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Japan

Comments and proposals for Chapter Three Japan

The WGIG has compiled a report on the formidable topic of Internet governance after due deliberations in a transparent manner by a well-balanced membership. Japan applauds the hard work and achievements of WGIG Chairman Nitin Desai as well as the WGIG members, Executive Coordinator Markus Kummer and the staff. Japan welcomes this report as the basis for discussion in the WSIS process.

Secure and stable use of the Internet must be assured. Alongside rapid technological innovation and market development —the development of broadband particularly in Japan is noteworthy — Japan considers that it is important to acknowledge the new global issues that continue to emerge, such as spam, security and cyber crime, Intellectual Property Rights, freedom of expression, privacy, and capacity building among others. Sharing information on best practices and other measures, and finding the right way to address these issues are of importance.

Japan applauds the conclusion in the report that the working definition of Internet governance includes not only issues related to Internet names and addresses dealt with by ICANN, but also includes other significant public policy issues. Japan also recognizes the value of the report identifying public policy issues relevant to Internet governance based on this definition and making recommendations to address these issues.

The report also mentioned, “the WGIG identified a vacuum within the context of existing structures, since there is no global multi-stakeholder forum to address Internet-related public policy issues. It came to the conclusion that there would be merit in creating such a space for dialogue among all stakeholders.” As Japan thinks it is necessary to continue the momentum of global dialogue, it would be worth considering the creation of such a space.

In association with this, Japan would like to express our awareness that existing international organizations, such as ITU, OECD, WIPO, UNESCO and the UN, have played vital roles up to this stage regarding various Internet-related issues in keeping with their respective missions, and that it is important they continue to fulfill these missions in the future.

Accordingly, while Japan believes that attention should be paid to avoid duplicating the activities of these existing institutions, it is necessary to discuss

the creation of a forum that engages in high-level dialogue on a broad spectrum of issues through multi-stakeholder participation.

With respect to “global public policy and oversight,” Japan recognizes that all four models reported in WGIG are suggestive and satisfy the WSIS principle: “multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations.”

Regarding the governance mechanism of Internet resources, there has to be recognition of the following:

- that the private sector has played the leading role in successfully expanding the business aspects of the Internet;
- that the Internet is now a vital infrastructure and must be operated with increased stability and reliability;
- that it is necessary to give priority to protecting Internet users now and in the future; and
- that feasible mechanisms must be put in place capable of addressing issues promptly and effectively, and that do not inhibit rapid technological innovation.

Finally, in light of having examined the future development of the Internet from wide-ranging views on a worldwide level, WSIS will come to be recognized as a historically well-timed, epoch-making, and very significant event. Toward this end as well, Japan hopes for constructive, future-oriented talks to ensure the success of the WSIS Tunis phase.