**Recommendation for consideration to the UN General Assembly for a permanent mandate of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**

In 2005, the UN Member states asked the UN Secretary-General in the Tunis Agenda, to convene a meeting of the new forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue—called the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). (Footnote: paragraph 72, Tunis Agenda)

The mandate of the Forum was to discuss public policy issues relating to key elements of Internet governance, such as those enumerated in the Tunis Agenda, in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet in developed and developing countries. The Forum was not to replace existing arrangements, mechanisms, institutions or organizations. It was intended to constitute a neutral, non-duplicative and non-binding process, and have no involvement in day-to-day or technical operations of the Internet.

The Tunis Agenda also asked the UN Secretary-General to examine the desirability of the continuation of the Forum, in formal consultation with Forum participants, within five years of its creation, and to make recommendations to the UN Membership in this regard. At its sixty-fifth session, the General Assembly decided to extend the mandate of the IGF, underlining the need to improve the IGF “with a view to linking it to the broader dialogue on global Internet governance”.

In his note on the continuation of the Internet Governance Forum, the UN Secretary General confirmed that the IGF was unique and valuable. It is a place where Governments, civil society, the private sector and international organizations build a common understanding of the Internet’s great potential.

The Secretary-General recommended

(a) That the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum be extended for a further five years;

(b) That the desirability of continuation be considered again by Member

States within the context of a 10-year review of implementation of the outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2015;

Footnote: (General Assembly, Sixty-fifth session, Item 17 of the preliminary list\*,  Information and communications technologies for development, Economic and Social Council, Substantive session of 2010 New York, 28 June-23 July 2010, Agenda item 13 (b)\*\*)

In 2016 it will have been ten years since the establishment of IGF.  We, the undersigned participants at the 2014 IGF in Istanbul, believe it has proven its worth. However, the revolving five-year term is a barrier to long range planning and investment. Many voices have called for the strengthening of the IGF, but a longer planning horizon is necessary in such a complex, multi-stakeholder environment. Some initiatives to strengthen the IGF are already taking place:

* To address the need for sustainable funding, the **Internet Governance Forum Support Association** ([http://www.igfsa.org/)](http://www.igfsa.org/%29) was formed at IGF 2014.  The goal of this non-profit is to promote sustainable funding for the IGF.
* A comprehensive report on the successes of this forum will be published following the 2014 conference in Istanbul.
* More than 30 regional and national IGF initiatives have developed in all continents, which have enabled new forms of democratic participation in Internet governance.
* Dynamic coalitions have emerged and produced substantive work on complex issues. These inter-sessional initiatives need to be taken to the next level of maturity.

In order to allow the IGF to reach its full potential, we would recommend an extension of the IGF mandate, which is open-ended, without term limitation. This would ensure the stability of the IGF, and support long range planning for more comprehensive projects and funding initiatives. If this is impossible given current UN rules and regulations, we would recommend a stable ten year extension, to enable longer-range commitments and financial planning.