

Republic of Korea

COMMENTS ON THE REPORT OF THE WGIG

Korea welcomes the WGIG report as the basis for the further discussion in the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society.

Korea would like to congratulate Mr. Nitin Desai, Chairman of the Working Group on Internet Governance, Mr. Markus Kummer, Executive Coordinator, and all members from the governments, private sector, academia and civil society for their dedicated work.

As the WGIG report notes, we agree that Internet is a central element of the infrastructure of the emerging information society, while recognizing that there are differing views on the suitability of current institutions and mechanisms for managing processes and developing policies for the global Internet.

We recognize that WGIG provides proposals to improve current Internet governance arrangements at the opportune moment and sets priority affecting the global Internet governance for the Tunis Phase of WSIS discussions and future actions.

We agree to the WGIG's definition of Internet governance, which ensures the participation from the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, for the development and application of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that shape the

evolution and use of the Internet.

In principle, we support the idea of creating a global forum for dialogue among all stakeholders such as governments, the private sector and civil society to address problems linked to Internet governance, including spam and cybercrime. We hope that the forum would be held on a regular basis to cope with issues of the rapidly changing Internet.

Although WGIG was unable to agree on a single model for the Internet governance, we believe that the recommendation of four Internet governance mechanism models by WGIG is a meaningful step for further discussions on the global Internet public policy coordination. No matter what mechanism of name and address administration is decided, the stability and security of the DNS infrastructure should be the most critical criterion when making the decision in order to ensure the benefit of the global Internet community.

We note WGIG Report in its outcome is in line with the WSIS Declaration of Principles, which advocates multilateralism, transparency, democracy and the involvement of multi-stakeholders. Having said that, we would like to lay a special emphasis on the legitimate public policy and sovereignty concerns with respect to the management of ccTLDs. We recognize that ccTLD associated with a particular country is the national resource of the given country and important to the country's future social and economic development.

WGIG report places the highest priority on such public policy issues as meaningful participation in global policy development, capacity building, multilingualism, interconnection cost, cybercrime, spam, and etc. With regard to these public policy issues, we would like to make a few comments.

In global policy development and capacity building, we encourage the contribution of developed countries in helping developing countries improve their participation and make their voice heard as well as build more capacity to understand ongoing issues of Internet governance. We would like to recognize the importance of promoting virtual meetings by using ICTs and other technologies to allow participants from developing countries.

In association with capacity building, as WGIG report identifies, we should develop some support tools or systems for the creation of multilingual content, and we believe that the multilingualization of local content will facilitate the development of local internet community and increase the use of Internet in general.

With respect to the interconnection cost, we attach importance to the alternative solutions for the countries that pay the full cost of the international circuits, and we are in favor of the development of regional IP backbones and the establishment of local and regional access points in order to lower the access prices of the developing countries. Moreover, these efforts will also contribute to bridging the digital divides among the developing and under-developed countries.

Regarding the Intellectual Property Right, there is a challenge for striking a balance between creating the incentives to innovate and enabling the use and dissemination of information by individuals and groups across the Internet. In order to find a solution to this challenge, we need to focus on measures to give easier access to knowledge, especially for developing countries and non-commercial users through the effective cooperation between developed and developing countries.

Once again Korea would like to warmly thank all those who have

contributed to the WGIG and we sincerely hope that the Tunis Phase of WSIS will be a milestone for the future development of information society.