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## **Number Resource Organization**



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H. E. Mr. Masood Khan  
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Dear Ambassador Khan,

Re: your paper, "Food for Thought"<sup>1</sup>

We, the Number Resource Organization (NRO), have participated actively in the WSIS and WGIG processes, since early in Phase I of the summit. We have provided numerous inputs to these processes, and intend to contribute through the rest of Phase II, and beyond, in our efforts to support the development of the Internet as a global enabler of human development.

Senior members of the NRO are unfortunately unable to attend the consultation meeting on 6 September, however we wish to make the following brief comments in response to your paper. We kindly request that these be relayed to the meeting on September 6, as our contribution to that forum.

Regarding IP addressing, we wish to stress once again the central role played by formal open processes in the development and implementation of IP addressing policies, at the regional and global levels. These processes are undertaken by the Regional Internet Registries through regular regional open policy meetings, by the Address Supporting Organization through the activities of the Address Council, and by ICANN through its own well-defined processes. These processes are designed precisely to allow address management policy and related procedures to evolve with the changing Internet operational environment, and with changes in policy priorities of the broader community. If it is felt by any parties that equitable access to IPv6 resources is not currently being achieved, or that this access can be improved, then such issues are readily able to be raised and considered through the various existing mechanisms. While discussions may of course occur in other fora, the most direct and

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<sup>1</sup> We refer to the paper 'Draft "Food for Thought" for the informal consultations on Internet Governance' available at <http://www.itu.int/wsis/docs2/pc3/consultations/6sep/food-for-thought.pdf>

effective means to achieve progressive change in the current system is through these existing consensus-based processes.

Regarding IPv6, we welcome the focus of WGIG and your paper on IPv6 as a critical area of future development of the Internet. In fact, the NRO and the RIRs individually have all taken active roles in the promotion of IPv6 deployment, through information, training and service activities. Such activities, undertaken on request of our respective communities, are well documented on our websites.

Regarding the role of Governments in ICANN (and therefore directly or indirectly in the activities of the NRO and of the RIRs), we wish to stress again the openness of current policy development processes, and the willingness of current stakeholders to engage and liaise with all others including Governments. However we also wish to stress that the essential nature of our activities and organisations is self-regulatory, and that the outcomes of those processes are expressions not of our own specific service organisations but of the Internet community itself. The development of the Internet over the past 2 decades is inseparable from the trend during that same time of progressive deregulation of telecommunications infrastructures, in which the role of Governments has been increasingly light-handed. This is not to say that Governments have no role, but indeed quite the contrary, that the role that is undertaken by Governments should reflect a profile as a stakeholder and participant rather than a top-down regulator of Internet development.

Finally, we wish to stress that the NRO, as a global representative of the Regional Internet Registries, exists independently from ICANN, and as a peer of ICANN in specific joint activities. We have ourselves strongly supported the ongoing evolution of ICANN, and urged in particular that ICANN's special relationships with the US government be brought to an end, according to a specific schedule, and in an open and transparent manner.

We wish you every success with the coming meeting on 6 September.

Yours faithfully,

the NRO Executive Council, comprising:

Axel Pawlik (Chair), Managing Director, RIPE NCC;  
Raul Echeberria (Secretary), General Manager, LACNIC;  
Ray Plzak (Treasurer), President and CEO, ARIN;  
Adiel Akplogan, General Manager, AfriNIC;  
Paul Wilson, Director General, APNIC.