

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Comments Of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on Draft Declaration of Principles

Document WSIS03/PCIP/DT/4(REV.3)-E, 18 JULY 2003
(Based on discussions at the WSIS inter-sessional)

1. Article 3

We recall our common resolve as reflected in the Millennium Declaration to promote democracy, [good]/~~accountable and transparent~~ governance, the rule of law and respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development as an integral part of human rights[, and to uphold the sovereign equality of all States, and respect their territorial integrity and political independence]. We reiterate our commitment to the attainment of ~~internationally agreed development goals~~, including those goals contained in the Millennium Declaration]/~~the Millennium Development Goals~~, sustainable development and recognize the development challenges posed by the digital divide. **We are fully aware** that our individual and collective ability to create and share knowledge, through intensive use of ICTs and mechanisms of digital participation is a driving force in shaping our future, and declare that concrete action and global commitment are now required. to ensure that these rapidly developing technologies accelerate the attainment of [internationally-agreed development goals].

2-Article 5.

~~We are fully aware that our individual and collective ability to create and share knowledge, through intensive use of ICTs and mechanisms of digital participation is a driving force in shaping our future, and declare that concrete action and global commitment are now required; to ensure that these rapidly developing technologies accelerate the attainment of [internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration]/[the Millennium Development Goals].~~

Comment:-

To avoid repetition the text from point 5 has been combined with point 3 above.

3- Article 7B

The information society should be based on [ethics ~~and~~ and moral values and human rights]-and should be an environment where dignity of humankind is comprehensively respected and fostered.

The role of governments, the business sector and civil society [and UN and other [public] international organisations] in the promotion of ICTs for development

The information society creates an environment where all national sovereignties, religious, cultural, social and linguistic interests without any discrimination are respected and protected.

4-Article 27 and its leading title

27. All stakeholders - governments, private sector and civil society organizations as well as UN and other international organizations – have an important role and responsibility in the development of the Information Society and should be fully involved and engaged in decision-making processes at local, national, regional and international levels. UN and other international organisations must mainstream the use of ICTs in their work programmes. [The Internet has evolved into a global public ~~[good]/[infrastructure]/[resource]~~ and its governance should constitute a core issue of the Information Society agenda.] Building a people-centred Information Society is a joint effort of all stakeholders and requires cooperation and partnership between all parties.

5-Article 11.

The Information Society can help to respond to the additional development challenges posed by the digital divide and help to achieve ~~[the Millennium Development Goals]/[internationally-agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration][of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger; achieving universal primary education; promoting gender equality and empowering women; reducing child mortality; improving maternal health; combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development.]~~¹

6-Article 17.

Connectivity is a central enabling agent in building the Information Society. Universal, ubiquitous and affordable access to ICT infrastructure and services, [including access to [electrical](#) power, broadcasting and postal services,]² constitutes one of the primary challenges of the Information Society and must be an objective of all stakeholders involved in building it, in conformity with the domestic legislation of each country.

7- Article 44

~~[The international management of the Internet should be democratic, multilateral, transparent and participative with the full involvement of the governments, international organisations, private sector and civil society. This management should encompass both technical and policy issues. While recognizing that the private sector has an important role in the development of the Internet at the technical level, and will continue to take a lead role, the fast development of Internet as the basis of information society requires that governments, take a lead role, in partnership with all other~~

¹ Text reinserted at the request of Mexico.

² Text incorporating elements proposed by several different observers/UPU, EBU and Ecurie Maloba.

~~stakeholders, in developing and coordinating policies of the public interests related to stability, security, competition, freedom of use, protection of individual rights and privacy, sovereignty, and equal access for all, among all the other aspects, through appropriate [intergovernmental/international] organisations.]³~~

alternative text 1 for 44 [Internet governance must be multilateral, democratic and transparent, taking into account the needs of the public and private sectors as well as those of the civil society, and respecting multilingualism. The coordination responsibility for root servers, domain names, and Internet Protocol (IP) address assignment should rest with a suitable international, inter-governmental organization. The policy authority for country code top-level-domain names (ccTLDs) should be the sovereign right of countries.]⁴

~~*alternative text 2 for 44* [The international management of the Internet should be democratic, multilateral and transparent. It should secure a fair distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet. It should respect geographical diversity and ensure representativeness through the participation of all interested States, including public authorities with competence in this field, of civil society and the private sector, with due respect to their legitimate interests].⁵~~

Comments:-

Saudi Arabia believes that the text in Alternative 1 is the best for the international community. Since the internet is a global resource, many countries investment in it and these investments should not be subject to undue risk. . It is critical that the overall coordination of root servers, domain names and Internet Protocol must be the responsibility of an inter-governmental organization whereas, the policy for country code top-level-domain names (TLDs) must be the responsibility of each individual country.

³ Text proposed by the drafting group on Internet management.

⁴ Original text from 21 March document, supported by Saudi Arabia.

⁵ Text proposed by EU.