1 Internet Governance Forum Input Statement
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3 by members of the Multistakeholder Modalities Working Group (MMWG)
4
5 28 February 2006
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8 Dear Mr. Kummer,
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10 The Multistakeholder Modalities Working Group (MMWG) isa discussion group that was
… initiated by members of the WSIS civil society Internet Governance Caucus, with the
… mandate to:develop and propose generalizable modalities for the conduct of post-WSIS
… multistakeholder follow-up and implementation activities, including in the field of
… Internet governance; and
11   acilitate discussion and interaction among individuals from governments, private sector
… and civil society on these matters.
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13 Members of the MMWG would like to offer the following input into the preparations of the
… Internet Governance Forum (IGF), in accordance with your request for comments following
… the 16-17 February 2006 Consultations on the Establishment of the IGF:
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15 [NB: The above seems cleaner in terms of language. I am not clear though whether we are
… submitting this as "the MMWG" or as some members of the MMWG, since a) many people on the
… list don't participate, and b) probably not all of those who do participate will have
… weighed in pro or con before it is submitted. If the consensus is that we can here speak
… for the MMWG per se then delete 'members of' above. See also my last point below]
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17 1. [?] Members of the MMWG strongly believe that the IGF should be an ongoing process
… of dialogue, analysis, and capacity building in which the annual Forum events are
… embedded, rather than as the annual events alone. As the WGIG report has stated, there is
… "a vacuum" in the global discussion process with regard to Internet governance, and this
… cannot be filled solely by a three or four day meeting held once per year.
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19 2. The institutional framework for the IGF should be developed on a bottom up basis with
… the full participation of governments, the private sector, and civil society. Formal
… institutional arrangements typical of other United Nations activities should be kept to
… the minimum required to   make the IGF a success. We oppose the establishment of
… potentially "heavy" top-down structures like a "Bureau" or a "Council", as these could
… bureaucratize the IGF process and   reduce its flexibility and efficiency. The
… development and operation of any such arrangements should be fully compliant with the WSIS
… principles.
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21 3. [?] Members of the MMG believe that a light weight Programme Committee would be
… sufficient to kick-start the process. Based on the experience to date in the preparatatory
… phase, the IGF itself should discuss and decide whether an additional body might be needed
… to facilitate the process of discussion and the interaction among stakeholders between the
… annual forums. Such a "Facilitation Group" should be also as flexible as possible and
… avoid any bureaucratic structures.
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23 [NB: I wasn't clear that we'd agreed on this two-body proposal? I suspect it would be
… regarded by some as promoting the very bureaucratization we say we oppose. Personally, I
… would have preferred that a single Coordination Committee be responsible for both a)
… facilitating ongoing dialogue before and after annual meetings and b) the annual meetings
… themselves. This would make for more efficient and integrated planning. Two bodies would
… require extra coordination and, inevitably, negotiation. Moreover, the PC is described
… below as doing precisely what it sounds like the Facilitation Group would do anyway!]
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25 4.   The members of the Programme Committee should be appointed by the UN
…   Secretary-General, based on input by the three stakeholder groups. [NB: moved from below]
…   The composition of the Programme Committee, like any other body or activity related to
…   the IGF process, should reflect evenly balanced multistakeholder participation.   To the
…   extent possible, it should also reflect the principles of geographical, cultural and
…   language diversity and gender balance. Hence, the Committee should comprise not more than
…   15 (maximum 30) members, three (maximum six) from each of the five UN regions, equally
…   representing governments, private sector and civil society . Programme Committee members
…   should participate on an equal, peer-level basis.
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27 5. A priori, it may be advisable to replenish the Programme Committee with new members on
…   an annual basis. [NB: this could be labor intensive] Working with the Secretariat, the
…   Committee could devise a procedure for this task, to be approved by the annual meeting.
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29   [NB: redundant]
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33 6. Acting in close consultation with the IGF Secretariat and individual experts, the
…   Program Committee should publish as soon as possible a "Call for Proposals" (CFP)
…   soliciting input on priority issues to be considered at the first annual meeting in
…   Greece. The Programme Committee should establish transparent procedures for the
…   consideration of these inputs, as well as criteria for the selection of topics, speakers,
…   and so on. The Committee would then be responsible for making the final decision on these
…   matters in accordance with the agreed procedures and criteria.
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35 7.   The Programme Committee should also establish transparent procedures and criteria for
…   the formation and recognition of any sub-groups or initiatives stakeholders may wish to
…   organize on relevant topics.   All stakeholders should be able to propose sub-groups on a
…   bottom-up basis. These could take a number of forms, e.g. virtual working groups on a
…   specific topic, ongoing study groups or research networks focusing on broader themes, etc.
…   Any such groupings should be self-financing (if funds are necessary), open to all
…   stakeholders that may wish to participate, and based primarily on virtual collaboration.
…   They could engage in a range of activities, e.g. inclusive dialogue, monitoring and
…   analysis of trends, conducting studies, and developing recommendations for action. The
…   Program Committee should also define transparent procedures and criteria according to
…   which they could propose any results of their activities as possible inputs for
…   consideration in the annual meetings.
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39 7.
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41 8.   The MMWG discussed the question of whether "technical and academic" people should be
…   treated as an independent, fourth stakeholder group in the IGF, and the Internet Society's
…   related proposal that the "Internet community" be designated a "principal stakeholder."
…   While the majority of the participants in the MMWG remain unconvinced about the logic and
…   necessity of such proposals, while they also agreed that technical and the academic
…   experts play vitally important roles in Internet governance and should be fully engaged in
…   the IGF process. As such, we urge the UN Secretary-General to ensure that technical and
…   academic experts are sufficiently represented in the Program Committee.
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45 [NB: Reasons: 1) the paragraph seemed convoluted to me, this is more straightforward. 2)
…   We have never discussed an Advisory Panel, and it's a little late to do so now. 3) The
…   alternative proposal seems sufficient to the task. The PC is the only entity with

45… appointed positions, everything else in the IGF is open to anyone, including T&A, just as
… the WSIS process was.]
46 9.   The MMWG will continue its discussion with regard to the second call of the IGF
… Secretariat related to content and substantial issues. We will provide another input
… before the dateline of March, 30, 2006.
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48 Jacqueline Morris, MMWG Co-Chair
49 Wolfgang Kleinwächter, MMWG Co-Chair
50 [in light of my question at the outset about in whose name does this document speak,
… wouldn't it make sense for people who support the statement to individually opt in and be
… listed? Nobody else knows who the MMWG is anyway, names would make it real]
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52 February, 28, 2006
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