

Measures to promote development

56. We reaffirm our commitment to turning the digital divide into a digital opportunity, and ensuring harmonious, fair and equitable development for all, particularly for those who risk being left behind and being further marginalized.

57. We commit to fostering and providing guidance on certain developmental areas in the broader Internet agenda to ensure equitable access for all, and to include among other issues international interconnection costs, multilingualism, capacity-building and technology transfer. We do also encourage the development of open source applications as well as low-cost equipment such as computers.

58. We maintain that the uneven sharing of the burden of costs for international Internet connectivity should be redressed through further dialogue. **We therefore call for** equitable access for all by:

- a) Reducing International Internet costs by setting up of a regional high speed Internet backbone allowing the creation of national, sub regional and regional Internet Exchange Points (IXPs).
- b) Encouraging donor programs and other developmental financing mechanisms to provide funding for initiatives that advance connectivity, IXPs and local content for developing countries.
- c) Calling upon ITU to conclude the study of the question of the International Internet Connectivity (IIC) as an urgent matter to develop appropriate recommendations, as well as by encouraging the WTO to address the question through the GATS.

59. We would work to enhance multi-stakeholder participation in governance mechanisms particularly for developing countries. This would involve making available adequate resources to build Centres of Excellence for capacity development as well as to facilitate know-how transfer in a range of areas relevant to the Internet industry.

60. In order to ensure effective participation in global Internet governance, we urge international organizations, including intergovernmental organizations where relevant, to ensure that all stakeholders, particularly from developing countries, have the opportunity to participate in the determination of policy decisions, and promote and support such participation.

61. We commit to working earnestly towards multilingualization of the Internet, as part of a multilateral, transparent and democratic process, involving governments and all stakeholders. Specifically **we would underline the need to:**

- a) **Speed** up the process for the introduction of multilingualism in the area of domain names, including email addresses and keyword look-up.
- b) Implement programmes that guarantee the presence of multilingual domain names and content on the Internet and the use of free and open source software in order to fight against the linguistic digital divide and ensure the participation of all in the emerging new society.
- c) Create a sound international environment for the further development of technical standards and action plan for global deployment.

