Ministry of Information and Communication Technology – Republic of Mauritius

Question: What actions have been undertaken or to be undertaken by governments in relations to each of the international internet-related public policy issues identified in Annex1 to Resolution 1305 (adopted by Council 2009 at the seventh Plenary Meeting)?

	Public Policy Issues	**Actions undertaken or to be undertaken**
1	Multilingualization of the Internet Including Internationalized (multilingual) Domain Names	
2	International Internet Connectivity	(a) In October 2010, Government agreed to an "Open Access Policy" being applied for the operation of undersea cable landing stations in Mauritius with a view to further stimulating competition in the ICT sector. This led to the possibility of purchase of Indefeasible Right of Use (IRU) by International Long Distance (ILD) operators in Mauritius from members of the SAFE consortium, resulting in a drastic decrease of up to 44% in the price International Private Lease Circuit (IPLC) lines. (b) In April 2012, the ICT Authority of Mauritius approved the Reference Cross-Connection Offer that Mauritius Telecom Ltd would provide to duly licensed operators, with a view to allowing other consortium members of the SAFE cable to establish operations in Mauritius and offer IPLC at whosesale level. Subsequently, Belgacom Ltd (a member of SAFE Consortium) established a Mauritian branch and started its operation, leading to a reduction of up to 52% in the price of IPLC.
3	International public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses	(a) A Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Internet Governance will be set up to formulate policies for the management of internet domain names. (b) Migration from IPV4 to IPV6 facilitated by Government.
4	The security, safety, continuity, sustainability, and robustness of the Internet	*Linked to No. 5*

	Public Policy Issues	**Actions undertaken or to be undertaken**
5	Combating Cybercrime	(a) A Committee on Cybersecurity has been set up to address all issues relating to cybersecurity. (b) A National Cyber Security Strategy and Action Plan for 2014-2019 is being developed. The implementation of the strategy will help Mauritius to better respond to cyber threats. The strategy defines four main goals. The action plan is spread over a period of 5 years for the completion of all projects. The four defined goals of the strategy are as follows: (i) to secure our Cyberspace and establish a front line of defense against Cybercrime. (ii) to enhance our resilience to Cyber Attacks and be able to defend against the full spectrum of Threats. (iii) to develop an efficient collaborative model between the authorities and the business community for the purpose of advancing National Cyber Security and Cyber Defense. (iv) to improve the Cyber Expertise and the comprehensive Cyber Security Awareness of all societal actors. The Strategy also includes the development and implementation of Critical Information Infrastructure Protection (CIIP) framework for Mauritius. This policy will help critical sectors to defend against range of cyber threats. (c) Mauritius acceded to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime on 22 November 2013.
6	Dealing effectively with spam	(a) To combat the problem of Spam in Mauritius, the National Computer Board, a statutory body under the Ministry of ICT implemented Anti-Spam Action Plan in 2006 and number of initiatives has been taken till date. (b) The draft Unsolicited Electronic Commercial Message Bill will be reviewed by a consultant from the Council of Europe to align same with international laws.
7	Issues pertaining to the use and misuse of the Internet	(a) There is a National IPR Committee consisting of BSA members and the US embassy on the promotion of use of genuine software. • Among the various programs identified is conducting ongoing awareness campaign on the risks of using

	Public Policy Issues	Actions undertaken or to be undertaken
		counterfeit software obtained from various sources like counterfeit software downloaded from illegal sites on the Internet. • Software piracy rate is about 57% in Mauritius. (b) Internet Usage Policy formulated in 2009 to ensure that Internet Access provided by Government is used for official/business purposes. Misuse or abuse thereof may slow down the Internet Access meant for rightful business oriented usage. Users are also informed of the security risks of accessing inappropriate Internet contents and the penalties/disciplinary measures that might be envisaged in case of misuse.
8	Availability, affordability, reliability, and quality of service, especially in the developing world	(a) The ICT Authority is the Controller of Certification Authorities and has set up the Public Key Infrastructure. To encourage the take up of PKI for the benefit of e-commerce, the ICT Authority has published an Information Guide. The Authority is now embarking on the setting up of an e-Commerce Framework, whereby a Seal of Trust will be issued to e-traders and businesses to safeguard the consumer interest and encourage e-Commerce in a safe and secure environment. (b) In line with the National Broadband Policy 2012, the ICT Authority is proposing a Quality of Service Framework tailored for broadband Internet service provided using wired, fixed wireless access and mobile access. The framework will cover service coverage, availability, service quality and reliability, adequate and equitable bandwidth access to consumers in Mauritius.
9	Contributing to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries	
10	Developmental aspects of the Internet	

	Public Policy Issues	**Actions undertaken or to be undertaken**
11	Respect for privacy and the protection of personal information and data	(a) Data Protection Act enacted in 2004 to provide for the protection of the privacy rights of individuals in view of the developments in the techniques used to capture, transmit, manipulate, record or store data relating to individuals
12	Protecting children and young people from abuse and exploitation	(a) To protect children online and young people from abuse and exploitation, a Child Safety Action Plan was endorsed by Government and its implementation started in 2009. Since then, a number of activities are being organised e.g. awareness campaigns in the context of the Safer Internet Day. (b) The ICT Authority launched an Online Child Sexual Abuse Reporting Portal (OSCARP) on 24 October 2013. The portal enables Internet users in Mauritius to report any websites depicting Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) content. The ICT Authority signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Internet Watch Foundation, UK in that context.