THE PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS IN THE WORK OF THE ICCP COMMITTEE

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This document is for consideration under Item 5 of draft agenda of the 56th session. It outlines a process to formalise the participation of civil society and the Internet technical community in ICCP work. It then describes the practical modalities proposed for all non-governmental stakeholders – business, labour, civil society, and the Internet technical community – to participate in ICCP work.

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1. Over the last two years the Committee on Information, Computer and Communications Policy (ICCP) has had regular discussions about the role of non-government stakeholders in the context of the Seoul Ministerial. The decision to actively involve non-governmental stakeholders in the Seoul event and its preparations contributed significantly to quality of the documentation, discussion, and overall success of the Ministerial. As the Committee resumes its work following Seoul, it is timely to revisit the question of non-governmental stakeholder participation in the ICCP Committee, particularly in light of the outcomes from the Ministerial and final preparations for a new programme of work and budget.

2. This document outlines a proposed framework for regularising the participation of non-governmental stakeholders in the work of the ICCP. Following a introductory section to put the issues in context, the proposal outlines a process to formalise the participation of civil society and the Internet technical community in ICCP work. It then describes the practical modalities proposed for all non-governmental stakeholders – business, labour, civil society, and the Internet technical community – to participate in ICCP work.

I. Background and Context

The Seoul Ministerial

3. In preparing for the Seoul Ministerial, the ICCP engaged four communities of non-governmental stakeholders. The business community participated through the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC), organised labour through the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC), civil society through a special reference group, and the Internet technical community (ITC) through the Internet Society (ISOC). The modalities for this engagement included:

- Regular participation and consultations during ICCP meetings leading up to the Ministerial.
- Participation in an online public consultation.
- The organisation of non-governmental stakeholder forums the day before the Ministerial meeting.
- Participation as experts in virtually all sessions of the Ministerial meeting.
- The submission to the Ministerial of final position papers from each group.

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1 There has been discussion within civil society about formalising the links between civil society and the organisation as a whole by creating a parallel institution to BIAC and TUAC. This organisation-wide issue is not within the competence of the ICCP, and is not addressed in this paper.

2 The reference group was composed of the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), the Electronic Privacy Information Center/Public Voice, the Trans Atlantic Consumers Dialogue (TACD), the Internet Governance Project (IGP) and the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic (CIPPIC).

3 The ITC included ISOC, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

4. The importance of non-governmental participation and contributions was reflected in the Seoul Declaration, in which Ministers committed to “working collectively with all stakeholders” and invited the OECD to “further the objectives set out in this Declaration through multi-stakeholder co-operation.” Moreover, in his closing remarks, the OECD Secretary-General expressed his appreciation for the participation of all non-governmental stakeholders in the Ministerial, calling for a “process of formalising the participation of civil society and the technical community in the work of the OECD on the Internet economy.”

Non-governmental Stakeholders in the wider OECD

5. Non-government stakeholder involvement did not of course begin with Seoul. Early in its existence, the OECD recognised the importance of consultations with representatives of the business community and organised labour. A 1962 Council decision on relations with international non-governmental organisations provided BIAC and TUAC a formal consultative status to the OECD. BIAC and TUAC are recognised as the formal channels for consultations between the OECD and their respective constituents. They also participate in annual meetings with the OECD Liaison Committee for Non-Governmental Organisations, which is made up of members of the OECD Council.

6. BIAC is the officially recognised representative of the OECD business community. BIAC’s primary objectives are to: positively influence the direction of OECD policy initiative; ensure business and industry needs are adequately addressed in OECD policy decision instruments; and provide its members with timely information on OECD policies and their implications for business and industry. BIAC’s members are the major business organisations in the 30 OECD member countries, comprising over 8 million companies. Via its standing committees and task forces, BIAC mirrors all economic policy issues the OECD covers. Each BIAC Member Organisation designates national experts to BIAC committees. BIAC positions are consensus views, permitting BIAC to speak with one voice on behalf of the OECD business community.

7. TUAC is the official voice of the labour movement at the Organisation. TUAC represents the views of the trade union movement in the industrialised countries - more than 60 million workers in 30 countries - and has worked with the Organisation to help ensure that policies for global markets are balanced by an effective social dimension. TUAC is involved in OECD work at several levels throughout the policy making process, from input into consultations as OECD policy recommendations are developed through to helping to ensure that they are implemented and, when necessary, updated. TUAC regularly briefs its affiliates on the work under way in the OECD, co-ordinates policy statements on major areas of interest and evaluates the outcome of OECD meetings and publications.

8. In spite of the lack of a formal consultative status with the OECD, civil society groups participate significantly in a number of OECD activities, for example in the areas of consumer policy, international trade, investment, development co-operation, and the environment. The OECD has no system of accreditation for civil society; therefore each committee has its own flexible processes for

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6 This status does not provide BIAC or TUAC any special rights to participate in the work of any particular committee; each committee decides for itself how to engage non-governmental experts.

7 For information on the current state of OECD co-operation with non-governmental interest groups, visit www.oecd.org/civilsociety. For more information see, “OECD’s Co-operative Activities with Civil Society” [C/INF(2006)24]. The document is being revised, with a new version expected shortly.
interacting with civil society: some hold consultations with civil society on specific issues, while others meet more regularly with civil society, through participation in expert workshops, committee meetings, or meetings at ministerial level. Another trend is the emergence of civil society umbrella organisations to coordinate input to committee activities. Examples include the European Environmental Bureau, which coordinates civil society views for the Environmental Policy Committee. Another is OECD Watch, which represents some 80 NGOs in the Investment Committee.

9. Particularly noteworthy is the relationship between civil society and one the ICCP’s partners for the Ministerial, the Committee on Consumer Policy (CCP). For a number of years the CCP has had the benefit of the regular participation of civil society in committee meetings, workshops, and informal working groups. Consumers International has served as the umbrella group for this participation. When it last considered the CCP mandate, the Council changed the CCP terms of reference to explicitly name and recognised the importance of consultations with Consumers International in consumer policy work.

Non-governmental Stakeholders in the OECD work on Internet Economy

10. With respect to stakeholder participation in work on the Internet Economy, the 1998 Ottawa Ministerial on electronic commerce was a watershed. Ottawa marked the first time at an OECD Ministerial event that leaders from national governments, businesses, labour, consumer and social and international organisations came together at an OECD Ministerial event “to clarify respective roles, discuss priorities and begin work towards a global action plan….” The Ottawa precedent inspired a broader and deeper collaboration for the Seoul Ministerial, as noted above.

11. Having wide stakeholder participation is particularly important for work on the Internet Economy. Staying current with rapid technological developments and emerging business models requires good links with the technical and business communities. The expanding reach of the Internet into the day to day lives of individuals highlights the need for expertise on the impacts of policies on end-users. Moreover, the common view that the best way to address ICT policy challenges is through multi-pronged approaches involving requiring the active participation of a variety of stakeholders highlights the importance of having those stakeholders around the table as policy approaches are formulated. OECD work on spam is a good example. Implementing the approaches outlined in the anti-spam toolkit required the participation of variety of actors outside government, and having the spam task force membership reflect that wider community was critical to its success.

BIAC

12. Among the most active non-governmental stakeholders in OECD work on the Internet Economy has been the business community, through BIAC. The ICCP-BIAC Committee consists of both representatives of telecommunications and Internet companies and member organisation staff. The BIAC Committee Chair and Vice Chairs provide leadership and serve as the primary BIAC contacts to the ICCP Committee. BIAC also has groups which address specific issues within the ICCP committee and participate in working parties.

TUAC

13. TUAC has been a long-standing, but less active participant in ICCP activities. Like BIAC, TUAC is invited to participate in most items on the ICCP agenda, as well as workshops, foresight forums, and conferences.

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8 See, SG/EC(98)14/REV6 and www.ottawaoecdconference.org/english/information/summary.html.
Civil Society

14. At least since Ottawa, civil society has participated in activities of the ICCP or its working parties. In particular, the Public Voice,\(^9\) played an active role in the 1998 meeting and follow-up events.\(^10\) Civil society participation is usual in workshops or public forums organised by the ICCP. Although Public Voice and other civil society representatives have had a regular invitation to participate in official meetings of the ICCP’s Working Party on Information Security and Privacy, regular opportunities to participate at meetings of ICCP Committee have been less frequent up until the preparations for the Seoul Ministerial.

Internet Technical Community

15. A key non-governmental constituency for Internet economy issues is the Internet technical community. This cross-section of stakeholders includes the engineering groups responsible for the development and architecture of the Internet. These groups coordinate critical aspects of the Internet – in particular those relating to architecture, standards development, and the management of Internet resources.

16. For the purpose of consultations with the OECD, the ITC has included 17 organisations\(^11\) coordinated by the Internet Society (ISOC). These organisations share a common vision of an open and accessible Internet which can bring economic and social benefits to all the world's citizens in the future. The ITC actively contributed to the preparation of the OECD Ministerial meeting on the Future of the Internet Economy, including through the organisation of an Internet technical community Forum, the day before the Seoul Ministerial. Additionally, experts from technical organisations have often participated in ICCP workshops and events in the past, contributing with their knowledge to the policy discussions ongoing in the ICCP Committee and in its Working Parties.

II. Formalising the participation of Civil Society and the ITC in the ICCP

17. Business and labour already have forms of participation in the work of the ICCP through BIAC and TUAC. There is no parallel channel for participation in work on Internet economy issues by civil society and the ITC – hence the call by the Secretary-General to begin a process to facilitate their participation. There are two aspects to this process. The first involves the ICCP, which would need to affirmatively recognise the importance of participation by these two groups. The second aspect would be the responsibility of the stakeholders themselves, who through a process of self-organisation would need to develop a co-ordination or umbrella group through which to channel their input to ICCP activities.

18. At its meeting on 11-12 December, the ICCP will review its mandate and terms of reference, which expire at the end of 2008. This occasion provides an excellent opportunity to signal the importance of participation of civil society and the ITC. The current ICCP terms of reference already call for the Committee to “develop, as appropriate, partnerships with business, trade unions and public interest groups.” This language could be revised to specifically reference civil society and the ITC. The notion of “partnership” could also be expanded to emphasise the depth of the Committee’s commitment to stakeholder consultation and input to its work. Proposed revisions to the terms of reference that could accomplish these objectives are included in the DSTI/ICCP(2008)5. The other aspect of the ICCP’s role in formalising the participation of civil society and the ITC consists in its development of a framework to address the practical modalities for participation – a proposal for which is outlined in Section III below.


19. The second element is the responsibility of civil society and the ITC to each develop and propose some sort of co-ordination or umbrella group through which to interact with the ICCP Committee. These groups would not need to be formalised at the level of the OECD in the way that BIAC and TUAC are, but should aim to serve a similar co-ordinating function for participation in the ICCP Committee. In order to maximise the value of the participation, the co-ordinating groups should:

- Represent a broad community of views from stakeholders with expertise in the subject matters covered by the ICCP community.
- Aim to develop consensus views from its members with expertise on topics under consideration by the Committee, with a view to facilitating the policy-development process.
- Exchange information and views with the ICCP, including through participation in meetings and submission of comments on work in progress and information on topics of mutual interest.

20. In order to move the process along expeditiously, representatives of civil society have already developed a proposal to create a co-ordination group – Civil Society Information Society Advisory Council (CSISAC) – to coordinate their participation in the ICCP Committee. The proposal is attached as Annex A. Likewise, representatives of the ITC propose to create the Internet Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) to co-ordinate participation of the technical community in the ICCP Committee. Information about this proposal is attached as Annex B.

III. Practical modalities for the participation of non-governmental stakeholders

21. This section outlines a proposed process through which all non-governmental stakeholders (BIAC, TUAC, Civil Society, and the ITC)\textsuperscript{12} could participate in the work of the ICCP. It is proposed that the Committee should instruct its working parties use the same process when they determine non-governmental stakeholder participation desirable.

Participation in official ICCP Committee meetings

22. In accordance with Rule 10.b of the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation, a non-governmental stakeholder can be invited as expert to a meeting. Procedurally, the invitation is extended by the Secretariat, having consulted with the Chair. In general, it is expected that, through their co-ordination groups, representatives of each of the four stakeholder communities will be invited to each meeting of the Committee. The Committee may decide to restrict participation to member government delegations (with or without observers) for certain items on its agenda. In general, this restriction should be noted on the agenda for the meeting. The co-ordination groups should notify the Secretariat who will be participating in any given meeting, so that they may be registered in the OECD events management system.

23. During a meeting, the Chair may invite interventions from non-governmental stakeholders on any issue, though Committee decisions are reserved for OECD member government delegations. Interventions are generally expected to reflect the agreed views of the stakeholder community in question, and not simply the views of the individual making the intervention.

24. “For Official Use” or “Unclassified” OLIS documents should be made available to non-governmental stakeholders through the Secretariat. These documents are made available for expert consultation and comments from appropriate non-governmental representatives. Circulation of “For

\footnote{Note that non-member economies and formal observers (e.g. the Council of Europe) are not be included in this proposal and would continue to participate according to current practices.}
Official Use” documents should be limited to that needed to accomplish this consultation and such documents should not be posted on a publicly-accessible website.

25. Non-governmental stakeholders will generally be responsible for their own travel expenses.

**Participation in ad-hoc events and inter-sessional work of the ICCP Committee**

26. The Committee should maximise the opportunities to consult and engage with non-governmental stakeholders through conferences, workshops and related events.

27. In general, when the Committee delegates are consulted on work items in between meetings, non-governmental stakeholders views should be invited as well, with access to relevant documents provided by the Secretariat.

**IV. Conclusion**

28. The increasing importance of participation by non-governmental stakeholders in the work of the OECD is being recognised by changes in the ways committees operate across the organisation. But in some policy areas – including those related to the Internet economy – the need ensure effective participation is particularly compelling. This view, first highlighted in the Ottawa ministerial 10 years ago, has been affirmed in venues outside the OECD like the World Summit on the Information Society, and reiterated by Ministers and the OECD Secretary-General in Seoul.

29. This paper has outlined a number of suggestions about how (1) formalise the participation of civil society and the ITC into the work of the Committee as counterparts to BIAC and TUAC, and (2) regularise the participation of all non-governmental stakeholders through a set participation principles.

30. The Committee is invited to:

- Note the proposals of civil society [Annex A] and the ITC [Annex B] with respect to designating a co-ordination group for participation in ICCP work.

- Agree to formalise the participation of civil society and ITC through recommending to the OECD Council that its terms of reference be modified as proposed in DSTI/ICCP(2008)5.

- Agree to the practical modalities for participation of all non-governmental stakeholders in the Committee and its working parties consistent with Section III above.

- Review the effectiveness of these participation arrangements every two years in the context of the adoption of the ICCP programme of work and budget.
ANNEX A

CIVIL SOCIETY INFORMATION SOCIETY ADVISORY COUNCIL (CSISAC)
NOVEMBER 2008

1. Background

At the OECD Ministerial Conference on the Future of the Internet Economy, the OECD Secretary General expressed support for an effort to formalize the participation of civil society in the work of the OECD concerning the future of the Internet. This recommendation follows from almost two decades of civil society participation at the OECD and the specific proposals of civil society put forward to the 1998 OECD Ministerial Conference and again in the Civil Society Declaration at the 2008 Ministerial Conference.

2. Mission

The main purpose of the Civil Society Information Society Advisory Council (CSISAC) is to contribute constructively to the policy work of the OECD Committee for Information, Computer and Communications Policy (ICCP) and to promote the exchange of information between the OECD and the civil society participants most active in the information technology field. Information from the OECD will provide civil society participants with a stronger empirical basis to make policy assessments; inputs into research and policy development from civil society will provide the OECD with the essential perspective of stakeholders "at the receiving end" of policy. Strengthening the relationship between civil society and the OECD will lead to better-informed and more widely accepted policy frameworks.

3. Activities

The CSISAC will undertake the following activities:

- Engage in constructive input and dialogue with the ICCP Committee about policy issues of interest to civil society.
- Pursue the agenda set out in the Civil Society Seoul Declaration of 2008.
- Report to civil society organizations about the OECD publications, events, and policy recommendations of interest to civil society.
- Identify and publicize opportunities for participation by civil society organizations in the work of the OECD.
- Maintain appropriate communications tools (e.g. content management system, mailing list, social network platform) that highlight key OECD-ICCP developments of interest to civil society and facilitate broader civil society participation; and
- Report on an annual basis the accomplishments of the past year and the goals for the next year.
4. Proposed Structure

In keeping with the structure of other non-governmental stakeholders at the OECD, the CSISAC proposes a structure that seeks to facilitate the participation of interested parties in the work of the OECD and to promote effective communications between stakeholders and the OECD.

The CSISAC includes the CSISAC Membership, the CSISAC Steering Committee, and the CSISAC Liaison. The roles and structure of these entities are outlined below. The effectiveness of the proposed structure, including the working of the CSISAC Liaison and the CSISAC Steering Committee, will be evaluated after one year.

**CSISAC Membership**

CSISAC Membership will be open to civil society participants who:

- Endorse the Civil Society Seoul Declaration.
- Demonstrate a commitment to the public interest; and
- Do not represent any business, technical organization, government entity or other institution that sets public policy (e.g., ICANN, RIR, WIPO staff).

All civil society participants that signed the Civil Society Seoul Declaration shall be considered founding members of the CSISAC. Particular efforts will be made to ensure that the interests of disadvantaged groups are represented within the CSISAC. CSISAC members will provide expertise in policy issues relevant to the work of the OECD-ICCP committee and its four working parties.

**CSISAC Steering Committee**

The CSISAC Steering Committee will represent the CSISAC Membership in the work of the OECD-ICCP. Members of the Steering Committee should have access to relevant OECD documents, consistent with the access provided to other non-governmental stakeholders, with the understanding that OECD rules regarding disclosure must be respected. The Steering Committee will also be responsible for assembling ad-hoc working groups who can review OECD policy issues.

The Steering Committee will be comprised of 6-8 individual or organizational representatives, who will serve two-year terms. The Steering Committee will be accountable to the CSISAC membership, with selection done in such a way as to account for regional and issue diversity.

An interim Steering Committee, comprised of individuals and organizations that contributed to the OECD "Future of the Internet Economy" Ministerial in June 2008, will develop a formal process for selection of the Steering Committee by early 2009.

**CSISAC Liaison**

The CSISAC Liaison will facilitate communication among the OECD-ICCP, the CSISAC Membership, and the CSISAC Steering Committee. The CSISAC Steering Committee will select the CSISAC Liaison. The Liaison will serve as a point of contact and primary conduit for information flow between the CSISAC and the OECD-ICCP, with decision-making capacity reserved for the Steering Committee. Additionally, the Liaison and one other member of the CSISAC Steering Committee will be expected to participate regularly in OECD-ICCP meetings. The Liaison will serve a two-year term, which coincides with the OECD-ICCP committee work cycle.
An interim Liaison will be provided by The Public Voice Project for 2009-2010 and will serve as the initial point of contact with the OECD and be responsible for facilitating CSISAC participation.

5. Participation of CSISAC at the OECD

It is anticipated that the CSISAC will have the same standing at the OECD-ICCP committee as do the BIAC and the TUAC.

6. Evolution of CSISAC

It is the hope of civil society that, over time, the CSISAC will evolve into the Civil Society Advisory Council (CSAC) and provide the basis for civil society input to all OECD activities, comparable to the BIAC and the TUAC.

7. Reference Documents


ANNEX B

The Internet Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC): its participation in the OECD Information, Computer and Communication Policy (ICCP) Committee

1. Building upon the success of the Ministerial conference

The Ministerial meeting on the Future of the Internet Economy in 2008 had the objective to take stock of the changes affecting developed economies and societies and to articulate a collective vision, one that is shared by all stakeholders, of a desirable future economy and society supported by the Internet. Realizing this vision will require action by all stakeholders, and across national borders.

In this context, the OECD Information Computer and Communication Policy (ICCP) Committee underlined the importance of involving non-governmental stakeholders in the discussion towards the Ministerial, and encouraged member countries to engage in consultations with all stakeholders at the national level.

In 2007, the Internet Society (ISOC) was invited by the OECD to coordinate a technical stakeholder forum in preparation for the Ministerial. Acting as a liaison, the Internet Society facilitated the Internet technical community’s participation in the different steps of the process. This invitation represented an expansion from the normal involvement of the Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) and Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC), and the ICCP engagement with civil society since the last Ministerial meeting in 1998.

The Internet technical community Forum, held on 16 June 2008, the day before the OECD Ministerial Conference, was designed to provide direct contributions to the ministers’ work in three areas: Creativity, Confidence, and Convergence. It also provided OECD member states' delegates and Internet technical experts an unprecedented opportunity to share experiences and exchange perspectives on the “Future of the Internet Economy”.

Eighteen diverse organizations from around the world (see complete list in paragraph 2 below) participated in preparing the Internet technical forum. They work with governments, national and international organizations, civil society and the private sector to pursue their objectives in a cooperative and inclusive manner. While each has its own mission and its own role to play, the Internet technical organizations share aspirations of the role of the Internet to enable broadly based economic and social benefits.

As OECD members elaborate their policy frameworks for the next decade, the participating Internet technical organizations see mutual benefit in continuing engagement with all OECD stakeholders (including the technical, Civil Society, and Business communities). The development of policies and practices can benefit from consideration of varied perspectives on technology evolution, in the same way that the evolution of technology can benefit from informed consideration of economic and societal factors. The aspirational principles that influence the technical evolution of the Internet were described in an official Memorandum presented to the Ministers of the OECD nations.

Acknowledging the positive input of the technical community in the ICCP’s work and the Ministerial, the OECD released the OECD Seoul Declaration for the Future of the Internet Economy, on 18 June 2008.
This declaration invited OECD to reinforce co-operative relationships and mutually beneficial collaboration with the Internet technical community.13

2. Main organizations involved in the stakeholders group

Eighteen organizations responded to the call to be involved in the preparation of the ministerial and expressed their desire to continue collaborating with the OECD:

- The Internet Society (ISOC)
- The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)
- The Internet Architecture Board (IAB)
- The World Wide Web (W3C)
- The European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI)
- The 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP)
- The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
- The International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)
- The Number Resource Organization (NRO)
- The American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN)
- The Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)
- The Africa Network Information Centre (AfriNIC)
- The Latin America and Caribbean Network Information Centre (LACNIC)
- Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC)
- The European Committee for Standardization (CEN)
- The Internet2 (Internet2)
- The Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
- The 3rd Generation Partnership Project 2 (3GPP2)

Building upon the success of the ministerial, these organizations committed themselves to pursuing its efforts of cooperation with OECD member states in order to help define a forward direction for the Internet based on the principles of fuelling creativity, building confidence and creating maximum benefit from convergence (cf. Itc Memorandum, paragraph 3):

We of the Internet technical community RECOGNIZE that it is important that we work with all stakeholders from all sectors and in all regions to achieve the fullest benefits of the Internet for all participants in the global economy. We therefore COMMIT OURSELVES to:

- Develop and deploy technologies and practices to meet the evolving needs of the global Internet.
- Engage with governments and other stakeholders of OECD and non-OECD countries alike to enhance confidence, ensure security, and encourage innovation and interoperability at a global level.
- Invite governments to join us in an open and collaborative community, together with businesses and civil society, as we work to extend the benefits of creativity and convergence to all communities, in all parts of the world, in an environment that will inspire confidence based on the full assurance of security.

13 This echoes Closing remarks by Angel Gurria, Secretary General of the OECD and comments on stakeholders’ future participation in the OECD’s work (18th of June 2008): “A more decentralized networked approach to policy formulation for the Internet economy also includes the active participation of stakeholders. Such active participation needs to be the norm. We appreciate the participation of stakeholders in this ministerial meeting. But I think we need to go further. I would recommend that we begin the process of formalizing the participation of civil society and the technical community in the work of the OECD on the Internet economy.”
Although this initial group of organizations are deeply involved in the technical development of the Internet, the list of participants in preparation for the Ministerial is not exhaustive, nor does it represent all of the actors whose combined contributions have made the Internet the success it is today.

3. Proposed criteria and requirements for participation

It is proposed that the Internet Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) be constituted to continue to work within the framework espoused at the OECD Ministerial 2008, which called for the active participation of technically focused organizations as stakeholders in a decentralized networked approach to policy formulation for the Internet economy.

Participation in the Internet Technical Advisory Committee would be governed by a shared charter and purpose developed to define criteria for membership and participation, such as:

- Technical expertise.
- Contribution to the development of an open Internet.
- Commitment to open and collaborative modes of work.

This charter would also describe core principles guiding how participation will work, roles and responsibilities, and mechanisms to provide clarity of communication between the Internet technical community and the OECD’s committee(s) and other stakeholder groups.

The intention of the Internet Technical Advisory Committee is to provide an avenue for new technical insights to contribute to the work of the OECD and the ICCP Committee, in cases where they do not have a pre-existing avenue of involvement. Thus, the original group of organizations will be confirmed, and outreach to other organizations will be an ongoing activity.

4. Coordination mechanisms for participation and input

In order to build on the success of the ministerial and to ensure the continuity of the group’s input in the OECD’s and the ICCP Committee work, the Internet Society (ISOC) is prepared to act as a facilitator.

This role could of course be reviewed in the future, and potentially could be taken up by any other organization of the technical community stakeholders’ group. The organization facilitating the work of the group should be designated by the majority of the organizations constituting the Internet Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC).

The role of the facilitator would not be to represent the other entities but to facilitate their participation by:

- Acting as a liaison with the OECD Secretariat, without supplanting any interactions any group member might have with the OECD in their own right.
- Collecting and disseminating working documents among the group.
- Facilitating the participation of the group and its members in the work of the ICCP Committee.
- Facilitating input by the group and its members to relevant OECD events (e.g. Foresight Forum, Ministerial conferences, etc.).
- Scheduling periodic conference calls with other participants in the Internet technical experts group to exchange information and discuss activities and interests.