

Speech on the Consultation Meeting on the Establishment of the UN Working group on Internet Governance

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Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

It is my great pleasure to have this opportunity to discuss the Internet governance with all of delegations today. First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Annan for his emphasis on this meeting, and his accreditation of Mr. Desai to host the meeting. And I would also like to thank the executive secretariat for the work they have done. It is very important and timely for all the stakeholders to further exchange ideas on Internet governance before the formal startup of the working group on Internet Governance.

Internet governance is the focus of WSIS first phase. Wide discussions have been held during the first phase, with quite a lot of agreement and understanding reached. While on the other hand, we have to admit that many problems on Internet governance still need to be studied and discussed. Therefore the first phase of WSIS authorized Mr. Annan to set up a special working group to carry out studies and discussions on this issue, which is one of the important achievements of the first phase of WSIS and fully shows the emphasis given to Internet governance by the international society. It is our hope that each party would follow the basic principles of the “Declaration of Principle” and “Plan of Action” adopted in the first phase of WSIS, to further carry on cooperation and study on Internet governance, to seek common points while reserving differences, to consider Internet governance with a perspective view, to reach consensus on Internet governance and guide the Internet development to meet its own trend and the common demand of the world people.

Here, I would like to put forward the following viewpoints:

I. The change of the nature of Internet demands the involvement of governments into the Internet governance.

Internet is a resplendent achievement of human civilization in the 20th century. With over 30 years' development, it has evolved from a dedicated network for science and military to an important global information infrastructure, which has penetrated into every areas such as economy, trade, culture, media, education and politics, etc. Internet has become an indispensable part of the human society, so Internet governance is vital to the state sovereignty and public interests. Therefore each country must apply governance upon Internet regarding it as a crucial infrastructure. While it greatly brings advantage to people's work and life, Internet also causes many problems such as cyber crime, copyright piracy, spam, spread of harmful information, etc, which draws general attention of the international society. Those problems threaten the safe and stable operation of Internet, infringe upon public interests, and interfere the normal economic activities and social order. As the representative of the state and the public interests, all the conscientious governments should take the responsibility to proactively take part in the Internet governance and closely cooperate with the civil societies and private sectors to jointly develop the Internet and promote the safe and stable operation as well as a sustainable development of Internet.

II. Internet development itself calls for the transition of the governance mode.

Internet has undergone different development stages. The governance mode at the initial stage featured bottom-up and self-discipline, which met the demands resulted from the Internet growth at that time and played a significant role, thus facilitating the development and prosperity of Internet. As Internet keeps expanding at such an amazing speed and spreads globally the simple self-governance mechanism is not enough any more. The international society

has shared the understanding that government has to play the essential role in Internet governance. It can be well proved by the fact that in the first phase of WSIS, all the related parties have reached an accord that governments have to play their role in Internet governance and the administration of the domestic Internet falls within the sovereignty of each country. Considering conscientious government represents the interest of the state and its people, any private sector or civil society could not do better in this regard, so we should emphasize that governments and inter-governmental organizations play a leading role in Internet governance. In view of the unique features and legacies of Internet, we favor the Internet governance mode, namely, jointly promoting the secure, stable and sustainable development of the Internet under the principle that governments lead the way, all stakeholders have full participation. That government leads the way, as we say above, does not necessarily mean government control or being at the position to control, but government creates a favorable environment boosting the Internet growth while protecting public interests. Civil societies and private sectors will play important roles as usual in Internet governance, should respect religions, cultures and customs and abide by laws and regulations of state. In a word, there is a necessity to form a new framework of Internet governance featuring the leadership of government and sufficient participation of all stakeholders.

III. Inclusion and openness shall dominate the process of defining Internet governance and determining related public policy issues.

The first phase of WSIS assigned WGIG four tasks , one of which is to make working definition of Internet governance. Inclusion and openness represent the essential features of Internet and should be fully reflected in the definition. As far as we are concerned, it is a better approach to define Internet governance in a broad comprehension, because only this kind of understanding can make all stakeholders involved, which accord with the principles agreed upon in the first phase of WSIS.

The related public policy issues, as we think, involve many aspects of Internet governance, including at least:

- The Internet resources management, such as managing IP addresses , domain names and AS numbers.

- Internet information and network security, such as spam, harmful information (children pornography, network virus and etc.), cyber crime (data interception, unauthorized visit, hacker, information theft and financial fraudulence), information privacy and confidentiality and other issues.

- The international legal system and administrative coordination mechanism on Internet

- Operational security of Internet infrastructure, such as the security of domain name system

- IPR protection and knowledge sharing

- E-commerce

- Convergence between Internet and telecommunication network, etc.

The Internet governance solutions to the issues above need the active participation and leadership of governments and inter-governmental organizations, so they will be and should be discussed under the framework of UN.

Finally, we think the current biggest problem facing Internet is the absence of legitimate entity of the international Internet governance. Our opinion is that the governance entity, generated through democratic procedure under the UN framework, implements Internet governance according to the principle of freedom, democracy and equality. The entity should be authoritative, impartial and authorized to guarantee Internet a large platform for people with different languages, cultures, religions, races and political backgrounds to exchange views, thus ensuring sustained development and prosperity itself.

That's all. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.