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## MALTA – SALINA BAY CONCLUSIONS

The participants at the International Conference on Multistakeholder Diplomacy, held in Malta between the 11<sup>th</sup> and the 13<sup>th</sup> of February 2005:

1. emphasised the value of the multistakeholder approach and the need to raise **awareness** about the positive results of organisations that already use a multistakeholder approach in their work;
2. promoted **understanding of processes** that support successful multistakeholder partnership and **highlighted lessons learned, including obstacles**, in developing the partnership;
3. encouraged efforts to place on the **agenda** of governments and intergovernmental organisations issues on which non-state actors believe debate and action is needed;
4. shared the conviction that the involvement of all stakeholders is **not intended to replace, but to complement and broaden, traditional international relations** conducted by sovereign states;
5. suggested that the **training of diplomats** should itself adopt a multistakeholder approach in order to enable them to react promptly and effectively to the dynamics of the global environment, and to interact with non-state actors including NGOs, the business sector, civil society, and international organisations;
6. promoted the adoption of **issue-based approaches** to facilitate easier exchange of ideas and co-operation among various stakeholders based on their concrete issues of concern or interest;
7. highlighted the importance of the multistakeholder approach as a **channel for vertical communication among different layers** of decision-making and implementation (local-national-regional-global);

8. understood that non-state stakeholders should themselves permanently change the **geometry of their participation** in international conferences and in related preparatory processes;
9. agreed that the multistakeholder approach has the potential to revitalise **democracy**;
10. believed that pragmatic and action-oriented multistakeholder coalitions should base their work on their **comparative advantages** in terms of expertise, networking resources, grass-root connections, financing, and other resources;
11. invited all stakeholders to use their creativity and resources to establish **new forms of dialogue and partnership** among themselves, beyond the traditional intergovernmental framework, even after the end of the WSIS process, to ensure that the objectives of the Information Society will continue to be on their active agendas;
12. recommended strongly the introduction of a **multistakeholder follow-up process to WSIS**, building on the lessons and methodologies of the WGIG;
13. invited governments that have not yet done so to introduce **Multistakeholder National Information Society Dialogues** as they pledged in the Geneva WSIS Plan of Action (¶ C1 8b). Participants to the Malta Conference, therefore, invite all governments to establish, before the second phase of WSIS in Tunis, national multistakeholder Information Society frameworks in order to provide *fora* for debating policy issues and promoting partnerships.

Salina Bay - Malta, 13<sup>th</sup> February 2005

Conference website: <http://www.diplomacy.edu/Conferences/MSD/>

The Salina Bay Conclusions were an official statement delivered by Ambassador Saviour F. Borg, Permanent Representative of Malta to the United Nations in Geneva, during the PrepCom 2 Plenary of the World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva, 24 February 2005).