

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

Statement of Rep. Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Member, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Hearing on “Fighting for Internet Freedom: Dubai and Beyond”
Subcommittee on Communications and Technology
February 5, 2013

Thank you, Chairman Walden, for holding this joint hearing on the outcomes of the World Conference on International Telecommunications, which took place last December in Dubai. First and foremost, I want to commend the tireless work of our talented U.S. delegation led by Ambassadors Phil Verveer and Terry Kramer, including the invaluable contributions made by staff at NTIA and the FCC under the direction of Assistant Secretary Larry Strickling and Chairman Genachowski.

We are all disappointed that the WCIT produced a treaty that seeks an expansion of governmental control into Internet governance instead of recognizing the success of the existing multi-stakeholder approach. But we must also recognize our U.S. delegation for the positive aspects of the treaty on which we were able to reach consensus with other member states. That work and dialogue with other nations must continue.

I am pleased that Congress, through bipartisan efforts initiated in the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, was able to pass a unanimous resolution last year reaffirming our commitment to the multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance and a global open Internet.

We stood shoulder to shoulder in support of the Administration because we agree that regardless of our domestic disagreements on the best ways to achieve our shared vision of Internet openness, these differences stop at the water's edge.

Today we will examine the path forward to build upon and strengthen the coalition of countries that stood together in Dubai. We need to work – in close coordination with our allies – to ensure that the Internet remains a tool for the global dissemination of ideas, information, and commerce. I look forward to hearing from our expert panel of witnesses.

Thank you.