

**Comments on the Draft Programme Outline for the
Second Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
By the People's Republic of China
(27 Aug. 2007)**

This paper presents China's comments on the Draft Program Outline (version 13.06.2007) for the Second Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), to be held in Rio de Janeiro, 12-15 November 2007. We are of the view that the second IGF meeting should focus on the public policy issues related to Internet governance in accordance with the mandates of IGF as tasked by the Tunis Phase of World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). We recommend that under the main session of Critical Internet Resources (CIRs), discussions should focus upon the following aspects:

I. Capacity Building in the Administration of Critical Internet Resources

It's agreed that in the second IGF meeting the development and capacity building will continue to be cross-cutting priorities in all of the main sessions. According to the definition of CIRs in the WGIG Report Paragraph 13(a)¹, CIRs should include the Domain Name systems, IP addresses, Root servers etc. The WGIG Report Paragraph 15² describes the current status of the administration of root zone files and systems. Paragraph 65³ and Paragraph 72(f)⁴ of Tunis Agenda underlines the need to enhance the capacity building in developing countries and to strengthen the participation of developing countries in Internet governance. We believe that the IGF provides a useful platform to share experiences and enhance capacity building, and we would encourage the ITU, ICANN, and other relevant stakeholders to present the status quo of CIRs administration, including the mechanisms, structures, successful experiences, and problems, as well as the measures for the enhancement of Internet security and stability, so as to enhance the capacity building in Internet governance for the benefit of all countries, particularly developing ones.

¹ WGIG report **Paragraph 13a**: Issues relating to infrastructure and the management of critical Internet resources, including administration of the domain name system and Internet protocol addresses (IP addresses), administration of the root server system, technical standards, peering and interconnection, telecommunications infrastructure, including innovative and convergent technologies, as well as multilingualization. These issues are matters of direct relevance to Internet governance and fall within the ambit of existing organizations with responsibility for these matters.

² WGIG Report Paragraph 15: Administration of the root zone files and system
Unilateral control by the United States Government.

- For historical reasons, the existing system involves only one Government in the authorization of changes to the root zone file.

- Lack of formal relationship with root server operators.

- The root zone operators perform their functions today without a formal relationship with any authority.

³ Tunis Agenda **Paragraph 65: We underline** the need to maximize the participation of developing countries in decisions regarding Internet governance, which should reflect their interests, as well as in development and capacity building.

⁴ Tunis Agenda **Paragraph 72 (f)**: Strengthen and enhance the engagement of stakeholders in existing and/or future Internet governance mechanisms, particularly those from developing countries.

II. Enhance Participation of Governments in the Administration of Critical Internet Resources

In accordance with the Paragraph 29⁵, Paragraph 58⁶ and Paragraph 69⁷ of Tunis Agenda, the administration of critical Internet resources is one of the significant public policy issues of Internet governance, and governments need to carry out their roles and responsibilities in public policy issues pertaining to the Internet governance on an equal footing, but not in day-to-day technical and operational matters. It is suggested that all stakeholders, especially the governments, take full advantage of the IGF platform to discuss the issue so as to reflect fully the principles of multilateralism, democracy and transparency of Internet governance.

III. Equitable Allocation of IP Addresses during the Transition from IPv4 to IPv6

The current allocations mechanism of IPv4 addresses which is based on a first-come-first-serve principle, has promoted the development of Internet on one hand; while on the other hand, it has adversely resulted in the shortage of IP resources and the discontinuity of IP address blocks for countries that are less-developed in Internet. It is recommended that the relevant stakeholders discuss within the IGF framework on how to ensure the equitable access by all countries to IPv6 address resources and how to promote balanced development of future Internet in all countries particularly developing countries during the transition from IPv4 to IPv6.

IV. Globally-applicable Principles for the Administration of Generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs)

In accordance with Tunis Agenda Paragraph 64⁸ and 70⁹, administration of gTLDs is one of the significant public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. The addition, deletion and adjustment of gTLDs have a profound impact on every country, including their economic, cultural, religious, and social aspects. It's therefore advisable for all stakeholders including governments to work together to explore the possibilities on developing globally applicable principles regarding this issue.

⁵ Tunis Agenda **Paragraph 29: We reaffirm the principles** enunciated in the Geneva phase of the WSIS, in December 2003, that the Internet has evolved into a global facility available to the public and its governance should constitute a core issue of the Information Society agenda. The international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. It should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism.

⁶ Tunis Agenda **Paragraph 58: We recognize** that Internet governance includes more than Internet naming and addressing. It also includes other significant public policy issues such as, *inter alia*, critical Internet resources, the security and safety of the Internet, and developmental aspects and issues pertaining to the use of the Internet.

⁷ Tunis Agenda **Paragraph 69: We further recognize** the need for enhanced cooperation in the future, to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet, but not in the day-to-day technical and operational matters, that do not impact on international public policy issues.

⁸ Tunis Agenda **Paragraph 64: We recognize** the need for further development of, and strengthened cooperation among, stakeholders for public policies for generic Top-Level Domain names (gTLDs).

⁹ Tunis Agenda **Paragraph 70: Using relevant international organizations**, such cooperation should include the development of globally-applicable principles on public policy issues associated with the coordination and management of critical Internet resources. In this regard, **we call upon** the organizations responsible for essential tasks associated with the Internet to contribute to creating an environment that facilitates this development of public policy principles.