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Contribution from Turkey

**Introduction**

At the third meeting in February 2013, Informal Group of Experts (IEG) who convened pursuant to the [Council Decision 562](http://www.itu.int/md/S11-CL-C-0102/en), agreed on six draft opinions. Turkey welcomes the comprehensive work conducted by IEG and issues covered in the draft opinions.

Turkey presents its views and proposals on those drafts as given below for consideration of forum participants.

**Turkey’s views and proposals on Draft Opinions**

**General Comments**

Followings are Turkey’s comments and proposals on the draft opinions in general nature:

1. As in the draft opinions, addressees parts are not clear enough to resolve some of the issues, for better understanding, Turkey is of the view that in the draft opinions, in the “inviting” parts, relevant parties be addressed accordingly
2. Editorial check is required throughout the draft opinions and paragraphs inviting relevant parties/stakeholders should be numerated for better addressing the issues since in some of the draft opinions bullet is used while in some of them, numbering is used.

Apart from the general comments, Turkey’s views and proposals for each draft opinion are set forth below:

1. **Draft Opinion 1 : Promoting Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) as a long term solution to advance connectivity**

Establishment of local, national and regional Internet Exchange Points (IXP) is important for connectivity. Especially for international internet connectivity, interconnection to networks through IXPs can be considered generally more effective and have economic efficiency. While it is important to promote and encourage the establishment of IXPs in national level, Turkey is of the view that establishment of IXPs should rely on cooperation among relevant stakeholders. Therefore, Turkey believes that for the emergence of strong and well functioning IXPs, all relevant stakeholders should come together and work in cooperative manner.

In that respect, Turkey welcomes the ideas depicted herein this draft opinion. In the text of draft opinion Turkey’s comments are as follows:

Although having IXPs is important for all countries, considering the needs of developing countries for affordable internet connectivity, emergence of IXPs is more important for developing countries. Therefore, Turkey proposes changes in the text reflecting this idea. Also, Turkey considers that instead of “permitting”, word “encouraging” is more appropriate for the subsequent paragraph. As a result, Turkey proposes following changes accordingly:

*“Invite*

*Member States and Sector Members to work in collaborative manner to:*

*……*

*enable the emergence of Internet Exchange Points especially in developing countries through, inter alia, the exchange of technical expertise and the fostering of supportive policy environments through open multistakeholder consultations;*

*-promote public policies aimed at encouraging the local, regional and international internet network operators to interconnect through IXPs.*

In addition, Turkey proposes inclusion of the following paragraphs to the draft opinion addressing Secretary-General for their support in enabling the emergence of IXPs:

“*Invites the Secretary-General*

1. *To include activities in the relevant ITU programmes for global knowledge-sharing, training and skill development on the emergence and development of IXPs,*
2. *To assist Member States and Sector Members in creating human capacity for effective management of operational and policy aspects of IXPs and for developing and enhancing the local content. “*
3. **Draft Opinion 2: Fostering an enabling environment for the greater growth and development of broadband connectivity**

For delivery of broader range of services and applications, broadband connectivity at affordable price is vital for all in reaching the information society. Therefore, in national plans and programmes, Turkey gives priority to this issue. Within the national broadband deployment plans and strategy, for the rural areas and for the areas having geographical difficulties to reach, Turkey uses the relevant mechanism of Universal Service Funds for broadband connectivity. In that respect, Turkey welcomes this opinion and has below comments in minor nature.

Turkey proposes following changes in the draft opinion

“*Invites member states, Sector Members and all interested stakeholders*

*To continue to work, as appropriate, in the activities of ITU, and in all relevant international, regional and national forums considering….”*

1. **Draft Opinion 3 : Supporting capacity building for the deployment IPv6**

Transition from IPv4 to IPv6 requires technical, operational and management capability and nationwide harmonised effort by all relevant stakeholders. IPv6 address allocation and deployment in a timely manner are very important for all Member States and Sector Members. To increase the level of use of IPv6, contents developed under IPv6 needs to be enhanced accordingly. Therefore, Turkey proposes following paragraph be included in the draft opinion as Secretary-General can assist Member States and Sector Members on this issue.

“*Requests Secretary-General*

*to ensure effective implementation of relevant program and activities of ITU to support capacity building of member states for IPv4-IPv6 transition*”

1. **Draft Opinion 4 : In support of IPv6 adoption and transition from IPv4**

Considering the close relation and relevance with Draft Opinion-3, Turkey proposes the merging of Draft Opinion 3 and 4 into one document.

1. **Draft Opinion 5 : Supporting multi-stakeholderism in Internet Governance**

In paragraph c) inviting Member States and other stakeholders, Turkey proposes addition of wording “organisations” after the wording “institutions” which can be read as follows:

*c) to focus in particular on how to improve the participation of developing country stakeholders in the initiatives, entities, ~~and~~ institutions, and organisations involved in various aspects of Internet Governance.*

1. **Draft Opinion 6 : On supporting operationalizing the enhanced cooperation process**

Turkey considers that “invites” part requires more discussions for further development as it seems immature. Therefore, Turkey proposes inclusion of the following paragraph:

“*Invites Member States and Sector Members*

*To promote and encourage international cooperation among all stakeholders in their respective role for the issues related to network robustness and to work in collaborative manner to increase users’ trust to internet. “*

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