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| **Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues Fifteenth meeting – Virtual meeting, 27-28 January 2021** |  |
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|  | **Document CWG-Internet-15/5-E** |
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**Contribution by the Russian Federation**

PROPOSAL TO CWG-INTERNET OPEN CONSULTATIONS ON

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the digitalization of all aspects of the economic and social life of society. Internet connectivity and services have become a critical part of the life of both an individual state and the entire international community. However, there is not open and transparent Internet governance system, resulting in the emergence of national and regional regulatory initiatives that lead to Internet fragmentation.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, speaking in video format at the 2020 Nobel Prize Forum, noted: “The erosion of the nuclear disarmament regime and the lawless frontiers of cyberspace are just two areas that could produce a full-blown global emergency within the next decade”[[1]](#footnote-1).

The Russian Federation has repeatedly expressed concern about the lack of a independent global governance system for management, development and security of the Internet network and critical infrastructure and the dependence of the critical infrastructure on the decisions of one national administration.

The Russian Federation proposes to hold the following open consultations with all stakeholders on the topic “The current status of the global governance system for management and development Internet resource, including Internet domain names and addresses and critical Internet infrastructure and possible ways to overcome the challenges associated with dependence on the decisions of one national administration for further building an independent, democratic and equidistant from all states Internet governance system”.

* How do you assess the status of the global governance system for management and development Internet resource, including Internet domain names, addresses, and critical Internet infrastructure? Are there risks associated with dependence on the decisions of one national administration?
* What challenges exist in the global governance system for management and development Internet resource, including Internet domain names, addresses, and critical Internet infrastructure?
* Is there a need for development and modernization global Internet governance system? What development ways can be proposed and what international initiatives can be launched?

1. <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-12-11/secretary-generals-video-message-the-nobel-peace-prize-forum> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)