WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (WTDC-98)

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COMMITTEE A

Telefónica de España

NEW QUESTION PROPOSAL

INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC BALANCE FOR INTERNET COMMUNICATIONS

1   Statement of the problem

The explosive development of Internet in recent years is causing new problems when it comes to establishing management models and charging worldwide traffic. The present model, developed for voice telephony, is absolutely inadequate for the new traffic generated by Internet.

Most international traffic generated by communications through Internet shows a great imbalance in cases where one end of the communication is a country with a large number of Internet Service Providers.

The big flow difference in both directions conditions the distribution of revenues generated by this traffic, since it allows operators and providers, who are mainly information generators, to impose their conditions on countries who mainly request information.

This balance of relations means that it is precisely the less developed countries that lose out and end up financing the more economically-developed countries.

On the other hand, the shortage of content and information providers in less developed countries causes the requests for information to emigrate to developed countries; thus the promotion of local and regional information providers would redress this imbalance to some extent.

2   Proposed question

We propose that a study be carried out on the criteria and principles of management, routing, local traffic concentration and the charging of international traffic generated by Internet communications, as well as on the possible impact on network imbalance.

Moreover, this question should include studies on mechanisms to promote local and regional content generators.

3 Expected output

The output of the proposed study should be:

a) Criteria to guide relations between countries and operators involved in each communication, so that the traffic can be balanced or compensations can be foreseen to avoid the situation where ISPs of developed countries are being financed by Internet users from less developed countries.

b) Management and routing criteria of IP traffic that are not disadvantageous to developing countries.

c) Principles of reasonable distribution of the revenues from Internet traffic.

d) Mechanisms to expand and develop local and regional generators of content and information.

4 Timing of the expected output

Bearing in mind the explosive development of Internet at present and that expected in the near future, the output should be available as soon as possible.

5 Proposers and sponsors

Although the study of this question is of great interest principally to developing countries, the study of this question is requested by: Telefónica de España

6 Sources of input required to carry out the study

The study of this question requires knowledge of Internet traffic distribution flows between countries involved in such communications.

Relations and agreements between operators and providers of Internet services should be analysed.

Moreover, the tariff policies of Internet circuits used should be taken into account.

7 Target audience

a) Types of target audience

	Developed countries	Developing countries	LDCs
Telecom policy-makers	X	X	X
Telecom regulators	X	X	X
Providers (operators)	X	X	X

b)   Who will use the output?

Users of the output will be telecom regulators, telecom operators and service providers, but the real beneficiaries will be Internet end users.

Besides the above-mentioned users, this output may be useful to those study groups of the Standardization Sector of ITU involved in management, routing, regional traffic, charging, etc. when drawing their conclusions.

8   Proposed method for handling this question

a)   How?

The study of the question should be dealt with in a Focus Group.

The main actors from both segments - providers and users - should participate in the focus group.

b)   Why?

As explained above, the urgent need for this output makes it advisable to handle the question in an effective short-term way.

9   Coordination required for the study

Previous studies on the Internet and related matters carried out by the ITU Standardization Sector should be taken into account.

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