PCC.I/RES. 149 (XIV-09) [1]

SEMINAR ON THE INTERNET ACCESS ECOSYSTEM AND NETWORK NEUTRALITY

The XIV Meeting of Permanent Consultative Committee I: Telecommunications,

RECOGNIZING:

a)   That the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) of the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Internet Society have entered into a Cooperation Agreement (Agreement) [2]to cooperate with each other on matters of common interest within the scope of their general objectives;

b)   That specific areas for possible cooperation under the Agreement include Access and Multilingualism, Internet policy, Internet security and Internet and development. In particular:

  i.   Promoting access to Internet in OAS Member States, especially by communities that are currently deprived from access to Internet (Rural and Remote communities, Women, the Disabled, etc.);

  ii.   Promoting the increasing use of the languages of the OAS Member States on the Internet;

  iii.   Organizing joint activities to increase the awareness of policy makers on Internet policy issues;

  iv.   Organizing Internet policy discussions and debates;

  v.   Assisting member countries to participate in worldwide Internet policy discussions;

c)   That the challenges of improving Internet access growth are multifaceted and interrelated, particularly in developing countries. They include, for example, access to technical skills and knowledge, the regulatory and policy environment for information and telecommunications services, and broader economic and market factors, language diversity, and the diffusion and reliability of basic infrastructures and services;

d)   That increasing access to the Internet is a priority for CITEL,

RECOGNIZING FURTHER:

a)   That the Internet Society has served as the international organization for global coordination and cooperation on the Internet since 1992, promoting a broad array of activities focused on the Internet's development, availability, and associated technologies throughout the Americas and in other regions;

b)   That CITEL and the Internet Society have the shared goal of building the capacity of the OAS Member States to face the challenges and benefits of a global and technology-driven economy;

c)   That one of the objectives of CITEL's PCC.I is to serve as a telecommunication advisory body of CITEL with respect to new policy, regulatory, and economic matters arising as a result of the rapid evolution of telecommunications;

---

[1] CCP.I-TEL/doc. 1645/09
[2] Hereinafter "Agreement".

d)   That the format of the seminar proposed by the Internet Society is a one-day program for high-level policy-makers and key regional stakeholders focussing on current and future Internet policy and technical issues;

e)   That the seminar is designed to promote regional awareness of these policy and technical issues, build a common knowledge base, facilitate experience sharing for more effective problem solving, and encourage transnational collaboration;

f)   That this activity is of interest to the Rapporteur Group on Issues Related to Internet Resources;

g)   That this proposed collaboration will positively contribute to the Working Group on Policy and Regulatory Considerations,

NOTING:

That the topics suggested by the Internet Society for the seminar involve issues capable of generating a significant impact in the Americas and which are within CITEL's PCC.I mandate,

BEARING IN MIND:

That a Seminar examining the policy and technical issues concerning the Internet Access Ecosystem and Network Neutrality in the Americas is both relevant and timely,

RESOLVES:

1.   To hold a Seminar on "The Internet Access Ecosystem and Network Neutrality" the day before of one of the following PCC.I meetings in 2010, jointly offered and organized by the Internet Society and the PCC.I. The attached Annex offers a possible description of said Seminar in order to start planning it.

2.   To appoint Mr. Oscar Messano as Coordinator representing the PCC.I.

3.   That this Seminar will be held without using CITEL's financial resources.

ANNEX TO RESOLUTION PCC.I/RES. 149 (XIV-09)

DRAFT AGENDA

a)   The Internet Access Ecosystem
- Socio-economic factors
- Technical capacity building
- Infrastructure
- Policy and regulatory frameworks.

b)   Network Neutrality
- Technical issues
- Policy and regulation
- User centricity