League of Arab States (LAS)

League of Arab States
Economic Department
Division of Basic Services Sectors
Council of Arab Ministers of Communications and Information

Arab States Proposals
For the Draft Declaration of Principles, and
The Draft Action Plan
For
The World Summit on the Information Society

(Documents DT/1 and DT/2)

(Draft No. 0)

I. Draft Declaration of Principles:

Section I

1. After para. 6, **add** a new paragraph as follows:

"**We reaffirm,** in our efforts to achieve transformation to an information society, that such transformation shall not in any way detract from the moral, social or religious values of any society."

2. At the end of the first paragraph under 10, **Add** :

"without prejudice to the requirements of public security, public morality and the rights and basic freedoms of others."

The revised paragraph would read as follows:

"- The respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. Notably the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including the right to hold opinions without interference and seek to, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers in accordance with article 19 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to unhindered access by individuals to communication media and information sources, without prejudice to the requirements of public security, public morality and the rights and basic freedoms of others."

Section II: Observers' contributions to the Declaration of Principles

3. In the second paragraph under [10] on page 8 of the English text, **replace** the word "accepting" by "protecting" so that the paragraph would read as follows:

- " While <u>protecting</u>, preserving and enforcing by all possible legal, technical and regulatory means the religious, cultural and linguistic identities and patrimonies of the various peoples of the world, respecting their diversity with a spirit of tolerance."

4. **Amend** the twelfth paragraph under [10] on page 8 of the English text which reads as follows:

- "The right to participate in the communication and information process in conformity with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and without any obstacle to freedom of expression, and press freedom, as well as the right to access, create and disseminate information, without any kind of censorship, should be considered basic human right."

to read as follows:

- "The right to participate in the communication and information process in conformity with article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and without any obstacle to freedom of expression, and press freedom, as well as the right to access, create and disseminate information, <u>without prejudice to the requirements of public morality and public health</u>, should be considered basic human right."

II. Draft Action Plan

Section I

A. *List of Issues*

3. At the end of the first item **add:**
"and especially the use of satellite and wireless technologies".
The new text should read as follows:

" - To utilize existing and new technologies to provide connectivity to all, <u>and especially the use of satellite and wireless technologies.</u>"

13. Access to public domain information

Add the following items to the present text:

- Information in the public domain should be available in electronic form. Access to public data bases (such as library resources) should be available to all, including those with special needs.

- Multilingual domain names: It is important to develop and disseminate multilingual domain names in order to overcome language barriers to the access to the internet.

- Electronic payment: Means of electronic payment should be provided to facilitate access to local and international content that is not available free of charge.

-Harmonization of access strategies: Providers of access and content should coordinate their strategies with a view to integrate global and local contents in order to facilitate universal access and avoid creation of complex isolated islands.

21. ICT's in education

Add the following item:

- Linking education and research networks of the developing countries with those of the developed countries should be strengthened through appropriate infrastructure.

22. Capacity building for ICT use:

Add the following item:

- UN programmes that assist in capacity building, such as the United Nations Volunteers Programme, should be activated in the area of capacity building for development programmes in all development countries.

25. Information Security:

Add the following item:

-Developing the required framework for the implementation of electronic signatures.

33. **Internet governance:**

Our preference is for an intergovernmental organisation, so that the paragraph would read as follows:

"Internet governance: A transparent and democratic governance of the Internet shall constitute the basis for the development of a global culture of cyber-security. An intergovernmental organisation should ensure multilateral, democratic and transparent management of root servers, domain names and Internet Protocol (IP) address assignment."

37. **E-Business**

Add "developing of data bases" to the text of the first item, so that it would read as follows:

- "Through the adoption of an enabling environment and based on a widely-available broadband infrastructure, Governments should seek to stimulate private investment, <u>developing of data bases,</u> new applications and content and foster public - private partnerships."

38. **E-Learning**

In the first item**, Add "**elimination of illiteracy" so that the text would read as follows:

- "E-Learning should contribute to achieving <u>the elimination of illiteracy,</u> universal primary education worldwide through better delivery of education and better training of teachers, and to offer improved conditions for lifelong learning, encompassing people that are outside the "normal" education process, and for improving professional skills."

39. **E-health**

Add a new item that reads as follows:
"Electronic e-education applications should be developed to provide continuing training for medical doctors."

9) Identifying and overcoming barriers to the achievement of the Information Society with a human perspective

Add the following items:

"- Support proposals for enhancing the ITU role as a source of knowledge and experience and as a catalyst in providing ICT's for all, in the application of ICT"s for development, and in increasing the reliability and security in the application of ICT's .

- Support studies of national, regional and international challenges and needs for an information society.

- Enhance electronic awareness through special programmes that focus on the benefits of ICT's for the society and through the public media."

54. International Cooperation

At the end of the first item **add** the following,
"to support regional pilot projects" so that the sentence should read as follows:

"To this end, advantage shall be taken of the opportunities offered by regional financial institutions and the UN Regional Commissions <u>to support regional pilot projects</u>."

57.Indicators

Add the following at the end of the paragraph:
"ICT benchmarks and indicators should be reviewed in the light of the conditions prevailing in developing countries."