

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran proposes the following amendments to paragraphs 1,6,7,8,10,52,53 of Draft Declaration of principles, document WSIS/PCIP/DT/1-E and inclusion of 5 paragraphs to it

1- We the representatives of the peoples of the world, assembled at Geneva from 10-12 December 2003 for the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, declare our common desire and commitment to build a new kind of society, the Information Society, in the *in the process of transition toward the knowledge societies*, premised on the principles enshrined Charter of the United Nations, *UNESCO's Constitution* and the Declaration of Human Rights, *as well as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* in which new technologies, in particular information and communications technologies (ICTs) become an essential tool, accessible to all, for the attainment of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world based upon our common humanity in all its diversity and *to promote dialogue among cultures and civilizations*.

6- Faced with complex and ever-evolving challenges, all of us ; governments, the private sector and civil society, have challenges that require new forms of solidarity and cooperation and new or increased roles and responsibilities. *In this context, special attention must be paid to negative aspects and impacts of globalization*.

7- The Information Society that we seek to build is one which is inclusive, where all persons, without distinction of any kind, are empowered freely to create, receive, share and utilize information and knowledge, in any media and regardless

of frontiers, *subject to the restrictions provided by article 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and by article 19 (point 3) and Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.*¹

New paragraph to be included in part B, after paragraph 7

- *The Information Society should be based on ethical values and should be an environment where human dignity is duly respected and fostered.*
- *The Information Society creates an environment where all national sovereignties and interests without any discrimination are respected and protected.*

8- The Information Society should be people-centered, with citizens and communities at its core, and be at the service of humankind. It should be an environment where information and knowledge are disseminated and utilized, *without any discrimination*, by all sectors of the population, for their economic, social, cultural and political development.

10- The essential requirements for the development of an equitable Information Society include:

-The respect for all internationally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. Notably the right to freedom of opinion and expression, including the right to hold opinions without interference and seek to receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers *in accordance with articles 19 and 29 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; and articles 19 and 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* and to unhindered access by individuals to communication media and information sources.

-The adherence to international undertakings with respect to peace and security, *national sovereignty of all states*, sustainable development, equality, solidarity, tolerance, human dignity, economic progress and the protection of the environment and building of new values, trust and norms with respect to the use of ICTs.

New paragraph to be included:

-The building of an environment that inspires respect for fundamental values of all cultures.

52 Cyberspace must be subject to universally held cultural and ethical values such as truth, justice, solidarity, tolerance, human dignity, shared responsibility and accountability. All actors in the Information Society must seek to promote the common good and to prevent abusive uses of ICTs.

New paragraphs to be included :

Based on Article 34 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the child, and referring to the Declaration of the UNESCO expert s meeting on the sexual abuse of children held in Paris, 18-19 January 1999:

- **As Internet use grows, so do the risks of children being exposed to inappropriate material, in particular criminal activity by pedophiles and child pornographers. While the benefits of the Internet far outweigh its potential drawbacks, these dangers cannot be ignored. If left unanswered, they will pose a threat to children and will become the object of resistance to future Internet use.**
- **The fight against pedophilia and pornography on the Internet requires a coalition of forces, involving children, industry, policy makers, educators and parents to ensure that users are aware of potential dangers and have available to them the necessary means to combat these threats.**

53 The Information Society is intrinsically global in nature . Thus, a policy dialogue based on global trends in the Information Society must take place at global, regional and sub-regional levels in order to facilitate:

- The provision of technical assistance, without any discrimination, aimed to national and regional capacity-building for the maintenance and reinforcement of regional and international cooperation;
- Technology transfer;
- The sharing of experiences
- The sharing of knowledge
- The development of compatible regulations and standards that respect national characteristics and concerns;

1) Article 19, point 3 :

The exercise of the rights provided for in paragraph 2 of this article carries with it special duties and responsibilities. It may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but these shall only be such as are provided by law and are necessary:

- a) for respect of the rights or reputations of others;
- b) for the protection of national security or of public order (order public), or of public health or morals.

Article 20 :

- 1. Any propaganda for war shall be prohibited by law.
- 2. Any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility

or violence shall be prohibited by law

Article 29 :

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.
2. in the exercise of his rights and freedom, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.
3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.