, as our Brazilian friends put it, was Athens-plus, just as Hyderabad was Rio-plus.

Each time, the IGF matured and allowed for constructive discussions in a way that was not possible before. Now we are in Sharm El Sheikh. Sharm El Sheikh is definitely Hyderabad-plus.

The quantity of participation has been impressive, and so has its quality. Delicate issues that were once uncomfortable to address are now discussed with noticeably greater ease and candor.

I expect that there will be an equally open, honest, and enlightened exchange of ideas at the 5th meeting of the IGF in Vilnius, Lithuania, next year.

Here are some points I take away from our four days of discussion.

First, as Her Excellency, Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak reminds us, children and youth are the driving force behind many of the new technologies and services that are of increasing importance to the Information Society.

While I acknowledge the powerful role of young people in shaping the future Internet, we must also be aware of the threats to their well-being that the Internet can bring. Education and sharing of knowledge are useful starting points for addressing this critical issue.

Second, consensus has been built -- building that cybercrime, cybersecurity, privacy and openness is the joint responsibility of all stakeholders. The United Nations General Assembly is considering the issue of cybersecurity in its current session.

I'm sure it will be very helpful for United Nations member states to know the views of IGF participants in this regard.

Third, there is general agreement that the issues of access and diversity

remain central to IGF. As the next billion people come online, new challenges and opportunities will emerge. The Internet offers unprecedented opportunities for countries and peoples in all corners of the world to promote economic development, social inclusion, expression of culture, and ideas in the rich array of languages.

The conversion of that potential into reality requires that the Internet be managed for the benefit of humanity as a whole. Let us not leave anyone behind.

The dialogue on issues of inclusion of disabled persons reminded us of the need to create an information and knowledgeable society accessible to all. Human rights are at the heart of the United Nations.

It was, therefore, especially pleasing to see the IGF raising awareness of the obligations we have towards disabled persons and for promoting tools that enable their full participation in society on an equal basis with others.

Fourth, the forum has raised a number of questions about social media. Some participants have suggested that the real issue may not be as much in determining whether new media are either fostering or jeopardizing diplomacy or whether they are bringing down barriers anterior Accenture waiting inequalities.

The real issue is whether, on balance, the variety of content available on the Internet through social media is assuring in a better informed society.

This is the perspective that is worth discussing further. We see the importance of bringing youth who are active users of social media into the discussion.

Fifth, our Internet governance and the desirability of the continuation of the forum, we have noted, above all, the centrality of the WSIS principle of inclusiveness and the need for continued discussion on public policy issues related to Internet in some form.

In the lead-up to Sharm El Sheikh, opinions ranged all the way from the status quo to termination of the IGF mandate, calling for improvements in various aspects.

As I said during the stock-taking session, we will have to spend some time trying to make sense of all viewpoints when reporting back to the Secretary-General on our discussions. The Secretary-General will then make his recommendation to the U.N. General Assembly, taking the opinions expressed during the consultations into account.

Before I close this session, I cannot but help expressing my personal thanks to all staff from the United Nations whom you may know or don't know, like those working behind the scenes. These include staff members from the United Nations New York headquarters, the Division for Public Administration and Development Management of DESA, the finance office from the capacity developed office, the Department of Public Information, the United Nations Legal Office, the security staff from Geneva who are crucial to the operation and functioning of the meeting, the translators who have done a remarkable job, and last, but not least, my IGF Secretariat, as led by Mr. Markus Kummer who has done an excellent job as usual.

[Applause]

>>SHA ZUKANG: Of course I must have to say that my good -- my brother, Nitin Desai, with his, quote-unquote, advanced age but young heart, he has also made big contributions.

[Applause]

>>SHA ZUKANG: They have all contributed to the success of this forum. Most of all, I thank you all, the participants, for making this 4th meeting of the Internet Governance Forum such a constructive event. We registered more participants than ever before. More than 1,800.

The sessions and workshops are made possible through the hard work of you, the participants. Let us recall that IGF was set up to promote dialogue with stakeholders, governments, civil society, private sector, and the academic and

scientific communities as well as international organizations.

We should be pleased that multistakeholder collaboration the IGF embodies has been a foundation of its success, and of the stimulating and informative discussions we have enjoyed over the past four days.

Thank you, and we shall all meet in Vilnius next year. Thank you.

[Applause]

>>H.E. TAREK KAMEL: We thank Mr. Sha Zukang, the Under-Secretary of the U.N. for Economic and Social Affairs, and our next intervention is by Ms. Anja Kovacs, a fellow, center for Internet Society, Bangalore, in India.

>>ANJA KOVACS: Good evening, distinguished participants, Mr. Chairperson, ladies and gentlemen.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the assembly on behalf of civil society. It is a real honor. And thank you also to the organizers and the government of Egypt for creating such an excellent environment for us to meet and hold our deliberations. I would like to use this opportunity to celebrate with you two important achievements that I believe we have made during this IGF.

The first one is the progress we are making in terms of recognizing the importance of attention for human rights and ensuring a people-centered, development-oriented, nondiscriminatory Information Society.

For example, in the main session on security, openness, and privacy, speakers across all stakeholder groups did no longer couch the debate in terms of security versus privacy, but in terms of security and privacy.

Security or other concerns, it was consistently argued, while obviously deserving our attention, should not be used to justify curtailing long-standing gains made in terms of human rights.

Rather, it is an improved implementation of already agreed upon human rights instruments that we need to reach our goal of inclusive, people-centered Information Society.

This growing recognition of this fact is an evolution that civil society welcomes with open arms.

Another very hopeful evolution during this IGF was the central attention devoted to the question of where we stand in terms of promoting a people-centered, development-oriented Information Society more generally.

The message that came out of the main session on Internet governance in the light of the WSIS principles clearly confirmed the urgent need to pay greater attention to this important issue. And several suggestions were made to address this concern. This included devoting a main session simply to the topic of Internet governance for next year, and I sincerely hope that these suggestions will be taken up.

While we do have many reasons to celebrate, important challenges, of course, remain.

Throughout the existence of the IGF, and perhaps increasingly so, the value of the multistakeholder model has been recognized and stressed by all the stakeholder groups. However, at the same time it has been acknowledged that we need to work to further strengthen participation from currently underrepresented countries and groups.

I would like to note in this context that it is important that we do not restrict our efforts in this regard to capacity building, significant as that may be.

Perhaps even more crucial is that the agenda of the IGF consistently talks to the concerns of actors in the developing parts of the world as well.

The reconfirmation of the importance of a development agenda that we have seen in this IGF is a very important step forward indeed. But at the same time, within this larger development agenda, it is crucial that we also, as soon as possible, start to discuss some of the specific issues that require our attention on an urgent basis.

For example, within the IGF as elsewhere, it is generally acknowledged that access to knowledge is central to development processes. Yet the IGF so far has not paid systematic attention to the ways in which the amazing possibilities that the Internet offers in this regard are increasingly threatened by new policies that seem to make intellectual property regimes more stringent day by day.

From a developing country perspective, finding a balanced solution that can address these concerns is an urgent priority. And starting the debate on how this can be achieved here in the IGF is certain to attract a large number of developing countries participants, including governments.

Going by the experience of the past years as well as this particular meeting, I have no doubt that if given the opportunity, we will measure up to the challenges before us.

Without wanting to preclude the Under-Secretary-General's report, the proceedings during this IGF have made clear again its crucial significance in Internet governance processes.

I hope with all my heart that we will continue to get the opportunity to work together on addressing these important issues and on resolving tensions and contradictions as they emerge, with the support of an independent Secretariat that can ensure an environment generally inclusive of all stakeholders.

Only when such open, inclusive conditions govern our own processes may we, in turn, together, be able to create a genuinely inclusive Information Society that will, indeed, create opportunities for all.

Thank you.

[ Applause ]

>>H.E. MR. TAREK KAMEL: Thank you, Ms. Kovacs, for giving us your views from a civil society point of view representing India.

And our next speaker is our friend, Raul Echeberria.

Raul is one of the first people working in Latin America to establish Internet connectivity, more than 20 years ago.

He is executive director of the Latin American network information center, a center that has been also established by a public-policy partnership on a bottom-up approach, with the support of the Internet society many years ago to be providing the Latin American geographies with the necessary IP addresses.

At the same time, he is chairing now the board of ISOC, the Internet society head quarter in Virginia.

Raul.

>>RAUL ECHEBERRIA: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, for this presentation. Mr. Chair, Minister of communications and information technology, Doctor -- Mr. Tarek Kamel, distinguished colleagues from this panel, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, I want to thank the government and the people from Egypt for the generous hospitality in the person of Dr. Kamel.

I will also like to congratulate our host for the magnificent organization of this meeting.

We are finalizing this new IGF. And once again, we can say that the level of the discussions has been very high. And from this meeting have emerged a lot of opportunities of partnerships and collaborations between different stakeholders.

In our case, the Internet community, the Internet technical community and their organizations have held a lot of workshops, also working together with other stakeholders on different matters like IPv6, IXPs, international connections. And many other topics that are could have had by our organizations. And I can say that those experiences have been very successful. We are very happy with the results that were achieved in those activities. And so we think that it will be the basis, as every year, for future work with those other panels that we have contacted here.

It has been a long time since we created this expression of Internet governance

that didn't exist 20 years ago when we started to work on those Internet issues.

And the ways in which we related with the other stakeholders has changed very much, in a positive way.

Those four years have been four years of exciting experiences. And these experiences have allowed us to achieve results that probably we have been and (inaudible) in 2004 when under the leadership of Nitin Desai, Markus Kummer, the Secretary-General of U.N. decided to create the Working Group on Internet Governance, as we started to work with a blank sheet.

For us, for the Internet technical community, this forum is a powerful opportunity to participate as a global but also as a diverse community, relating with all stakeholders, sharing information and practices and receiving feedbacks in a process that is in the benefit of all the Internet and all the Internet users.

The real organizing this workshop -- sorry, this forum in different parts of the world has proven to be a very good idea to engage different communities in this process. And I think that we can agree, all of us, that it has been very evident in this IGF 2009. So this is something that should continue working in this way as we can continue going to different regions in order to get more and more people involved in these discussions.

We will continue working in ensuring that IGF is the appropriate forum forfeiting the expectations and the needs of both developing and developed regions.

And the communities, of course, and making a big contribution for the development of the Internet for everyone.

We expect that tomorrow when all the participants go back home, bring with them the findings and input from this IGF and start to work with new partners to help advance Internet. Next year, I'm sure that when we meet in Lithuania, we will appreciate the impact of the IGF in the reports the different organizations present back to that meeting.

When we started to work in this way, we didn't expect to set up a new governance model that could impact beyond Internet governance. But this experience has impacted in several other environments, influencing the Internet governance models both in regional and local level, and also influencing other forums and on other matters different from Internet governance.

We didn't look for setting up an example, but we have to agree that we have contributed very much to the change in the way in which the stakeholders participate in many different organizations and themes.

And we have to continue working in this way.

This is the right path, because what could be the consequence of having more participation, more transparency, more openness, and more dialogue in the governance. Is there anything bad in that?

I think that all of us know the answer.

Finally, I would like to thank Nitin Desai and Markus Kummer for their excellent work in organizing the IGF and (inaudible) the Multistakeholder Advisory Group have demonstrated to be a very good model for working with this IGF. The participation of all stakeholders in that group has been one of the reasons of the success of this IGF. And we continue that we hope that it will continue in that way.

Thank you very much.

[ Applause ]

>>H.E. MR. TAREK KAMEL: Thank you, Raul, for your intervention, also representing the civil society. We are represented by Internet ISOC, ISOC.

And our next speaker represents the private sector, Mr. Herbert Heitmann. Mr. Heitmann is the chair of the Electronics Commission at the International Chamber of Commerce. He is located in Germany, and he is also the chief communications officer at SAP.

>>HERBERT HEITMANN: Minister Kamel, Under-Secretary-General Sha, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to second all the previous speakers in thanking the people and government of Egypt for hosting this year's event and their great hospitality.

As chief communication officer for SAP, it is my pleasure to address you today as businessman and also as the chair of the commission for e-business, I.T., and telecommunications of the International Chamber of Commerce, the global voice of business. And I am a member of ICC's business action to support the Information Society initiative called BASIS.

The ICC created BASIS following WSIS to contribute business expertise and perspectives to the IGF.

Like the IGF, BASIS and ICC's EBITT commission are no strangers to mobilizing stakeholders with varying perspectives, with the intention of finding common ground and of working towards a common goal.

Once again, the IGF has successfully brought together an extensive range of community leaders, this time under the umbrella theme of Internet governance, creating opportunities for all.

The last four days have provided us with a unique opportunity to undertake frank and open discussions on a wide range of issues. More importantly, we have been able to do this with interest groups that we might otherwise have had no chance to engage with.

Constructively, we have exchanged best practices and considered the best policy approach options that will have resonance long after we conclude our time here in Sharm El Sheikh.

From looking at ways to extend Internet access and diversity, to identifying emerging issues such as online safety in Web 2.0 environments, there is nothing that cannot be discussed here.

The IGF never fails to underscore how vital the Internet is as a vast resource of information, tools, knowledge, service services with enormous potential. We have heard how tapping into these resources can help us find solutions to many of the issues we face in today's fast-paced global economy. From climate change to health, from bridging the digital divide to education and economic recovery.

For example, in a workshop we hosted with the government of Lithuania yesterday, we witnessed how appropriately addressing Internet governance issues can stimulate economic recovery and growth.

The future of this intricate network of networks requires the attention of us all: Business, governments, the technical community and the civil society.

This is why business has long been a supporter of the unique IGF multistakeholder format, which sets all of us on an equal footing.

Business appreciated the range of stakeholders who contributed to and enriched the discussions. We valued interactions with so many of you. We have not only addressed challenges but also pinpointed the opportunities that the Internet provides all of us with.

As a major contributor to the success of the Internet, business knows that effective, Internet-related policies can bolster the Information Society and bring more benefits of the Internet to more people.

We also know that the most effective policies are those that are well informed.

Informed policy approaches are pro-competitive and consider issues such as free flow of information, data protection, and security.

We came to Sharm El Sheikh not only to have our say but, equally important to us, to listen and learn from others. Over the last four days, the forum has provided us with insight into the priorities and concerns of the others.

We come away better informed about who is doing what in technical areas and other Internet-related matters. This one-of-a-kind environment of multistakeholder exchange helps us to find new understandings, common interests and opportunities.

Because our focus has been on substantive exchange instead of negotiated text, our time here has been put to good and practical use.

This is very important to us.

Our discussions, many initiated at previous IGF meetings, will enable us to take a more informed policy approach to Internet governance. They will move us towards collective solutions that are both coordinated and comprehensive.

This is why the continuation of the IGF in its current format and based on its founding principles, is crucial.

The IGF is a great success, and today we have seen overwhelming support for its continuation. If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, then the national and regional IGFs that we have seen emerging pay testimony to the value of the IGF.

Business applauds these budding initiatives which enrich bottom-up global IGF discussions.

Lack of multistakeholder involvement has often led to ill-informed decision-making, resistance in society, suspicions among the different players. The Internet Governance Forum as we know it today has fortunately prevented these shortfalls so far. It has helped to make the Internet a universally applauded, appreciated and heavily utilized medium globally. Business wants the IGF to be continued and strongly opposes changes to its founding principles.

Given the fast-paced evolutionary nature of the Internet, keeping momentum and building on discussions in a timely and effective manner is crucial. Over the past four years, we have seen how the IGF can be extremely responsive and adaptive in its annual format.

The event as we have come to know it today has evolved from cautious beginnings to balance interactive workshops and main sessions that respond to relevant Internet policy topics of the moment.

Business has witnessed this evolution and has been a proud participant since the days its forums' inception.

The closing of the fourth IGF gathering presents us with an opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments here and to think ahead to the things we will do when we return home to make an impact and create opportunities for all.

For the business I can say our homework is clearly defined. We have to increase participation. We want to be present at the next IGF with more business representatives from Asia and Africa, from small and non-I.T. business because that's our job to make sure that we have a fair representation in our group.

In the IGF spirit of working with other stakeholders, BASIS as already begun working with the government of Lithuania for our participation next year in Vilnius. We look forward to seeing you all there.

Finally, our special thanks go to the host country, Egypt, Minister Tarek Kamel and his formidable team. And we also thank Under-Secretary-General Sha, Nitin Desai, Markus Kummer, and the IGF Secretariat team as well as the members of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group who have made this event such a tremendous success.

Thank you.

>>H.E. MR. TAREK KAMEL: Thank you, Mr. Heitmann, for giving us the insights of the private sector. And next we move to the host of next year, and I would like to introduce Mr. Matulis, the director of the Information Society development committee in Lithuania.

>>MR. AURIMATIS MATULIS: Mr. Chairman, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor and pleasure to address to you in this beautiful and hospitable city of Sharm El Sheikh. I would like to extend my warmest thanks to all of you. The Egyptian government (inaudible) Internet Governance Forum, and also I would like to thank the United Nations and all stakeholders and speakers for valuable discussion during this forum.

It's my honor on behalf of government of Lithuania to be with you today and to deliver a message of appreciation of a United Nations and advisory group's cooperation and decision to host the IGF in the year 2010.

Next year in Vilnius, IGF will start from the 14th of September and will end on 17 of September.

Lithuania (inaudible) recognizing the importance of outcomes of World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva and Tunis. Lithuania is committed to Tunis Agenda and considers this as a tool to build an Information Society which is inclusive, human-centered, and focused for development.

So when we express our wish to host fifth IGF in Lithuania, we were fully aware of the huge scope and importance of that we are about to do.

It's easier to sharing the same vision of global society. The Internet would build bridges between countries, culture, people, and would contribute to peace and advance of human being, and bring democratic means of communication in modern world.

(inaudible) IGF is the forum in which we can shape our global vision for development and growth of Internet. (inaudible) Lithuania is willing to contribute to shaping principles, rules, and democratic processes which will provide and facilitate access to knowledge, provide citizens with necessary skills in order to get freedom of expression and also free movement of ideas.

It's our (inaudible) aim to extend this availability in accessibility to every human being through the detection of interconnection (inaudible) and multilingualism.

We are willing to work towards the goals in the Tunis Agenda while ensuring stability, security, and continuity of the Internet.

As we are all aware, the Internet has spread to all sectors of society. To all countries. And it has become a tool used by all of us to exchange messages, to gain access to the information for the user, effective, efficient research engines.

It's also due to remote education, for e-trade and e-government. As being in charge of the hosting of the fifth IGF meeting in year 2010, we will face a difficult task of matching the high standards achieved in previous events.

I would like to make a promise to (inaudible) in order to build in Vilnius a suitable and welcoming environment to discuss important themes.

We have considered here, and others which need to be faced.

Let me underline the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its contribution to the development of the Information Society.

It's an honor for me to stress that Lithuania is ready to host the IGF in year 2010.

In this spirit I would like to invite all participants in this meeting as well as stakeholders around the world to come to Vilnius, actively participate and help make it another successful IGF event.

We will try to make it very fruitful, enjoyable meeting.

Thank you very much.

And because -- Because Lithuania country is not so well-known as Egypt, we prepared a short video for you about Lithuania.

(Video playing)

[Applause]

>>H.E. TAREK KAMEL: I think this was an appetizer for joining the IGF in its fifth edition. I can't be providing the closing remarks without inviting very two short interventions from Mr. Desai and Mr. Kummer, who has been both providing the forum for the last couple of years and, as well, in this edition with their valuable support.

Mr. Desai.

>>NITIN DESAI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I really do not wish to say a great deal. A lot has been said by the previous participants on the IGF and what it



has achieved, what it still needs to achieve, and I do not wish to go into that.

Maybe I can just very quickly just place this in the context of the previous IGFs and the next one in Vilnius. As many of you know, I have had this running metaphor of something drawn from my country where the boyfriend and the girl are brought together by the parents. We call them "arranged marriages." And I described the -- you know, in some ways, the Athens meeting was where the boy and the girl were brought together -- incidentally, it's up to you for you to decide who is the boy and the girl -- and the boy and the girl were brought together and they were scoping each other out. They were a little suspicious of each other, and they scoped each other out and discovered that really, there's not that much that one should be suspicious about.

At the next meeting in Athens, the boy and the girl really started talking with each other, including about difficulties like critical Internet resources.

When we got to Hyderabad, they seemed to like each other. There was some evidence that they were occasionally holding hands, developing partnerships, and so on.

Now, at this meeting, there's clear evidence that they actually like each other, and who knows, something -- some longer term relationship may emerge out of all this. There's even a smell of romance in the air, you know?

And one wonders what will come out of all this, and if there is a smell of romance in the air, a lot of the credit must go to the warm hospitality of our Egyptian hosts, to the enthusiastic leadership of our chairman, Mr. Kamel, and to the hard work and dedication of his collaborators who are all sitting there in the second and the third row. Maybe you can just get up and we can just acknowledge them for a moment, please.

[Applause]

>>NITIN DESAI: Please get up for a moment. These are the ladies who have been doing most of the organizing.

[Applause]

>>NITIN DESAI: So I really thank you, I really thank you for all that you have done, and you have really brought the IGF to maturity with this exercise.

And I look forward to the meeting in Vilnius, where we will hopefully carry forward this momentum and let us see where this romance leads to in Vilnius. Thank you very much.

[Applause]

>>H.E. TAREK KAMEL: Thank you, Chairman Desai, for your insights, and now it's the role of Mr. Kummer.

>>MARKUS KUMMER: Thank you, minister.

This is a welcome opportunity to say thank you, thank you, to you, minister, and your team led by Nermine and also Nashwa, Christina, Manal.

[Applause]

>>MARKUS KUMMER: We had a very intense working relationship during the past year, and it was always a very easy relationship. Things happened. It was pleasure working with your team.

I would also like to thank the Under-Secretary-General for the cooperation extended to me by his team in New York, but above all, I would like to extend my thanks to you all, you participants. It was your energy, your enthusiasm, and your support that made this meeting a success. Thank you all.

[Applause]

>>H.E. TAREK KAMEL: Thank you, Mr. Kummer, and I promise you I will finish in two minutes just before 7:00 p.m.

[Laughter]

>>H.E. TAREK KAMEL: Respectful audience, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to start by thanking the U.N. team and the IGF Secretariat for co-organizing this successful event in Egypt. Special thanks are due to Mr. Sha Zukang, the Under-Secretary of the U.N., the chairman, Nitin Desai, and the whole U.N. team

that we don't see and that definitely have been contributing to the success of this event.

But also, special thanks to the IGF Secretariat, led by Mr. Kummer, and his assistants as well as the interpreters, the scribes, and as well, the -- I want to thank the local team from Egypt at the ministry of communication and information technology, the technical team, the organization team, as well as the support level.

Special thanks are due, as Chairman Desai has mentioned, to the team led by Dr. Hoda Baraka, the deputy minister, Nermine El Saadany, Christina Arida, Manal Ismail, and Nervine Tawfik and their supporters.

[Applause]

>>H.E. TAREK KAMEL: I also want to thank the chairs of the various sessions and the sponsors of our events, the Telecommunication Regulatory authority, Telecom Egypt, ITIDA, as well as the private sector sponsors.

Special thanks are also due to the high level of participation for Egypt's First Lady Mrs. Mubarak as well as prime minister Nazif and also special thanks are due to the very lively participation and thoughtful deliberations from all over the world that were really remarkable and unprecedented.

This huge participation showed the need for further deliberations for the IGF to continue.

As Mr. Sha has mentioned, we have had participants that exceeded 1800, representing governments, civil society, and private sector, throughout the event more than 200 remote participants from all corners of the world were following up what we are doing, and 27,000 viewers from 116 countries have watched the live on demand Webcast using streaming.

Egypt's technical team led by (saying name) have immediately respond to the request of the forum participants during the CIR session and have established on the spot IPv6 networking in the congress center.

[ Applause ]

>>H.E. MR. TAREK KAMEL: And I want to give them special thanks --

[ Applause ]

>>H.E. MR. TAREK KAMEL: -- for what they have been not only on the IPv6 level but for the support of the whole Congress. This participation has really shown the need for cross-border cooperation on the main themes of the IGF that were well selected by the Multistakeholder Advisory Group.

Child safety has evolved as one of the emerging issues. And Egypt has shown its leadership by the participation and initiatives of Mrs. Mubarak. We think this needs to be widened on a geographical level in the future.

Access, ladies and gentlemen, should remain on the IGF discussion table, because African countries and other developing countries still have issues of affordability and major barriers to broadband connectivity.

We need to come up with innovative solutions and business models for remote access in the private area.

The importance of multilingualism was very much highlighted. We still need to work more together on enriching local content.

We welcome the ICANN's decision for starting the fast-track process and choosing Sharm El Sheikh for the IGF to announce this major step.

This shows that we are on the right track.

We acknowledge the U.S. administration for signing the Affirmation of Commitments with the ICANN, but we still need further steps for more international involvement in the management of critical Internet resources through revisiting the IANA contract as it has been mentioned.

I sense consensus among our participants for my calm the other day to the U.S. administration to start an earlier dialogue in 2010 on the IANA contract before its expiration in October 2011. There are workable solutions to come up with for a constructive dialogue on this issue, and still will add more and more

maturity to the already maturing process of the IGF.

This step will add a lot of positive spirit to the improving overall spirit that have already been witnessed here in Sharm El Sheikh. And I fully share the vision of chairman Nitin Desai that we have been witnessing here in Sharm El Sheikh a very positive spirit, even between some constituencies that we thought are more or less competitive and confrontational.

My thanks to all the stakeholders for the spirit of cooperation and a special thanks to the ITU for their understanding of the IGF issues and especially the opening remarks of Secretary-General Hamadoun Touré. There has been a very positive spirit from other decision-making bodies to work on implementing the outcomes of the mature discussions within the IGF process. We think this is a step forward.

The global IGF requires more localization and there is an arising need that the regional IGFs become part of the process in the future and that we will find out mechanisms for more funding, for stronger regional participation, especially from the developing countries.

I also urge the IGF, MAG advisory group to increase youth participation and have for them a separate panel in order to engage them early enough in the process. And we have seen positive contribution from the youth within the last couple of days.

In my view, I could almost see a wide consensus on the need of the continuation of the IGF process with the legitimacy provided by the U.N. umbrella as well as the dynamic nature of the event which was very clear this time and needs to continue.

I see this well reflected in the chair's report that was just printed and distributed. And I'm pretty sure that under corporate governance Sha will convey this message to the Secretary-General of the U.N.

Lastly, I wish Lithuania, our next host, all the success in preparing this event. I wish you, distinguished participants, a safe trip back home, and the conference is adjourned.

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen.

[ Applause ]