

PLENARY MEETING

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PROPOSALS FOR THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE

A key trend in the development of today's information society is the steady growth in the role of the Internet.

The Internet's developmental impact on society affects people's way of life, their education and work, as well as the interaction of government and civil society. The Internet is rapidly becoming a vitally important driver of global economic development. It also allows individuals, companies and business communities to find more effective and creative solutions to economic and social problems.

The Internet has an impact on every aspect of human activity within society – political, economic, social and spiritual.

In politics, the Internet is a powerful tool for implementing a State's domestic policy, and is behind concepts such as e-government, digital media and virtual political parties. It also helps to increase the political participation of citizens in national governance.

The Internet is an important factor in the development of a modern economy, and is actively used in business through such means as e-commerce, e-banking, electronic payments and Internet advertising, among others.

The Internet also exerts considerable influence in the social sphere. New forms of communication and new types of community (social networks, chat rooms, forums) have long since superseded traditional forms of social communication, leading to the creation of a virtual society. The Internet has become an irreplaceable means of communication in academia, education and medicine. Over the Internet users can make use of vast databases, study (distance learning) and receive the support and advice of specialists in various domains (telemedicine, for example).

The Internet's impact on the spiritual life of society is indisputable: electronic archives, foundations, museums and libraries are creating electronic materials to ensure that a large number of users can access them.

In the light of the foregoing, a broad, international understanding of the Internet has emerged, one that interprets it as a new form of social relations encompassing practically every aspect of human activity within society.

From a legal standpoint, the Internet is a complex regulated system consisting of numerous elements: service provision, trade, financial payments, taxation, the spread of intellectual property and the protection of intellectual property rights, personal data protection and cybercrime, among others.

The complexity of Internet regulation does not imply the need for a specific branch of law; on the contrary, it presupposes the modernization of existing areas of international and national legislations, so as to take into account the specificities of the Internet.

The Internet operates on the basis of technological infrastructure, including telecommunication and information components that are combined under an addressing and naming system.

The Internet addressing and naming system is an organizational and technical infrastructure, which ensures the allocation, assignment and distribution of addresses and names, as well as maintenance of the databases that ensure conformance between them.

Addresses and names are thus a vital Internet resource, and the addressing and naming system is considered to be a system for the management of critical Internet resources.

The additions to the ITRs proposed below are aimed at formulating an approach that views the Internet as a global physical telecommunication infrastructure, and also as a part of the national telecommunication infrastructure of each Member State, and which, accordingly, considers Internet addressing and naming resources as a critical transnational resource.

ARTICLE 2

Definitions

ADD RUS/27/1

27A 2.11 *Internet*: An international conglomeration of interconnected telecommunication networks which provides for the interaction of connected information systems and their users, by carrying their traffic using a single system of numbering, naming, addressing, identification, protocols and procedures that is defined by Internet Standards.

Reasons: On the basis of RFC 2418.

ADD RUS/27/2

27B 2.12 *Internet traffic*: Traffic generated by interacting information systems connected to the telecommunication networks that constitute the Internet.

ADD RUS/27/3

27C 2.13 *Basic Internet structure*: Telecommunication facilities and information systems which are vitally important for ensuring integrity, reliable operation and security of the Internet.

ADD RUS/27/4

27D 2.14 *National Internet segment*: Telecommunication networks or parts thereof which are located within the territory of the respective State and used to carry Internet traffic and/or provide Internet access.

ADD RUS/27/5

ARTICLE 3A

IP-based networks (Internet)

ADD RUS/27/6

31A 3A.1 Member States shall have the sovereign right to regulate the activities of operating agencies providing Internet access services within their national territory.

Reasons: On the basis of § 35 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, WSIS, Geneva 2003 – Tunis 2005.

ADD RUS/27/7

31B 3A.2 Member States shall have the sovereign right to manage the Internet within their national territory, as well as to manage national Internet domain names.

Reasons: On the basis of § 35 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, WSIS, Geneva 2003 – Tunis 2005.

ADD RUS/27/8

31C 3A.3 Member States should ensure that administrations and operating agencies cooperate with the aim of developing the Internet within their national territory.

ADD RUS/27/9

31D 3A.4 Member States should ensure that administrations and operating agencies cooperate with the aim of maintaining the security, integrity and reliable operation of the national Internet segment.

Reasons: On the basis of § 68 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, WSIS, Geneva 2003 – Tunis 2005.

ADD RUS/27/10

31E 3A.5 Member States shall have equal rights in the international allocation of Internet addressing and identification resources.

Reasons: On the basis of § 48 of the Geneva Declaration of Principles, WSIS, Geneva 2003 – Tunis 2005.

