



## **CWG-Internet related public policy issues**

**Source: Rwanda**

### **Internet governance principles**

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#### **Introduction**

The Government of Rwanda (GoR) identified ICT as a key factor for accelerating socio-economic development in order to transform Rwanda into a knowledge-based economy. It is in this regard that GoR integrated ICT development in the Vision 2020 and Poverty Reduction Strategy (EDPRS). GoR strongly believes that ICTs can enable Rwanda to leapfrog the key stages of industrialization and transform her agro-based economy into a service, information-rich and knowledge-based economy that is globally competitive.

Internet is transforming the way we live, work, socialize and the way countries develop and grow. Its impact on economic wealth includes the creation of jobs, improved standards of living, and contribution to real growth.

As result, the GoR considers the Internet governance as a multi- stakeholder model that focuses on the internet and how to use it to foster, and catalyze the development of ICT applications, contents and infrastructure.

We are considering the document CWG-Internet-1/02 from Brazil as a model document for Member states, as it highlights the basic and clear principles for Internet governance based on WISIS action plan.

Having analyzed both, the proposal CWG-Internet-1/02 from Brazil and the Declaration by the Committee of Ministers (Council of Europe) on Internet governance principles (*Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 21 September 2011*), we found out that additional three (3) Internets governance principles could be added to the principles proposed in the document CWG-Internet-1/02.

## **ADDITIONAL INTERNET GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES**

### **1. Responsibility of states**

States have rights and responsibilities with regard to international Internet-related public policy issues. In the exercise of their sovereignty rights, states should, subject to international law, refrain from any action that would directly or indirectly harm persons or entities outside of their territorial jurisdiction. Furthermore, any national decision or action amounting to a restriction of fundamental rights should comply with international obligations and in particular be based on law, be necessary in a democratic society and fully respect the principles of proportionality and the right of independent appeal, surrounded by appropriate legal and due process safeguards (Source, EU).

### **2. Decentralised management**

The decentralised nature of the responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Internet should be preserved. The bodies responsible for the technical and management aspects of the Internet, as well as the private sector should retain their leading role in technical and operational matters while ensuring transparency and being accountable to the global community for those actions which have an impact on public policy (Source, EU).

### **3. Empowerment of Internet users**

Users should be fully empowered to exercise their fundamental rights and freedoms, make informed decisions and participate in Internet governance arrangements, in particular in governance mechanisms and in the development of Internet-related public policy, in full confidence and freedom (Source, EU).

### **Proposal**

Rwanda agrees with the Brazilian Internet governance principles with some additional principles as they are drawn from the framework offered by the WSIS principles and we propose the following:

1. Encourage ITU member states to continue to improve these contributions related to Internet governance principles.
2. ITU member states to develop their Internet governance principles.
3. ITU to develop the guideline for Internet governance.
4. ITU and member states to consider an open, inclusive multi-stakeholder model in Internet policies development.