IBSA Multistakeholder meeting on Global Internet Governance

(September 1- 2, 2011 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

<u>Recommendations</u>

The IBSA Multistakeholder meeting on Global Internet Governance was convened on September 1- 2, 2011 at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The meeting recognized the role of the Internet as a catalyst for economic and social progress and emphasized its potential to enhance IBSA's profile as a key global player.

The meeting reaffirmed the IBSA framework agreement for Cooperation on the Information Society adopted on September 13, 2006 and recalled the commitments made in the Geneva Declaration of Principles and the Tunis Agenda with regard to *Enhanced Cooperation*, which has not yet been operationalised, notwithstanding the clear mandate of the Tunis Agenda in 2005.

The IBSA meeting stressed that in order to ensure that Internet Governance is transparent, democratic, multistakeholder and multilateral as mandated by the Tunis Agenda, the current institutional gap in managing global Internet processes and developing policies for Internet at a global level needs to be urgently addressed. In order to prevent fragmentation of the Internet, avoid disjointed policy making, increase participation and ensure stability and smooth functioning of the Internet, an appropriate body is urgently required in the UN system to coordinate and evolve coherent and integrated global public policies pertaining to the Internet.

In this context, the meeting agreed that the models proposed by the Working Group on Internet Governance in 2005 provided useful guidelines for establishing such a new global body. It was further agreed that the new body should *inter alia*:

  i.   be located within the UN system;

  ii. be tasked to develop and establish international public policies with a view to ensuring coordination and coherence in cross-cutting Internet-related global

issues;

iii. integrate and oversee the bodies responsible for technical and operational functioning of the Internet, including global standards setting;

iv. address developmental issues related to the internet;

v. undertake arbitration and dispute resolution, where necessary, and

vi. be responsible for crisis management.

The meeting agreed to prepare a detailed proposal outlining the modalities of the proposed new global Internet Governance body for consideration and approval of the IBSA Summit, scheduled to be held on October 18, 2011 in Durban, South Africa. This proposal could thereafter be presented at the 66th UN General Assembly in New York under the agenda item 'ICT for Development', in conjunction with the UN Secretary General's Report of the Open Consultations on Enhanced Cooperation, held in December 2010.

The meeting urged IBSA to prioritize Internet Governance as a key strategic area that requires close collaboration and concrete action. As a first step, it recommended the establishment of an IBSA Internet Governance and Development Observatory at the earliest. The Observatory should be tasked to monitor developments on global Internet Governance and provide regular updates and analyses from the perspective of developing countries.

The meeting affirmed the need for IBSA countries to take a leadership role on issues pertaining to global Internet Governance.

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