

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE ITU WSIS THEMATIC MEETING ON COUNTERING SPAM,  
FROM KENYA, SUDAN, TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA**

Developing Countries take note that this meeting took place and brought out a number of issues pertaining to spam, further commend the ITU and the speakers who made their presentations at this meeting.

We, as developing nations, would like to state clearly that we agree wholeheartedly that spam is a global problem that should be resolved in collaboration with all other nations. Spam poses a moral issue in our countries as it, in some cases, may lead to criminal offences. It also causes a Denial of Service on our networks as well as a danger to development in the sector.

Some developing nations have had Internet infrastructure for a number of years while others are still trying to justify the use of the Internet in their countries. In most cases, regardless of how long the service has been running in a country, the issues of cost become of prime concern. Countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, for instance, pay for Satellite connectivity which tends to be very expensive. A provider would be required to pay as much \$18,000 for bandwidth of 2MB each month. In addition, spam usually originates from outside these countries and takes up valuable segment of bandwidth. As a result, the service to the people suffers, and as has been the case in some countries, the consumers begin to shun the internet or just reduce their use of the Internet.

This may seem like a negligible or trivial matter, but it is of concern to the developing nations as we are trying to grow this sector of industry. Although Internet service is now growing in some developing nations and spreading to the rural areas, connectivity is concentrated in the urban areas, and this does not mean all the towns in the urban areas. In these areas, a small percentage own computers and a small percentage of these have Internet access. Therefore, we pay a large amount for bandwidth which is being wasted on spam; the customer volume is significantly small thus coming up with an ingredient for cooking up trouble for the Internet service providers.

As has been pointed out by the speakers at this meeting, the cost of tracking down spammers is very high. This in itself also raises points of concern.

We are pleased to note that a number of speakers have acknowledged that the situation prevailing in the developing nations warrants consideration. So we take this opportunity in outlining, for your perusal, what we believe to be some of the main areas of concern. Before that, we would like to state that we are indeed committed to stand with the other nations in the fight against spam and will endeavour to do everything within our capabilities to fight the scourge.

We therefore recommend that the following be observed:

1. Awareness of the prevailing situation and experiences of developing countries be built. As has already been mentioned in this meeting, information sharing becomes important, and therefore, we will share our experiences with you and trust that you will be open.
2. We are all agreed that enacting anti-spam laws is not a solution in itself, but of course, it would not hurt to have them in place. As we begin to work towards identifying current legislation and regulations that can be used to fight or prosecute the spammer, we hope you will avail to us material that will be of assistance to us.
3. China urges other nations to cooperate and exchange experiences on network security, fraud, and server hosting. Likewise, other developing nations seek the assistance of the International and Regional bodies in urgently addressing the problem.
4. It is heart-warming that some organisations are already working towards coming up with security and spam filtering tools that would be affordable even for nations that have limited means of obtaining such technology at the present moment. We support that ITU in coordination and collaboration with other agencies develop tools to assist developing countries in the fight against spam.
5. We commend the formation of MoU's but the developing nations should be made a part of the initial discussions and formulation of the agreements. We do not want to be caught in a situation where we agree to something that we are not capable to implementing.