

Submission from Ghana on behalf of the African Group

REPORT OF AFRICAN WORKING GROUP 3 PROPOSAL ON ITEMS 3(a) AND 5 OF CHAPTER THREE: INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Introduction

The group met under the chairmanship of Uganda for two days (Saturday and Sunday 24-25 September 2005).

3. Public policy issues relevant to Internet Governance

3a) Infrastructure and management of critical Internet resources

45. We recognise that, for historical reasons, the authorisation of changes in the root zone file system of the Internet has rested with a single government. We express our appreciation for the way in which this task has been handled and acknowledge the priority given to the security, stability and continuity of the Internet

45 bis We seek to ensure equitable distribution of root server instances to facilitate access and we further seek internationalisation of root server management

46. We strive to establish a transition to a new cooperation model that helps up implement the “Geneva principles” regarding the role of governments and all stakeholders. Institutional arrangements for Internet Governance should be founded on a legitimate, more democratic, transparent and multilateral basis, with a stronger emphasis on the public policy interests of all governments, and with clarification of the relationships among the different actors.

47. We seek to ensure balanced access to IP addressing resources on a geographical basis. In this regard, we call for the reinforcement of the specialised regional Internet resource management institutions to guarantee each region’s right to manage its own Internet resources.

We recognise the need for elaboration of policies concerning the management and further development of the domain name space. We recognize the need for further development of policies and procedures for generic top level domain names (gTLDs) and reiterate the legitimate right and sovereignty of countries with respect to the management of their country code top-level-domain names (ccTLDs) (Sub-committee chaired by Egypt)

5. Follow-up and Possible Future Arrangements

62. In reviewing the adequacy of existing institutional arrangements for Internet Governance and for policy debate, we agree that some adjustments need to be made to bring these into line with the “Geneva principles”. Implementation of these adjustments

must ensure continued stability, reliability and availability of the Internet. Accordingly, we propose:

a) Approach

We seek to ensure that the changes of the management structure should be evolutionary and result in legitimate, transparent and democratic Internet Governance

b) **Framework for interface between existing and future arrangements**

We note that there is a vacuum within the context of existing structures to address global multi-stakeholder Internet related public policy issues. To that end, the existing framework for Internet Governance should evolve so as to enable governments and other stakeholders to participate and ensure Internet Governance is efficient, transparent and democratic and that the Internet services and resources are distributed in an equitable manner.

a) **Possible governance/oversight function**

We seek to establish an international body consisting of governments and other stakeholders to be responsible for Internet Governance. The body would also be responsible for establishing global Internet policies as well as assignment of Internet resources. We further seek to establish a global Internet Council comprising of governments for oversight functions. A roadmap for the process should be chartered.

c) **Possible Forum**

We support the establishment of a global consultation forum under the auspices of the UN Secretary General where all stakeholders come together as peers to deliberate on issues on Internet governance which require cooperative effort. The forum should propose recommendations for implementation by the stakeholders.

b) **Structure**

The Forum should have a lightweight secretariat to facilitate cooperation, suggest themes and produce the policy recommendations that result from Forum discussions