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NOTE AND RETURN		NOTER ET RETOURNER
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world summit
on the information society
Geneva 2003 - Tunis 2005

MM → RC



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MAR 11 2004
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE
OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

10 March 2004

Mr. Kofi Annan
Secretary-General
United Nations
UN Headquarters
New York

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Subject: WSIS Follow-up on Internet Governance

*seen by SG
no need for
SG to see me
for reply
B/F for meeting
w/ principals on
WSIS.
mh
12/3*

Dear Mr. Annan,

I would like to thank you for your letter of 12 February 2004 in which you informed me of your follow-up plans related to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

With regard to WSIS follow-up activities on Internet governance, I have noted with appreciation your plans to establish a small secretariat in Geneva composed of experts seconded from the various concerned agencies. In this respect, the ITU would like to second one of our officials who is an expert in this domain to be part of the secretariat. I agree with your statement that an individual who commands respect and enjoys the confidence of stakeholders should lead this secretariat.

In this regard, and further to the comments in my letter of 9 February, I would like to offer some reflections with regard to the selection of the Chair of the Working Group on Internet Governance:

- The individual should be a respected senior level figure who has extensive diplomatic and mediation skills, preferably not identified with any country taking a strong position during the WSIS Internet governance negotiations;
- The individual should have an extensive background in both the information technology and telecommunication industries, as well as an understanding of the historical origin and likely evolution of these industries;
- The individual should have a deep understanding of the significance of the Internet for developing economies and the necessity to frame overarching goals and principles as well as any institutional arrangements in a way that addresses the needs and interests of both developed and developing economies;

*Log
24.02.04*

RC → HSB

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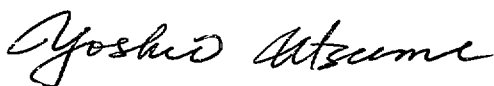
- The individual should have an understanding of the significance of the ongoing convergence between telecommunications, broadcasting, multimedia, and information and communication technologies and the challenges these pose for government policy makers at both national and international levels.

With respect to the above criteria, I would like to put forward for your consideration as a potential Chair for the Working Group on Internet Governance the name of Mr. Shyamal Ghosh, the Administrator of the Universal Fund, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, India, since I found him to be one of the best possible candidates you may be seeking.

Mr. Ghosh has had an extensive and distinguished career in both the information technology and telecommunications industries¹. He recently retired as Chairman of the Telecom Commission and Secretary, Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, India. He also acted as Secretary, Department of Electronics, where he was in charge of formulating policy for promoting India's information technology-related matters as well as leading India's delegations for the promotion of their IT industry to other countries. With regard to development issues, Mr. Ghosh led the Indian delegation to the quadrennial World Telecommunication Development Conference in Istanbul in 2002 where he was elected as Vice-Chairman of the Conference. He also led India's delegation to the WSIS preparatory Committee meeting in Geneva in 2002. Finally, Mr. Ghosh recently very successfully chaired the ITU's workshop on Internet Governance² held in February 2004 and was widely respected for his neutral and balanced chairmanship of the meeting³. Furthermore, during the whole Summit process India did not take a strong position on this particular issue.

Again, I would like once again to express my sincere thanks to you for your trust and your support to ITU for our work on behalf of the WSIS.

Yours sincerely,



Yoshio UTSUMI
Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union

¹ Mr. Ghosh's biography can be found at <http://www.itu.int/osg/spu/forum/intgov04/bios/ghosh-bio.html>
² <http://www.itu.int/osg/spu/forum/intgov04/index.html>

³ Audio archive of Mr. Ghosh's closing remarks are available at <rtsp://ibs.itu.int/Archives/sg/spu/B-20040227-1400-fl.rm?start=3:52:53>