

CSISAC Steering Committee Nomination

Nominee name: Tony Vetter, Global Connectivity Program, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)

Nominee type: Organization

Country: Canada

Main competence: Internet Governance; ICTs and the Environment

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Biography:

Global Connectivity at IISD is responsible for the delivery of IISD's program of work on how technology, in particular information and communications technology (ICT), is supporting and changing how we organize our governing systems, our economies, and our cultures in unprecedented ways. Much of our research over the past few years has been focused on Internet governance and its relevance to other global public policy domains, in particular international development and climate change. We are a recognized actor in the field of Internet governance; and in particular, we are leading on the issue of the relevance of Internet Governance to sustainable development. The Internet Governance Forum invited IISD to join the plenary session panel on the final day of the 2008 Forum in Hyderabad to present the connection between Internet governance and sustainable development, with attention to the different scenarios for the future of the internet and the need to look at Internet issues within the broader context of other global challenges, including poverty, conflict/security and climate change. The OECD also invited our associate Don MacLean to participate in the OECD Workshop on "ICTs and Environmental Challenges", May 2008, Copenhagen, Denmark where he spoke on "A framework for modelling ICT and environmental challenges using future scenarios". Our Director Heather Creech was also invited to speak on "Innovation and behavioural change" in the high-level OECD Conference: ICTs, the Environment and Climate Change, May 2009, Helsingør, Denmark.

Statement:

The IISD Global Connectivity team has noted that over the past two decades most bilateral and multilateral agencies have tended to approach ICTs as a tool and support for existing in-country development challenges (health, education, environment, enterprise development). In so doing, many such agencies have overlooked both the vulnerabilities of the Internet and ways that the Internet can more directly support sustainable development objectives globally. As such, we have been quite encouraged by the renewed interest in the Internet economy by

OECD countries, as demonstrated in the 2008 Ministerial meeting on the Future of the Internet Economy organized by the OECD Information, Computer and Communications Policy (ICCP) Committee. The IISD Global Connectivity team also applauds the founding of CSISAC for creating a critical space for environment and development interventions by civil society on the policy work of the OECD ICCP. Through our work on information society and sustainability issues, IISD has partnered with many of the existing CSISAC members and looks forward to the opportunity to continue working within this group of ground-breaking civil society organizations and individuals.

There is a growing anomaly in the international community, that as the bilateral development assistance agencies change, downscale or eliminate their ICT4D programming, other government agencies are paying significantly greater attention to the Internet and its related technologies, its central role in the economy, and the potential for such technologies in environmental management, through wireless sensor networks, Smart grids and other applications. They are also cognizant of the need to ensure that the South is not marginalized as investments increase and the infrastructure advances. The IISD Global Connectivity team therefore believes it will be important to ensure the work of the OECD ICCP is connected back to that of the OECD's Development Assistance Committee (DAC). It is our position that the bilateral and multilaterals should pay careful attention to Internet governance, and the potential for such technologies in environmental management, and should provide assistance in policy analysis to countries with limited capacity to influence the management of the Internet and related technologies as a shared global infrastructure and knowledge base.