Contribution of the Republic of Korea

The Republic of Korea welcomes the opportunity to participate in the 5th WTPF and appreciates the efforts made by the ITU in recent years to increase cooperation among the major stakeholders in improving the global governance structure of the Internet.

The Internet has become a critical infrastructure affecting all aspects of the national as well as the global societal structures. The Republic of Korea recognizes that participation by major stakeholders is an important principle and our support for the multistakeholder cooperation model has been clearly expressed during the 2008 Seoul OECD Ministerial meeting.

We would like to commend and support the productive discussions by the Secretary General and the Informal Experts Group in producing the six draft opinions to be discussed during this meeting, and hope that the member states will be able to arrive at a general consensus on these very important issues.

The Internet is a space that has thrived on the global interoperability that was the result of voluntary cooperation among the stakeholders. The ever-widening reach and the consequent increase in the importance of the Internet have made cooperation among the stakeholders even more crucial.

In this aspect, we believe that the global discussion on the multistakeholder model would enable a more robust, flexible, and effective development of the Internet. This would be possible only when all the major stakeholders including governments are able to participate and contribute to the development of the Internet.

Historically, the degree of participation by the various stakeholders has changed in tandem with the changing characteristic of the Internet. Technical experts, civil society, private businesses, and the government have held differing roles at different times in the history of Internet development. We believe that this voluntary

participation and cooperation has thus far been instrumental in its development, but also believe that the increasing complexity and importance of the Internet now merits more substantial cooperation and participation by the stakeholders.

We have witnessed the difficulty of achieving a global consensus on sensitive issues regarding Internet governance during the World Conference on Information and Telecommunication last December. We are pleased, however, to see that this forum has taken some important steps toward a more global consensus.

We believe that more work would be needed in the future to achieve global consensus on how the Internet should develop and be governed. In this regard, we would like to direct your attention to the Asia Pacific regional Internet Governance Forum and the Seoul Conference on Cyberspace those are being held in Seoul later this year, and the ITU plenipotentiary that will take place in Busan, Korea in 2014. We look forward to the development of the future Internet based on increased cooperation and participation.