Building an enabling environment for access to the Internet

1. What are the elements of an enabling environment to promote Internet connectivity?
2. What are the elements of an enabling environment to promote an affordable Internet?

Internet connectivity and affordability are central in bridging the digital divide and most countries are facing challenges in providing universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to the Internet infrastructure and services.

Developing countries in particular are facing significant challenges when it comes to Internet connectivity and affordability. For example, an Internet user in a developing region such as Asia or Africa sends an email to a friend in the same city or a nearby country, that IP data may travel all the way to Europe or the US before returning to that same city or a neighboring country. This will result in far more costly access to the Internet in developing countries than developed countries.

Affordable international Internet connectivity will contribute significantly in increasing access to the Internet and at make it available at affordable cost.

3. What are the elements of an enabling environment to promote the quality of access to the Internet?

In any communication network that delivers a services to a subscriber, it depends on the quality of access to the Internet to deliver the expected services and with all features as advertised.

Nowadays, the problem is becoming more and more urgent to deal with issues related to Internet quality with the dramatic increase in mobile communications. Added to this, networks are becoming increasingly congested because of the boom in data (especially video) traffic.

According to many studies, network operators are no longer likely to achieve the necessary revenues to expand their infrastructures to keep up

with the dramatic increase of use as more revenues are going to the Internet application and services providers which are using their infrastructure.

It is urgent that new approaches are needed for the new structure of today's communication systems. Network operators and Internet service providers must join forces together to deal with the enormous growth in traffic.

3. What are the elements of an enabling environment to build confidence and security in the use of the Internet?

Building confidence and security in the use of the Internet is one of the main pillars of the information society. Strengthening the trust framework, including information security and network security, authentication, privacy and consumer protection, is a prerequisite for the development and use of the Internet.

Recent report of a specialized security company showed that in 2015 half a billion personal records was stolen or lost on the Internet, over one million web attacks in each day and nearly 75 percent of all legitimate websites have unpatched vulnerabilities are putting all users at a continues threats.

The vulnerabilities of the Internet are a lure for more potentially damaging activities. Even with national measures in place, threats remain high at the international level. looking at the constant evolution and sophistication of threats and vulnerabilities in the use of the Internet and with the tremendous growth in mobile adoption, threats will be more complex and difficult to deal with using existing mechanisms.

This clearly shows that the existing arrangements for ensuring confidence and security in the use of the Internet are not adequately addressing the current issues and cannot keep up with developments. Therefore, the existence of an international mechanism is an essential element in ensuring confidence and security in the use of Internet.

4. What is the role of Governments in building an enabling environment?

Governments have rights and responsibilities in building an enabling environment to ensure the security, continuity and stability of the Internet, and their actions will significantly solve the current shortcomings.

looking at the issues raised in the consultation, it is clear that the lack of an international solution will leave the issues unresolved. The development of international policies and guidelines by Governments are urgently needed more than ever.

Below are examples of the relevant Governments role:

A. Development of appropriate international public policy and guidelines to increase the affordability of global connectivity, improve access, ensure international Internet transit and interconnection costs are transparent and non-discriminatory.
B. Development of appropriate international public policy and guidelines to ensure a satisfactory quality of access to the Internet.
C. Development of appropriate international public policy and guidelines to ensure confidence and security in the use of the Internet, and to protect data and privacy.