

## SINGAPORE

### Statement by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore

<b>Statement by Singapore on Draft Opinion 5 on Supporting Multi-Stakeholderism in Internet Governance at the ITU World Telecommunication Policy Forum 2013</b>
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#### Opening

Mr. Chairman,

2. Thank you for giving me the floor.

3. Mr. Leong Keng Thai, Director-General (Telecoms & Post) of IDA is unable to be present at this Forum and he has asked me to submit this statement on his behalf as well as send his regards to ITU and the participants of this Forum.

4. Let me begin first by congratulating you on your appointment as Chair of the 2013 World Telecommunication Policy Forum. I would also like to pay my compliments to, Dr. Hamadoun Toure, the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and his staff for the excellent arrangements for this Policy Forum.

Mr Chairman,

5. Singapore recognises the value of the World Telecommunication Policy Forum as a pivotal and instrumental platform that encourages and facilitates constructive exchange of views and information on many of today's pressing ICT issues.

6. Singapore appreciates the hard work and the many hours that have gone into the Secretary-General's Report and its draft Opinions.

7. The theme of this year's Policy Forum on "International Internet-related public policy matters" is especially timely and of pertinent interest to the global community.

#### Addressing Post WCIT-12 Outcomes

8. Member States will be aware that there have been some discussions on Internet-related policies in the run-up to, during and after the World Conference of International Telecommunication (WCIT-12) in Dubai in December last year. In particular, there were concerns about the inclusion of Resolution 3, which seeks to foster an enabling environment for the greater growth of the Internet. As a signatory of the Treaty, Singapore has also heard similar concerns from our industry.

9. In Singapore's assessment, the reference to the Internet was practical and relevant in the present operating environment. Indeed, the Internet infrastructure today is crucial to telecommunications, whether national or international. It is a critical development in reshaping the traditional modes of international telecommunications and the services that are delivered. It would thus be unrealistic

to totally exclude mention of the Internet from discussions at a technical platform such as WCIT-12.

10. In our opinion, this Resolution does not purport a move away from the multi-stakeholder model. We believe it serves to encourage all stakeholders to continue discussion and collaboration on Internet matters.

## **A Multi-stakeholder Approach to Internet Governance**

Mr Chairman,

11. Singapore welcomes “Draft Opinion 5” contained in Annex B of the Secretary-General’s Report for WTPF-13.

12. Given the breadth of Internet governance, and the expanse of issues covered, Singapore believes in the necessity of a multi-stakeholder approach towards Internet governance. Such an approach should be inclusive and responsive, and should not be the sole domain of any stakeholder, governments and non-governmental entities included.

13. Singapore recognises the importance and efforts of multi-stakeholder platforms such as the Internet Governance Forum (or IGF). The IGF has reiterated that the multi-stakeholder model is essential to ensure a sustainable, robust and open global Internet for all. We also recognise the final statement of the WSIS+10 Meeting, which calls for stakeholders to acknowledge the importance of and renew their commitment to the IGF.

14. Singapore believes that the role of each stakeholder should neither be overlooked nor undermined; and each has a responsibility towards shaping the development of the Internet. The government, private sector, civil society, intergovernmental organizations, and international organizations each has an important role to play in the Internet sphere.

## **Singapore’s Approach to Internet Governance**

15. Broadly speaking, the government’s role would be to implement policies that would ensure high availability access to a safe and secure Internet and to create a conducive and business-friendly environment for service providers and operators to provide innovative services and enhance infrastructure.

16. To achieve this, Singapore is committed to a balanced set of principles to facilitate the development and promotion of the use of the Internet. In particular, Singapore has taken an open and transparent approach to net neutrality to allow consumers to make informed choices when subscribing to Internet access, and also provide operators with sufficient commercial flexibility to differentiate their services.

17. In addition, Singapore has adopted other principles which include:

- i. **Optimal Internet resource management** to support the growing use of the Internet;

- ii. **Promoting innovation and advancement in the Internet space** through competitive markets, encouraging research and development, and coordinating key standards and technologies;
- iii. **Promoting Internet access** to increase information and infocomm literacy for the benefit of society; and
- iv. Promoting **confidence in the Internet usage** through
  - a. Resilience of Internet infrastructure and cooperation to tackle cyber-security and cyber-crime issues;
  - b. Providing adequate protection of individual information to promote end user confidence,
  - c. Ensuring adequate legal protection for IP rights to encourage the development of new products and services for end users; and
  - d. Encouraging the responsible use of the Internet by promoting and supporting efforts advancing information literacy and cyberwellness.

## **Conclusion**

Mr Chairman,

18. While the Internet has brought about significant benefits to our economies and societies, it is clear that there are ongoing challenges which the international community should continue to work on, so as to bring about an Internet that will encourage greater innovation, secure use and inclusiveness.

19. On this note, Singapore remains committed to working closely with the ITU, fellow Member States, and the telecommunication and Internet industry to promote the development of the Internet.

20. In closing, Singapore would like to extend its sincere thanks to the ITU and to the Secretary-General for organising this forum, which is an important event for ICT development and the formulation key ITU strategies.

21. We look forward to fruitful and informative discussions over the next few days.

22. Thank you.