



**TRANSCRIPT: News Conference on Internet Freedom**

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JOHN ALDEN: Good afternoon. This is John Alden. I've had the pleasure to be the communications director for the U.S. delegation to the WCIT. I'd like to start off this afternoon by thanking everyone who's covered the WCIT and thank everyone for joining with us this afternoon.

First, I'd like to introduce Mr. Dean Garfield, president and CEO of ITI. He'd have a couple of remarks and then he'll turn over the mic to Ambassador Kramer. So please stand by and thank you very much.

DEAN GARFIELD: Thank you, as well. Hi, this is Dean Garfield from ITI. Let me begin by doing what is only appropriate in this instance which is take thanking Ambassador Kramer for his service to our country on behalf of the tech sector and really on behalf of anyone who understands and appreciates the power and dynamism of the Internet, which we should. Ambassador Kramer shared that his term is actually ending tomorrow evening and so we appreciate the work he's done. Though his term is ending, I am sure that he will continue to be engaged in this dialogue. The discussions that were started at the WCIT are certainly going to continue we know in global capitals, cyber cafés, and, in fact, around many dinner tables, folks are talking about the issues that were raised there. And it's only appropriate that they do.

Like the tech sector, many of us if not all of us appreciate the value that the Internet has brought it in such a transformative way to all far all of our daily lives. We know firsthand the impact that it has and we know that we want to see it continue to grow and evolve. But grow and evolve in a way that is based on multi-sectoral engagement -- open and



free -- and with voluntary consensual engagement by all of its users. And certainly, Ambassador Kramer has been very effective and a forceful advocate for those base principles. And so, without further and further ado, I turn it over to Ambassador Kramer.

TERRY KRAMER: So Dean, listen, first of all, thank you very much. And let me thank not only Dean but ITI overall because, as Dean alluded to, multi-stakeholder governance is one of the key practices and approaches that we think is going to drive future success of the Internet and telecom sectors. And ITI has been engaged day one in facilitating a dialogue about what are some of the best positions, who do we engage with best on a global basis, and how we define success. So again, thank you very much for being a part of the whole effort that we've got going here.

Now, as all of you know, the conference was actually held December 3-14 in Dubai so it's been about a month since then. I think that month has given us a chance to reflect about what are the things we heard there, what were the successes, and, most importantly, where do we go from here. Because this ambition that we have to continue to see the success of the Internet and telecom sectors is part of a long game to ensure that environment allows for future success, not only here in the United States but abroad.

As you know, at the conference, there were several areas that we felt very positive about in terms of a lot of messages about the criticality of market liberalization, in terms of the criticality of Internet freedom, and preventing some of what we thought were very troublesome tax and transfer pricing of proposals on the Internet. And as you know, in aggregate 54 nations have said they are not going to sign the treaty or are considering their options, which, as you know, is a message that they don't like a lot of the provisions in the treaty.



These nations that formed in alignment not only included the United States but included most of Europe, included Japan, the Philippines, Costa Rica, Chile, Kenya, and also India -- so quite a few nations broadly.

As I mentioned, what I'd like to do in the next few minutes is share some of my own observations about the conference and some the next steps I think that my successors in government should be looking at going forward. Let me start out first of all with what I think were five areas of success because I view very much that this conference was a success in many areas. We didn't have all the things we wanted but certainly there are quite a few things that ended up being successes.

The first one is the importance and the ability we had to make a very strong message about the criticality of Internet freedom both from a human and an economic standpoint. Getting our messages clear, being able to point to areas of success, and, importantly, what is it that Internet freedom does for societies, for consumers, and for citizens globally we were able to achieve.

The second thing was we were able to hold off adverse proposals from a variety of nations including those from Russia, China, and a variety of Arab states. Those proposals put forward Internet governance models that we thought were objectionable and going to be effective in an environment where we have significant growth. And this had to do a lot with Internet naming and numbering, and proposals to have governments get into that activity and that responsibility, and, again, which were eliminated from the treaty.

The third area was the ITR's specifically talked about the criticality of private sector investment, about commercial traffic agreements, about competition, and about liberalization. So that is an explicit discussion that happened. And as all of you know, since 1988, the biggest change in the industry is markets have opened up. It's no coincidence that, as markets have opened up, the availability of key services has



become much greater in societies. It's generated economic growth. So we obviously feel very good about that public recognition of the criticality of market liberalization.

A fourth area that was a success to us is the strong case for multi-stakeholder governance -- that managing the technical issues and the governance issues in the Internet space specifically requires a multi-stakeholder model where you have agility of organizations, where you have technical competence of those organizations, and, importantly, you have an openness of those organizations to feedback from industry, from civil society, and from governments, but an open model there.

The last area I want to talk about as a specific success was the area of transparency. As you know, we raised a variety of concerns about the need for transparency with the ITU, about specifically proposals that various nations were making, and specifically about the press being able to hear what was being discussed. As you know, at the conference in Dubai, the press was allowed to cover the plenary sessions and proposals were made public. Is this the final state we should be? No. There needs to be more work done on transparency. But we thought this was a huge advance in terms of the practices.

One last area that I mention as a positive outcome for the conference was in the area of mobile roaming. A lot of nations talk about or are concerned about transparency, that making sure consumers know about mobile roaming rates, that they know about their usage, etc. And that was a key provision in the treaty.

So let me talk a little bit about what are some of the bottom line messages here and then I'll get into what I think that are the ~~so~~ <sup>what's</sup> of the forward actions for us. The first thing is, I think the conference really highlighted and crystallized the need for greater Internet access in infrastructure development. That was a clear message that is on everybody's minds, and that's a good issue to have on everybody's minds. I think,



more than almost any other activity, driving broadband availability will create economic opportunities globally.

A second issue that I think was highlighted is the importance of a free and open Internet. Now, not everybody's agreed to it, but a lot of countries in principle believe a free and open Internet creates a lot of advantages. And I think one of the messages that we need to keep advancing is the commercial benefit of the Internet. There are going to be countries that disagree with us on political issues that have got concerns about people communicating on the Internet. But I fundamentally believe that as the economic benefits become more and more clear, country to country to country, that carries its own strength in terms of positions. So I think there's a much clearer sense of what the issues are and what is needed more broadly.

Let me move into now a general discussion here about next steps. I'm going to start at a philosophical level and then I like to get into some specifics here. I think first of all our ability -- and I think the ITI's got a critical role and all of industry and civil society -- is to continue to foster the rollout of technology globally. If you look at how technology has an impact country to country to country, it creates its own unique benefits locally throughout the world. So coming from the mobile industry myself, looking at unique banking applications in Kenya, for example, M-PESA. If you look at unique content country to country to country, the benefits there. As time goes on, countries benefit from broader infrastructure availability, broader device availability, and, as I mentioned, customization market to market. Everything that we can do to support that growth will carry its way at the end of the day because people see that benefit and I believe will fundamentally argue less about the nuance of what the right policy and how should government be involved or not. It will carry its own strength there. And, again, we need to support that activity I believe on a global basis.

Let me talk about some specific areas I think now that flow from all of this. The first thing is I fundamentally believe that we need to be enhancing our engagement globally.



When you look at the sectors that this treaty dealt with, the Internet and the telecom sectors, these sectors fundamentally are global sectors. They create opportunities by being global in nature, by having scale, by customizing, but they require an engagement globally. So any discussion that the U.S. should not be engaging with the ITU I think will cause long-term problems. Are the issues we don't agree with the ITU in several things? Absolutely. But there's a lot of important work that's going on in the radio sector that I think is critical. There is a lot of important work in the development sector. I think we need to make sure that our dialogue continues on a global basis. Now I think a lot of that dialogue needs to be shifting over time to multi-stakeholder organizations and country to country discussions of engagement, but the engagement piece is going to be very critical.

We're going to need to work on several functional areas or topic areas. The first one is on Internet policy and governance. In fostering Internet governance through multi-stakeholder models is going to be a key priority, and I think we need to leverage more and more a variety of our partners throughout the world -- whether it be the EU, whether it be NATO -- and importantly support a variety of organizations in their own area of governance. So the IGF is an example or the Internet Society. The more and more we can see that those organizations have got full global outreach, that they have got capabilities that can enhance other governments, that they know the issues of dealing with cyber, etc. -- that will be very important.

I think one of the role models I'd say today in terms of outreach is ICANN which has done a lot of work in talking to a variety of nations setting up facilities globally and, importantly, listening throughout the world. That to me is a very important kind of a point of success and we need to see that in a variety of other organizations.

Another issue we should be focusing on is cybersecurity. There's absolutely no question that cybersecurity is a big issue -- getting bigger and bigger every day. We're going to need to advance what are the solutions there and identify the best



organizations. And, as I think about it, take nations in Africa as an example. I think about one of the regulators that I met in Tanzania who said, "Listen, I've got problems with hacking and malware here. Tell me where I should go to get this solved." And the more I think that we can really point to multi-stakeholder organizations that can provide a level of understanding and awareness and best practices on problems there will be helpful in helping them solve those problems.

In the case of policy, I was at a meeting yesterday and somebody made an important point which is that we can't get stuck with just talking about policy; we need to talk about operational issues -- how you create enhanced capabilities of organizations. So that, again, we don't have an environment where there's just one organization that's a solution like the ITU. So all of this area on cyber security I think is important.

A third issue area to be addressed going forward are issues about broadband and Internet access -- how can be helpful in stimulating broadband and Internet access. If you look at markets in Africa, as an example, or in Latin America, they are dealing with a variety these issues. If we were to advance a broadband 2.0 agenda that would talk about what are the best practices in opening a market up, in creating mobile spectrum awards, in creating private incentives and public-private partnerships for infrastructure builds, etc. But, again to my earlier point, it can't just be policy. It needs to be an operational roadmap that provides some sort of assistance in those areas.

Another area, in terms of issues, is engagement with global organizations. I alluded to this earlier, but we're going to need to have a focused plan about how we're going to be interacting with the ITU at a variety of the upcoming fora. The WTPF is coming up. WYSIS+10 is coming up. There is a variety of these efforts and I think for us now going forward to say, "Listen, here is the landscape we're in. These are the key strategic priorities we have globally." And then importantly, number three, what do we need to go do? What are the priorities here? How do we need to carry forward with these other



fora where these issues are going to be discussed. That to me is a very, very important activity.

So let me just say, in closing, that I feel there were several successes that came out of the WCIT. Again, a lot of the problematic commercial piece, to me, was dealt with. I'm feeling very good about. The issues about Internet naming and numbering -- having that put aside, very good outcome. Clarity about multi-stake stakeholder organizations and their role in the future -- I think that there are a lot of successes there.

But we've also gotten some very clear messages that there needs to be further engagement on global basis on broadband access, on cyber security. And we are viewed as leaders. People may not always agree with the United States. I don't think there's confusion on that. People don't all agree with us. But that doesn't mean people don't view us as leaders -- thought leaders; people who have a sense of what does success look like, a nation that's got resources and the ability to engage with other nations.

We need to take advantage of that leadership opportunity and that will create this better opportunity, this global wave of technology of the Internet will create its own successes with citizens, with consumers, and with society. So let me stop there and take any questions you may have.

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