

Statement by Dr. Elchin R. Aliyev

Vice – President of AzRENA

Consultations on the Establishment of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG)
Geneva – September 20 - 21, 2004

Chairman, Ladies&Gentlemen,

It is very useful brainstorming process started in Hammamed, Tunisia, at First Prepcom and continued now within 2 days. Let me express my gratitude to Mr.Desai and Mr.Kummer for organizing such an open and transparent discussions. All stakeholders from government, public and private sectors from different countries provide their vision in organizing effective work of WGIG based on democracy, transparency and openness.

I fully agree and support the statement made by representative of EU yesterday. It seems that two-tier approach is a good way to provide an effective work of WGIG.

I also support the idea of professor Hoffman made yesterday regarding the role of the scientists in Internet development. I think that the participation of the scientists and the experts in the work of WGIG will be very useful. In my country, as in many other countries Internet came from Academy of Sciences - scientific research organization. And nowadays, Azerbaijan Research Educational Network Association continues its activity together with UNDP, Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation) and Government of Azerbaijan on behalf of Ministry of Communication & Information Technologies. We are working in the framework of cost sharing project on "Internet development for research educational and civil society". All the required infrastructure including fiber optic backbone capacity is provided free of charges by a special decree of the Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies. Concerning on this project, in 3 years a number of schools, regional knowledge centers, libraries, all universities of the country will be connected to the broadband internet. Private sector will also provide valuable contributions to this project. From another side, according to a special decree of our President around 20mln usd of state budget was founded for school computerization and content in the years 2005-2007. So we have an example of how government, international, public and private sectors seat in a one boat doing one thing. Isn't it a very good example of communication, coordination and cooperation - C3 model suggested by Wolfgang Kleinwachter mentioned in his report yesterday? It shows that WGIG consist of many layers and many players could have one mechanism (M3 model) oriented to the further growth of network of networks.

Mr. Chairman,

We must use all the possible ways of online face-to-face and virtual meetings to find better understanding of how WGIG could organize their activity. As it was mentioned in Prepcom 1 in Hammamed, we are planning to organize a regional conference in the framework of the World Summit Award in November this year. And another one is a thematic conference powered by UNESCO in the year of 2005. The decision relating to November event has been already made. Global ICT conference on "Digital Divide & Knowledge Economy. Problems & Solutions" will be held this year on November 25-28 in Baku, Azerbaijan. I hope it will be good place to continue our discussions to share our experience to come to the better understanding of how different stakeholders can work together to achieve global ICT development.

Looking to the suggested schedule of our future activities I found out that it had been proposed to organize one of the first meetings of WGIG on November-December this year. I propose to organize this WGIG meeting within the ICT Global Development in Baku.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman