

Memorandum
of the round table NGO on the Formation of Internet Governance Policy
March 28, 2005, Russia, Moscow

The present Memorandum represents a position of the participants of a round table NGO on the Formation of an Internet Governance Policy on the key issues examined by the Working Group of Internet Governance and designated in its Preliminary Report (WSIS-II/PC-2/DOC/5-R).

i) Issues relating to infrastructural issues and the management of critical Internet resources...

Participants of the round table note that the existing state of affairs in the field of an infrastructural issues and the management of critical Internet resources as a whole does not cause any essential fears or problems. In this regard, participants to the round table believe it reasonable to maintain the status quo in the given area.

Formation of domain names in various languages is seen as undesirable since it will break the integrity of the Internet, limit universal access to information because of the technical and language obstacles at use in domain names and unique symbols of national alphabets.

ii) Issues relating to the use of the Internet...

Participants to the round table confirm the high importance of the fight against spam and cybercrime, and also the strengthening of network security. Thus it is necessary to recognize as an effective form of global cooperation the creation of an international body on safety in the cyberspace, coordinating activities of the national centers on cybercrime and spam, as well as network security. The given organization could generalize experience of the different countries and develop the framework of the international agreements in the subject sphere.

Participants to the round table also note that NGOs have significant potential in public control over the conduction of privacy and network security policies. Therefore, in the creation of an international cybercrime body it is necessary to ensure wide cooperation with NGOs.

iii) Issues which are relevant to the Internet, but with impact much wider than the Internet...

Participants to the round table have agreed that when considering questions of Internet governance it is necessary to pay attention also to problems of copyright and the status of electronic libraries in cyberspace.

In this regard it is necessary to recognize the necessity to expand the practice of collective management of intellectual property. Such collective management is carried out by NGOs, but it is necessary to note that the States should install more precise frameworks of their activity, having limited opportunities to dump prices for digital products and create faked NGO for licensing without payment of fees.

One of variants of the decision of the specified problems is licensing the organizations operating copyrights on a collective basis with restriction of their amount by each kind of products at a national level (for example, one national organization on the soundtracks, one - on videorecordings, under books, etc.). The question on change of the international norms on protection of copyrights for formation of the clause, allowing free electronic delivery of copies of socially significant documents from the open library funds requires also wide discussion.

With a view of development of the international electronic commerce, clearing of licensing and special regulation of activity of the so-called virtual providers who are not having their own telecommunication infrastructure is obviously necessary. The provider of telecommunication services or equipment to the virtual provider already has the license and the State, thus, can match the requirements of Law, order and national safety.

This extends to operators of IP-telephony, virtual hosting services, paid access to content, advertising services, electronic trading systems, etc.

iv) Issues relating to developmental aspects of Internet governance...

Participants to the round table recognize that alongside the obvious benefits of wider access to cyberspace only in the competence of the States the opportunity to create a legal basis for protection of the population against the harmful contents lies by granting public access to the Internet.

Distribution of points of collective access to the Internet should not lead to reception of wider access of the population, and, above all, of children and youth to the materials propagandizing violence, extremism and terrorism, and also pornographies, the manuals on manufacturing of drugs and other harmful contents.

It is especially important to realize the specified protection on the basis of content filters in points of collective access to the Internet, located in educational establishments. The states should realize the responsibility for real social consequences of functioning of points of collective access and prevent access from such points to the harmful antisocial contents.

The amount of documents in Russian on the Internet removes a question on necessity of measures on protection of Russian and restriction of an English content in a national segment of the Internet.

As a whole participants to the round table consider the necessity of international agreement on jurisdiction of disputes and an applicable law for the sphere of the Internet. Such agreements could remove a number of problems falling under international electronic commerce and would simplify consideration of disputes in a subject sphere.

In summary participants to the round table emphasize that the development of a global information society directly depends on the regulation means of the Internet and express hope for the consecutive and productive decision of the specified problems within the limits of the United Nations and the conventional norms and principles of international law.

Participants of a round table:

- Association of e-Libraries
- Institute of the State and the Law of the Russian Academy of Science
- Interregional Public Organization in Support of the UNESCO Information for All Programme
- Public Advisory Council of the Moscow City Parliament on Information Society Development
- Secular Club
- Institute of Economy of City Foundation
- Global Internet Policy Initiative (Russia)
- Center Profit