**ISOC Board of Trustees Meeting**
**January 16, 2012**

**ITU – 2012 Conferences**
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**Issue:**
In 2012, the ITU will host two important conferences:  The World Telecommunication Standardization Assembly (WTSA) (20-29 November, Dubai) and the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) (03-14 December, Dubai).  See Annex 1 for a timeline of key WTSA / WCIT dates. Both conferences will address a range of Internet-related topics and our early assessment of proposals to the conferences is that the results of the WTSA and WCIT could be damaging to the global Internet.   The Internet Society, working together with our members, chapters and Internet partners, needs to help inform policy makers and ensure that they have the best information possible in order to make decisions at these ITU conferences that allows the Internet to continue as a global medium for communication based on principles of openness, collaboration and bottom-up, consensus-based decision making.  Many of these key principles will be challenged at the ITU WTSA and WCIT.

**Background:**
WTSA:  The WTSA takes place every four years in the ITU Standardization Sector (ITU-T).  WTSA is *not* a treaty-level conference, but rather sets out the four-year work program for the ITU-T and its Study Groups, elects Study Group Chair/Vice Chair positions, approves the work from the previous four years, and addresses other ITU-T policy-related issues of interest to the Membership.  Increasingly, the scope of the ITU's work is broadening to include Internet issues – the WTSA is another opportunity for the ITU to move into the Internet area, particularly at the level of standards development. Some of the issues of interest to ISOC at the WTSA:
- Proposals for an ITU-T Internet related Study Group
- Relationship between ITU and other SDOs (IETF in particular)
- Scope of the ITU-T work on cloud computing and its architecture
- Conformance testing and the ITU Mark

WCIT:   The WCIT is a treaty-level conference of the ITU that develops a treaty called the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs).  A WCIT is called at the request of members – the last WCIT was in 1988.  The stated purpose of the ITRs is to facilitate "global interconnection and interoperability" of telecommunications traffic between borders.   ITU Member States agreed that the ITRs needed to be updated and, in 2010, launched a preparatory process to revise and update the treaty.   Consistent with ITU treaty preparations, there are regional meetings to develop common regional positions, and global meetings that serve as the "first rounds" of negotiations.

The Internet Society, as an ITU Sector Member, can contribute to the global preparations for the WCIT (meetings are held thru June 2012) but will not be permitted to speak at the WCIT itself.   ISOC will also plan to participate at the Regional Preparatory Meetings since those will have a considerable impact on the global negotiations.

Some of the key proposals of concern to ISOC at the WCIT (see also attached matrix of issues):

- Expanded scope of ITRs to include IP networks
- Content-related provisions – Spam, child protection, data protection
- New definitions
- Mandatory application of ITU Recommendations
- Articles on Cybersecurity
- Number, naming, addressing / IPv6
- Charging and billing arrangements

**ISOC Approach:**

As a Sector Member of the ITU, ISOC will actively engage in the preparations for the WCIT because it is virtually certain that the WCIT negotiations will deal with topics that could strongly impact the governance and future evolution of the Internet and the Internet ecosystem. Thus our strategy is to inform and influence the government delegates who will negotiate the ITRs in 2012 and also to keep our global membership informed and engaged, as appropriate.

Our ISOC strategy has four interrelated components. Those are:

- Providing sound, technically-informed **information, and advice** to interested delegates from Member States as they prepare for the WCIT,
- Informing and empowering our **members** to play a role,
- **Regional engagement**, drawing on the strengths of our regionalization strategy, an
- **Partnership** with other like-minded organizations, most critically the IETF and the other Internet organizations

To guide ISOC engagement in the WCIT preparations, we are working within the following Charter:

*As a sector member of the ITU-T and ITU-D, ISOC will engage in the preparations for the WCIT in order to provide technically-sound advice concerning Internet networking and policy. We want the outcomes of the WCIT to contribute positively to the health and continuing evolution of the open Internet. In order to achieve that goal, ISOC will engage its extensive network of ISOC members and like-minded organizations to provide informational materials, educational opportunities, advice, positions, and on-line support to government delegates involved in the negotiations.*

**Specific ISOC activities:**

Interest in the ITU 2012 conferences is extremely high amongst many of our Members. To assist ISOC Members in understanding the WCIT process and in keeping track of the various proposals, the Internet Society has created mailing lists for ITU-specific communications including notes from the Regional meetings and analysis of WCIT proposals. We have also developed a matrix of WCIT proposals that are specifically relevant to the Internet architecture and have made this available to our membership. Finally, we aim to make the ISOC website on WCIT (www.internetsociety.org/itrs) a resource page for information about the various issue areas that will impact the Internet. There is a strong desire on the part of many policy makers for this kind of solid, technical information. ISOC, working closely with our Internet partners, can clearly fulfill this need.