



**STRATEGY MEETING ON  
CATALYZING REFORM OF  
TRADE NEGOTIATION PROCESSES**



# Outline

**Agenda**

**Results**

**Group activity**



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## Day 1

- 9:00 Recap
- 9:15 Sorting and prioritizing ideas
- 9:30 Discussion of ideas
- 10:45 Form self-directed groups to take ideas forward
- 11:45 Report back from self-directed groups
- 13:30 Strategic plan outlining
- 13:45 Discuss resources and outreach
- 14:00 Presentations on related initiatives
- 15:45 Drafting statement from meeting
- 16:45 Next steps and closing remarks





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## Idea Rating Sheets

- 66 ideas
- Tentatively grouped into four categories
- Some duplicates, to be determined
- 4 unsorted ideas that we can leave aside?



**Civil society funding,  
capacity building  
and coordination**

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**Advocacy and  
liaison with  
targets and allies**

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**Establishing new  
norms or practices  
for trade bodies**

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**Transparency**

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## Ideas to leave aside?

- It is possible that it lies beyond the competence of civil and academic actors alone...
- The negotiations should be conducted in an open and transparent manner...
- Focus on 2 or 3 discrete trade issues to maximize impact and preserve resources
- Protect Internet as public goods (commons) and access to Internet as public service





## Civil society funding, capacity building, coordination

- Popular ideas:
  - Funding for travel, capacity building, etc (x4)
  - Pool CS resources and develop common strategies to ensure effective/efficient engagement
- Unpopular ideas:
  - An open trade network: [multi-stakeholder body] to work towards transparent and participatory standards
  - Distribute ICANN funds ... to facilitate wider participation
  - Working group of NGOs willing to sign NDAs





## Advocacy and liaison with targets and allies

- Popular ideas:
  - Develop model negotiating texts
  - Provide regular training on the issues for officials and bodies
  - Create a platform to establish regular dialogue with negotiators
- Unpopular ideas:
  - Provide incentives like letters of support to government officials that side with the public interest
  - Work/infiltrate the UN and associated trade organizations
  - Rank trade negotiators





## Establishing new norms or practices for trade bodies

- Popular ideas:
  - Mount local legislative campaigns to subject advisory committees to FOIA, release drafts, set up citizen advisory bodies
  - Compile best national and international practices in trade negotiations and campaign to spread adoption
- Unpopular ideas:
  - Define a charter of digital rights that can be integrated in trade agreements (x2)
  - Constitutional challenge of fast-track and of the confidentiality rules of iTAC and USTR
  - Subject ratification of trade agreements to public referenda





## Transparency

- Popular ideas:
  - Make trade advisory boards subject to FOIA and end the special NDA access to text
  - Release consolidated texts after each negotiating round for public comment (x3)
- Unpopular ideas:
  - Open meeting presumption for trade negotiations - can be closed under strictly defined standards
  - Document bullying tactics





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## Self-directed groups

- Suggestion: one group for each category
- You may (but need not) switch groups once
- Useful things that you can do:
  - Eliminate duplicates
  - Prioritize ideas that people within the group are interested in helping achieve
  - For ideas that say “this is what we want to achieve”, brainstorm about “how”, “where”, “who”
  - Get ready to report back on your priorities

