Contribution by Canada
Re: CL-13/168

Canada is pleased to submit this contribution to inform the discussion of the Council Working Group on Internet-related public policy issues.

Canada supports an open, multistakeholder approach to Internet governance. The Internet has grown, and continues to thrive, under this governance model. It is an arrangement that has been successful in promoting global competition, innovation, social development and economic growth.

Existing arrangements are effective because they enable inclusive participation of stakeholders from across the global Internet community, including governments, to collectively develop bottom-up policies and to make decisions based on consensus.

At the national level, governments play an important role with respect to the development of national Internet-related public policy and enforcement frameworks (e.g. rural and remote broadband access, competitive marketplace frameworks, adoption/use, intellectual property, etc.)

At the international level, governments are one of many stakeholders, among a large community of global Internet users, participating in the decision-making process. This includes a broad representation of the technical internet community, civil society, academia and businesses. While some lead on particular issues, all groups have the opportunity to contribute their unique perspectives and strengths to decision-making. Within the technical community, governments have an appropriate and effective venue for advancing their public policy views and sharing their concerns.

This open and multistakeholder structure of decision-making is effective because it is robust and flexible. Arising issues can be dealt with quickly, and with input from the entire community. This process is ideally suited, and complementary to the rapid pace of innovation and growth of the Internet.

In conclusion, inclusive multistakeholder participation in decision-making processes ensures the continued stability, security and interoperability of the Internet. This approach acknowledges the importance of collaboration from the entire community of global Internet users, including governments. It is essential for the sound development of the Internet as a tool that all world citizens have equal access to.

Canada