

Tuesday, May 14—WTPF Opening Statement

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Chairperson, Secretary-General, elected officials,
Excellencies, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and
Gentlemen, it is a great honor and privilege for me to be here
in Geneva with you today as a participant in the 5th World
Telecommunication/ICT Policy Forum.

First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to ITU
Secretary-General Dr. Hamadoun Touré and the members of
the ITU Secretariat, who were involved in the preparation of
the WTPF.

This WTPF will discuss a very important theme, that is,
international Internet-related public policy issues. The
Informal Experts Group formulated six draft opinions prior to
the WTPF, and I would like to express my respect for the
efforts of the Chairperson and participants. I believe that the
outcome of the WTPF will be fruitful for all stakeholders.

On the other hand, the World Conference on International

Telecommunications (WCIT) last year discussed the revision of the International Telecommunications Regulations (ITRs). At the time of discussing the revision of the ITR which is legally binding for every country, the challenges relating to the Internet were also discussed.

Although Japan made a great effort so that every country would reach an agreement in the WCIT, it was regrettable that a consensus on Internet related issues was not formed. However, I feel that it was a useful conference in a sense, because each country revealed its own viewpoint on international Internet-related public policy.

The Internet has become a critical information infrastructure indispensable to the development of social life and economic activities. However, the current state of disagreement would obstruct further development of the ITU as well as the world-wide growth of the Internet unless global efforts are made.

In order to overcome the difficulties we found in WCIT, we think that fundamental efforts are necessary to form a consensus on international Internet-related public policy by dedicating sufficient time to this task.

In this regard, we think that we should have meaningful dialogue on international Internet-related public policy by attaching importance to following three concepts so that we can obtain fruitful results.

The first concept is that we foster a relationship of trust with deepened mutual understanding in a wide variety of Internet-related fields including technologies and development. Such dialogue should respect the diversity of the world and should be held in a place where we can exchange views freely.

The second concept is that we consider an agreed solution while maintaining good communications and listen to a variety of different views without feeling compelled to make a conclusion right away.

The third concept is that we hold not only intergovernmental discussions, but that we also exchange the views of all stakeholders including private companies and civil society deeply connected with the Internet.

In the sense of fostering a consensus, this WTPF can be a suitable place, and we think that there are also many other

suitable places.

We think it important to continue dialogue in various places, such as at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), WSIS +10 and related meetings, ICANN, and the Conference on Cyberspace.

We would like to proactively make efforts so that as many stakeholders as possible can reach a consensus on various issues surrounding the Internet in those conferences.

In closing, we appreciate the opportunity to share these brief remarks with you, and we look forward to very fruitful and informative discussions over the next few days.

Thank you for your attention.