The Government of Egypt represented by the National Telecom Regulatory Authority (NTRA) welcomes the opportunity to submit input to the Consultations on paragraph 93(a) of the <u>Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation</u> and thanks the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, and the <u>Internet Governance Forum</u> (IGF) Secretariat, and for consulting with Member States and stakeholders on the way forward.

The NTRA supports creating a strategic and empowered Multi-stakeholder High-Level Body (MHLB) as an integral part of the IGF architecture. The MHLB should work towards a reinforced and full implementation of IGF mandate as set out in Tunis Agenda and as reaffirmed by UNGA. The MHLB should strive to bridge current gaps as a matter of priority, provide strategic leadership to the IGF work. It should perform its function transparently, and have a clear accountability framework that is consistent with its purpose, and strengthens IGF pivotal role.

Furthermore, MHLB should relay IGF outcomes to relevant decision-making venues, and channel relevant strategic input from other fora to the IGF work. It should coordinate follow-up actions, address urgent and pressing priorities and strengthen meaningful inclusion of underrepresented actors, particularly that of governments from the Global South— a key stakeholder with which the IGF traction warrants prioritized remedy. The MHLB should also advise the UNSG on strategic issues pertinent to the IGF and contribute to identifying any further gaps that need to be addressed to fulfill the IGF mandate.

The MHLB should be an independent component of the IGF architecture. It should have close coordination with the MAG, while having a distinct role and separate responsibilities that do not overlap with those of the MAG. It should have the flexibility to perform its role, and be empowered to provide strategic leadership for the IGF work.

The MHLB membership should be high level, with expertise relevant to urgent priority areas, concise enough in number that it allows for the required practical effectiveness, but large enough for it to capture the critically needed balanced representation. Its membership composition, rotation, and organization of work should build on relevant experience and best practice of MAG and other similar high-level bodies. The MHLB should be appointed by the UNSG through a simple, clear, and accountable composition process, guided by the IGF mandate as set out by WSIS outcomes.

The work of the MHLB should be supported by the IGF secretariat, which needs to be further strengthened and well-resourced. Innovative approaches should be explored in mobilizing additional secretarial resources on a needs basis.

In conclusion, NTRA re-iterates its support to a strengthened IGF through moving to action on the implementation of paragraph 93(a) of the <u>Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital</u> <u>Cooperation</u>.