

CIVIL SOCIETY INFORMATION SOCIETY ADVISORY COUNCIL (CSISAC)

November 2008

1. Background

At the OECD Ministerial Conference on the Future of the Internet Economy, the OECD Secretary General expressed support for an effort to formalize the participation of civil society in the work of the OECD concerning the future of the Internet. This recommendation follows from almost two decades of civil society participation at the OECD and the specific proposals of civil society put forward to the 1998 OECD Ministerial Conference and again in the Civil Society Declaration at the 2008 Ministerial Conference.

2. Mission

The main purpose of the Civil Society Information Society Advisory Council (CSISAC) is to contribute constructively to the policy work of the OECD Committee for Information, Computer and Communications Policy (ICCP) and to promote the exchange of information between the OECD and the civil society participants most active in the information technology field. Information from the OECD will provide civil society participants with a stronger empirical basis to make policy assessments; inputs into research and policy development from civil society will provide the OECD with the essential perspective of stakeholders "at the receiving end" of policy. Strengthening the relationship between civil society and the OECD will lead to better-informed and more widely accepted policy frameworks.

3. Activities

The CSISAC will undertake the following activities:

- Engage in constructive input and dialogue with the ICCP Committee about policy issues of interest to civil society;
- Pursue the agenda set out in the Civil Society Seoul Declaration of 2008;
- Report to civil society organizations about the OECD publications, events, and policy recommendations of interest to civil society;
- Identify and publicize opportunities for participation by civil society organizations in the work of the OECD;
- Maintain appropriate communications tools (e.g. content management system, mailing list, social network platform) that highlight key OECD-ICCP developments of interest to civil society and facilitate broader civil society participation; and
- Report on an annual basis the accomplishments of the past year and the goals for the next year.

4. Proposed Structure

In keeping with the structure of other non-governmental stakeholders at the OECD, the CSISAC proposes a structure that seeks to facilitate the participation of interested parties in the work of the OECD and to promote effective communications between stakeholders and the OECD.

The CSISAC includes the CSISAC Membership, the CSISAC Steering Committee, and the CSISAC Liaison. The roles and structure of these entities are outlined below. The effectiveness of the proposed structure, including the working of the CSISAC Liaison and the CSISAC Steering Committee, will be evaluated after one year.

CSISAC Membership

CSISAC Membership will be open to civil society participants who:

- Endorse the Civil Society Seoul Declaration
- Demonstrate a commitment to the public interest; and
- Do not represent any business, technical organization, government entity or other institution that sets public policy (e.g., ICANN, RIR, WIPO staff).

All civil society participants that signed the Civil Society Seoul Declaration shall be considered founding members of the CSISAC. Particular efforts will be made to ensure that the interests of disadvantaged groups are represented within the CSISAC.

CSISAC members will provide expertise in policy issues relevant to the work of the OECD-ICCP committee and its four working parties.

CSISAC Steering Committee

The CSISAC Steering Committee will represent the CSISAC Membership in the work of the OECD-ICCP. Members of the Steering Committee will have access to all OECD draft documents made available for OECD committee members with the understanding that OECD rules regarding disclosure must be respected. The Steering Committee will also be responsible for assembling ad-hoc working groups who can review OECD policy issues.

The Steering Committee will be comprised of 6-8 individual or organizational representatives, who will serve two-year terms. The Steering Committee will be accountable to the CSISAC membership, with selection done in such a way as to account for regional and issue diversity.

An interim Steering Committee, comprised of individuals and organizations that contributed to the OECD "Future of the Internet Economy" Ministerial in June 2008, will develop a formal process for selection of the Steering Committee by early 2009.

CSISAC Liaison

The CSISAC Liaison will facilitate communication among the OECD-ICCP, the CSISAC Membership, and the CSISAC Steering Committee. The CSISAC Steering Committee will select the CSISAC Liaison. The Liaison will serve as a point of contact and primary conduit for information flow between the CSISAC and the OECD-ICCP, with decision-making capacity reserved for the Steering Committee. Additionally, the Liaison and one other member of the CSISAC Steering Committee will be expected to participate regularly in OECD-ICCP meetings. The Liaison will serve a two-year term, which coincides with the OECD-ICCP committee work cycle.

An interim Liaison will be provided by The Public Voice Project for 2009-2010 and will serve as the initial point of contact with the OECD and be responsible for facilitating CSISAC participation.

5. Participation of CSISAC at the OECD

It is anticipated that the CSISAC will have the same standing at the OECD-ICCP committee as do the BIAC and the TUAC.

6. Evolution of CSISAC

It is the hope of civil society that, over time, the CSISAC will evolve into the Civil Society Advisory Council (CSAC) and provide the basis for civil society input to all OECD activities, comparable to the BIAC and the TUAC.

7. Reference Documents

- Civil Society Seoul Declaration, June 2008
<http://thepublicvoice.org/events/seoul08/seoul-declaration.pdf>.
- Civil Society Background Paper, June 2008
<http://thepublicvoice.org/events/seoul08/cs-paper.pdf>
- OECD, “The Future of the Internet Economy OECD Ministerial Meeting,” 17-18 June 2008, Seoul, South Korea, <http://www.oecd.org/FutureInternet>
- “Closing remarks by Angel Gurría, OECD Ministerial Meeting on the Future of the Internet Economy,” 18 June 2008.
http://www.oecd.org/document/8/0,3343,en_2649_201185_40863240_1_1_1_1,0_0.html
- OECD, Convention on the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (1960).
http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,3343,en_2649_34483_1915847_1_1_1_1,0_0.html