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**Statement by the Ambassador PR of Nepal in the 2nd Prep-Com of the WSIS-II
on Feb. 24 2005**

Mr. Chairman,

Nepal also take this opportunity to thank the members of the WGIG, who under the able Chairmanship of Mr. Nitin Desai have made painstaking efforts in trying to tackle the extremely sensitive issues of internet governance in a very informed, balanced, open and fair manner. The report has honestly tried to present the synthesis of discussions that took place in its first and second meetings, enriched at the same time by the inputs of the online consultations and those at regional levels. We hope that the same method would be adopted for the next round of meetings.

Mr. Chairman,

The Internet has become the part of our lives by revolutionizing the whole gamut of human communication and exchange of information. While many developed and leading developing countries have been able to reap the benefit of Internet, many of the poorer developing and the leastdeveloping countries have lagged far behind to enjoy its benefits. This has created a great digital divide. Now the question is how to make this medium accessible and responsive to the need of all by bridging the current uneven distribution and reach of Internet among a vast majority of people. What is more, in poorer countries the digital divide is so great between the rural and urban areas, the role of national government to address the gap on the access to Internet is extremely important. But to expand Internet access to such places and people, government efforts alone cannot suffice: there has to be multipronged efforts at national, regional and international levels in a spirit of multi-stakeholder partnership.

In our view, therefore, the ultimate objective of creating a new international structure of Internet governance, including development a definition should try to take on board the issue of rendering this information tool as easily, ~~affordably~~, and widely accessible as possible to all the people of the world.

Mr. Chairman,

The WSIS-I Declaration of Principles has clearly stated that the international management of Internet should be multilateral, democratic and with the full involvement of all relevant stakeholders, ensuring at the same time equitable distribution of resources, facilitating access for all and securing a stable functioning of Internet.

Nepal, therefore, attaches great importance to the issue of Internet governance as it has the potential of making a profound impact on socioeconomic and cultural lives of our people. As far as the nature and scope of internet governance is concerned we subscribe to the position of the Asian group that the Internet governance encompasses both technical and public policy issues and therefore that its definition should be broad with a view to ensuring an inclusive governance internationally.

It is in this context that we regard the work of the WGIG as being extremely important. We also think that the attempts of the WGIG in its meetings so far in trying to focus, as a starting point, on issues such as equitable distribution of resources, access for all, stable and secure functioning of internet and multilingualism and content is a step in the right direction. Several draft working papers developed consequently and placed on the Internet were of tremendous value addition and should continue.

Mr. Chairman,

The WGIG in its preliminary report presented to the Prep-Com has stated that its future meetings will be geared toward considering, among several other elements, identification of the full range of issues that are inter-related on a forward looking and dynamic manner, and a practical basis for distinguishing between technical and public policy issues and that the governance implies new forms of governance based on a multistakeholders approach. We think that this is a right course of action for the WGIG to take so as to be able to propose a clear-cut but broad and inclusive working definition on Internet governance when presenting its final report. We believe that at the end of the day any agreed definition on Internet governance must be multistakeholders undertakings, that the distinction between the public policy and the technical issues on internet governance will be clearly made. We also believe strongly that there is a need to put in place a new international structure for Internet governance based on multistakeholders ownership in order to build together an information society which is inclusive, fair, affordable, transparent and democratic.

I thank you, Mr. chairman