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**GROUP OF 77 & CHINA
GENEVA**

9 March 2006

Excellency,

This is with reference to my letter of 22 February regarding your informal consultations in Geneva, on the proposed Internet Governance Forum, on February 16 and 17 2006.

In the past two weeks, the Group of 77 and China seriously reflected on the questions you had raised during your consultations. After several rounds of discussions, the Group has produced a paper and mandated me to forward it to you.

I would request you to give the requisite weight to this input which has been given by 133-Member Group.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


(Masood Khan)

Ambassador & Permanent Representative,
Chairman of the Group of 77 and China

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G-77 & CHINA PAPER ON THE PROPOSED INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

General Principles

The informal consultations of 16 and 17 February are just an input to provide advice to the UN Secretary General. They should not lead to a reinterpretation of the principles agreed at Tunis and recorded in the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

The formation of the Internet Governance Forum should conform to the WSIS principles and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.

We underline the need to maximize the participation of developing countries in decisions regarding Internet Governance which should reflect their interest as well as in their development and capacity building.

The UN Secretary General will convene a new forum for multistakeholder policy dialogue.

We endeavour to operationalize paragraph 17 of TAIS as appropriate with regard to the work of the IGF.

Answers to the Questions raised by Mr. Nitin Desai

Preparatory process for Athens

An ad hoc advisory process will be put in place to prepare for Athens. These preparations should be in accordance with the mandate outlined in the TAIS for the IGF. The IGF would decide on its future method of work at its first meeting.

The process would be assisted in the preparations by the relevant intergovernmental and international organizations.

The process could have three independent bureaus each reporting to the Secretary General. The Secretary-General's representative will

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coordinate them. The three bureaus could have a total of 40 members on the basis of equitable geographic representation and balance: governments (20), businesses (10), and civil society (10). Membership should maximise the participation of developing countries in decisions regarding the Internet Governance, which should reflect their interests.

Development concerns should be fully reflected through participation of developing countries' multi-stakeholders. Such participation should be equitable and from all geographic regions of the developing world.

Agenda

The IGF should focus on the realization of the development content in the Tunis Agenda. It should take a development oriented view of the whole range of issues pertaining to Internet.

The IGF at its first meeting should focus on affordability and availability of the Internet, interconnection cost, technology and know how and transfer, multilingualism, local development of software, capacity building and participation of multi-stakeholders from developing countries.

The IGF should consider and adopt a multi-year programme of work that covers all issues included in Section c of the TAIS, particularly in paragraph 72 that lays out its mandate. All issues should be examined from a development perspective.

Linkage with the United Nations

Stay close to the WSIS model.

The UN Secretary General would report to UN Member States periodically on the operation of the Forum. This should be done at the UNGA.

As part of the overall implementation of the WSIS outcomes, the proposed UN Group on Information Society within the CEB to keep track of the debate and deliberations in the IGF.

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ECOSOC, ITU, UNESCO, UNDP, CSTD and UNCTAD (as the UN focal point on technology) to interface with the IGF.

IGF process must build/draw on established concepts and practices, such as special and differential treatment and the use of six UN languages, in the UN system.

Equitable representation of developed and developing countries must be ensured in all decision making processes.

Geographical rotation of venues must be ensured.

IGF meetings, in principle, may be held in parallel with major UN conferences, inter alia, to use logistical support.

Participation from the developing countries

Development concerns should be fully reflected through participation of developing countries' multi stakeholders. Such participation should be equitable and from all geographic regions of the developing world.

A mechanism should be developed for funding multi-stakeholder participation of representatives from developing countries.

Businesses and NGOs to be encouraged to sponsor representatives from the South.
