BRIEFING NOTE

Document: C06/04

Presented by: Robert Shaw, Deputy Head, ITU Strategy and Policy Unit

Title: ITU ACTIVITIES RELATED TO INTERNET PROTOCOL (IP)-BASED NETWORKS AND MANAGEMENT OF INTERNET DOMAIN NAMES AND ADDRESSES; INCLUDING ACTIVITIES RELATED TO INTERNET GOVERNANCE

I   REMARKS TO INTRODUCE THE DOCUMENT:

Distinguished Councilors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to introduce document C06/04. Its purpose is to report on ITU activities related to Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks and management of Internet domain names and addresses; including activities related to Internet governance.

As you know, ITU's activities, policies and strategic direction are determined and shaped by ITU Member States and the interests of the ICT industry sectors it serves. Since the adoption of the Plenipotentiary resolutions referenced in this report, support for IP-based technologies has emerged as a strategic element in the design, development and use of the world's telecommunication networks. This has and continues to extensively shape ITU's work programmes in its radiocommunication, standardization and development activities. Therefore, one caveat is that this already long report can only but highlight a few of the extensive IP and Internet-related work activities taking place within the ITU.

For example, faced with separate infrastructures for voice and data businesses, convergence and growing competition, almost all telecommunication operators and equipment manufacturers are making substantial investments in what can be referred to as *IP-Enabled Next Generation Networks (NGNs)*. IP-enabled NGNs can be seen as a logical progression from separate PSTN, mobile and IP-network infrastructures to unified networks for electronic communications based on IP—which is, as you know, an extensive area of standardization within the ITU. In the coming years, IP-enabled NGNs will be deployed by numerous service providers around the globe.

Another trend is a growing interest by ITU members on the policy and regulatory issues related to the growth of IP-based networks, such as the Internet, and their convergence with other networks. For example, we are seeing a growing number of national consultations and debate on the policy and regulatory implications of the Internet and transition to IP-enabled NGNs. Convergence across media platforms, such as delivery of television over broadband networks, is also forcing national

policy and regulatory reviews spanning across what were previously different sectors. This clearly will result in many new challenges for national policy makers and regulators and there appears to be an opportunity to build further international dialogue on these issues, including the sharing of national experiences and approaches as well as assistance in capacity building for developing economies.

I do not plan to include in this introduction any detailed discussion of this long report. As to action required, the Council is invited **to endorse** the activities described in this report and **to approve** the initiatives described in paras 12.4 and 13.10, namely:

- a request to Council to approve making publicly available our annual reports to Council on ITU activities related to Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks and management of internet domain names and addresses; including activities related to internet governance;

- a request to Council that it consider whether it would be appropriate to forward to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) the revised version of the countering spam paper referenced in paras 13.8-13.9 containing elements of a model law for UNCITRAL's consideration and further action as appropriate. The genesis of this request to Council is that the referenced paper consists of a review by a respected academic institution of existing spam legislation, which was presented to GSR. While the paper has not been formally considered by ITU, it could, if Council so agrees, represent a way of suggesting ways of progressing efforts to combat spam, which represents today over 80% of all email.

Thank you and I would be happy to address any needed clarifications that Council may require.