



## Strategic Planning and Membership Department (SPM)

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Cynthia M. Wong  
Director, Global Internet Freedom Project  
Center for Democracy & Technology  
Washington, DC

Subject: **Your Open Letter dated 17 May 2012 addressed to Dr Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of the ITU on the subject of the WCIT process.**

Dear Ms Wong,

First of all, many thanks for sending us the letter expressing your perspectives on the ITU WCIT-12. The letter was widely circulated within the organization, including to ITU members and quoted in several of the Secretary-General's public statements and speeches. We waited until now to reply as we knew the issues that were of interest to you were already scheduled for debate during the annual meeting of ITU's governing body, the Council. Indeed, this meeting just concluded its business on 13 July 2012.

On 11 July 2012, the ITU Council decided that the "Draft of the future ITRs" be made publicly accessible on the ITU website without any password restriction. Further, a publically accessible webpage is to be established on the ITU website where all stakeholders can express their views and opinions on the content of that document or any other matter related to WCIT. Input to the webpage will be closed one month prior to WCIT (3 November). All Member States are encouraged to give due consideration to these views and opinions in their preparation for the WCIT and I encourage you to regularly check the public speeches of the ITU Secretary General where you will find consistent messaging supporting this position and encouraging national level consultations. Indeed the aspect of national- and regional-level consultations is key if we are to have a truly global engagement through the relevant local languages (and not just the six official UN languages used by the ITU Secretariat). Furthermore, please also note that all ITU members, including Member States and organizations from private sector, academia and civil society, have access to all documents and have been reminded by the Secretary General that they are encouraged to share these documents with all of their relevant constituencies.

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The ITU Secretariat would like to take the opportunity of thanking you for your interest in this process and the valuable perspective that you provide. As the ITU's Secretary General stated during these discussions at Council: "the world is changing, in large part thanks to the growth in telecommunications facilitated by the ITU, and we need to adapt to that changing world. As we have always done since our foundation in 1865".

We trust and hope that we can continue a productive and constructive dialogue on the road to WCIT-12 and beyond.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Paul Conneally', with a stylized, flowing script.

Paul Conneally