



Executive Directors office  
P.O. Box 29755  
Melville, 2109  
South Africa

E-mail enquiries: [karenb@gn.apc.org](mailto:karenb@gn.apc.org)  
Telephone and fax: +27 11 726 1692 (South Africa)

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### **Policy Issue: A Development Agenda for Internet Governance**

The Tunis Agenda on the Information Society identified a broad range of issues with respect to development and internet governance. These issues should be bundled together within the framework of a development agenda on internet governance, and space should be made on the IGF's inaugural meeting agenda to address them.

They include, but are not limited to:

- the internet as a global public good
- the public nature of the internet
- open, universal and affordable access to the internet
- the right to freedom of opinion and expression on the Internet
- the right of access to information through the Internet
- the right of privacy in use of the Internet
- direct support for womens access to the internet as a catalyst for development
- developing country participation in internet governance related policy fora

The issue of development and the internet is a central theme in the Tunis Agenda and requires specific focus and attention. The IGF is well-positioned to keep the issue of development and the internet in the spotlight within the global policy environment. While development is a cross-cutting issue within the Tunis Agenda, and the development implications of every policy issue need to be addressed, the problem with the limit on selecting three issues for the inaugural IGF meeting is that if, for example, one takes the first three issues from the top ten issues on the IGF website, one may then be left with addressing the development implications of spam, multi-lingualism and cybercrime. The issue of access to the internet in developing countries might not be addressed or be referred to other fora such as the Global Alliance or the ITU. This would be problematic as it would then not be clear how the IGF is to address its mandate in the Tunis Agenda will regard to questions of internet governance and development.

Paragraph 72.e. is a key part of the IGF's Mandate, namely to advise all stakeholders in proposing ways and means to accelerate the availability and affordability of the Internet in the developing world. According to ITU figures, only 5% of people in developing countries have access to the internet. For developing countries, this is a matter of considerable concern. While other fora or international organizations do address issues such as ICTD, it is important to retain a specific focus on the internet and development so that the IGF can play a role in proposing ways and means to all stakeholders of accelerating access to the internet and its use for various development purposes.



Paragraph 72.f. requires the IGF to strengthen and enhance the engagement of stakeholders in existing and/or future Internet governance mechanisms, particularly those from developing countries. One way of encouraging developing country participation in policy dialogue is to prioritize the development agenda within the IGF.

It would be an important statement of intent for the IGF to prioritize a development agenda for internet governance and to support the formation of a multi-stakeholder working group, affiliated within the IGF, to provide input on this issue. A break-out session for this working group on a development agenda for internet governance should be considered as part of the agenda of the IGF meeting in Athens.