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Office of the Director  
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26 November 2007  
DPADM/07/1067

Dear Mr. Pouzin,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated 23 October 2007, addressed to the Secretary-General. I understand that the Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Internet Governance, Mr Nitin Desai, has already had the opportunity to discuss with you the matter you raise in your letter.

Indeed, the participation of representatives from developing countries in the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a matter of importance. However, as the Executive Coordinator of the IGF Secretariat, Mr. Markus Kummer, explained on several occasions in his replies to the African Civil Society for the Information Society, the IGF is not part of the regular United Nations activities and is therefore not funded through the regular budget. The IGF Secretariat depends entirely on voluntary funding and so far it has not been able to generate the resources required to fund developing country participation.

You also refer to contributions from Canada and Japan. Please note that the generous contribution of Canada was given to the ITU. Any question as regards its use, therefore, needs to be addressed to the ITU. The contribution from the Government of Japan at this stage is not more than a pledge – we will only be able to make use of it once it has been deposited into the Trust Fund account. Please note that the Trust Fund is administered by the United Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs and is subject to the auditing procedures laid down in the UN Financial Regulations, Rules and Directives.

I hope that the success of the Rio de Janeiro meeting will create sufficient momentum among donors to allow for the funding of participants from developing countries at next year's meeting in New Delhi.

Sincerely yours,



Guido Bertucci  
Director

Division for Public Administration and Development Management  
Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Mr. Louis Pouzin  
Chairman  
WSIS Civil Society Working Group on  
Information Networks Governance