

## Republic of Korea

### [General Comments]

- **Overview**

The government of the Republic of Korea sincerely hopes that the WSIS provides the international communities with an opportunity to build the inclusive and people-centered information society, where all people are empowered to freely create, share and utilize information and communication technology.

We expect that the documents to be adapted in the forthcoming WSIS play a major role in guiding the international community to a desirable information society.

We are of the view that the Declaration should be composed in a concise and clear-cut manner to elucidate the bedrock principles of the information society. The Plan of Action should enumerate the detailed plans required to implement the objectives outlined in the Declaration. Above all, it is essential for both documents to be coherent and consistent.

- **Declaration**

The main purpose of the Declaration is to convey a message about the international community's vision and its commitment towards the development of information society in a succinct and persuasive manner.

The current draft lacks a forceful message since it retains an overall characteristic of outline of each item contained in the Plan of Action, making it lengthy and providing rather explanatory contents. The overarching lack of a forceful message in the content could weaken the overall purpose in drafting the Declaration.

Mere listing of each item contained in the Plan of Action must be avoided when drafting the Declaration. Instead, the focus should be centered on the commitment of the international society to achieve the objectives contained in both the vision and philosophy of information society.

- **Plan of Action**

It is necessary for the Plan of Action to lay out more action-oriented content geared toward implementation and improve the overall structure to make it contain feasible and coherent characteristics.

The Plan of Action contains all the necessary items even though sometimes with repetition, but the problem of the appropriateness in the selection of the sub-titles as well as the need to improve both the content and organization of the document, should be addressed.

## **[Specific Comments]**

- **Comments on the Draft Declaration**

- **Section I B. Common Vision of the Information Society**

- reformulate paragraphs 7,8,9 as follows:

- “The information society that we seek to build is what is inclusive, people-centered, and a new and highly developed form of society. The information society with highly-developed ICT networks and desirable and ubiquitous*

*access to information and knowledge must enable all the people to achieve their full potential, promote sustainable economic and social development, improve quality of life, and eradicate poverty and hunger.”*

■ **Section I C. 2) Access to information and knowledge**

○ make paragraph 26. ‘Information flows’ more substantial and clear, or delete

■ **Section I C. 3) The role of governments, the business sector and civil society in the promotion of ICTs for development**

○ relocate paragraph 29 after paragraph 46 under Section 1 C 7)

■ **Section I C. 5) Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs**

○ relocate paragraph 37 under Section 1 C 10) International and Regional Cooperation

■ **Section I C. 6) Enabling Environment**

○ delete paragraph 43 or paragraph 32 on the Plan of Action, since they are the same

• **Comments on the Draft Plan of Action**

■ **Section I A List of Issues**

○ modify paragraph 32 as follows:

*“Consumer protection: Offering widespread advantages to consumers who access information and knowledge through ICTs, and reducing significant risks without destroying the advantages are essential in building the Information Society. There is a real consumer fear concerning the loss of privacy, the fraudulent practices and the protection of minors.*

*- The confidentiality of personal information should be preserved,*

- *Fraud, misrepresentation and unfairness by suppliers should be avoided,*
- *Damages caused by failure to perform and defective products should be recovered,*
- *Illegal and harmful content should not be created and supplied.”*

O modify ADR on the paragraph 29 more substantial or make a new paragraph for ADR after paragraph 32 as follows:

*“Establishing an effective dispute settlement system: Building trust for the development of the Information Society is essential. Alternative Dispute Resolution(ADR) should be considered along with normal judicial proceeding, so that ICT users can effectively and promptly resolve the disputes.*

*ADR should be based on independence, fairness and transparency in consideration of users’ affordability, accessibility and the principle of settling the disputes between the parties concerned.”*