Internet Technical Advisory Committee to the OECD

- Charter -

I. Terms of reference

- The positive input of the technical community in the ICCP's work and the Ministerial was acknowledged by OECD ministers in the [OECD Seoul Declaration for the Future of the Internet Economy](), on 18 June 2008. This declaration invited OECD to reinforce co-operative relationships and mutually beneficial collaboration with the Internet technical community[1].

- In an [Memorandum]()[2] presented to the Ministers of the OECD nations, the organisations of the Internet community committed themselves to pursuing their efforts of cooperation with OECD member states in order to help define a forward direction for the Internet, based on the principles of fuelling creativity, building confidence and creating maximum benefit from convergence (cf. Itc Memorandum, paragraph 3, in Annexe 2).

- The Internet Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) was officially recognized by OECD Council on 15 January 2009. At this occasion, Council agreed to renew the mandate of the ICCP Committee, and adopted the proposed modifications to the terms of reference [C/M(2009)1/PROV], which call upon the ICCP to:

  > "In the conduct of its work, the Committee will also, as appropriate, draw on the views and expertise of non-Members, international organisations and non-governmental stakeholders, and work with business, trade unions, civil society, and the Internet technical community within a framework of co-operation that promotes mutual understanding and participation."[3]

- The "Practical modalities for the participation of non-governmental stakeholders in the work of the ICCP Committee" [DSTI/ICCP(2009)1] were agreed upon by OECD Member States the 12th of March 2009. This paper outlines a set of principles (Annex 1) to govern the participation of all non-governmental stakeholders – business, labour, civil society, and the Internet technical community in ICCP work.

II. ITAC Mission

The Internet Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) to the OECD brings together, in a decentralized network approach, the counsel and expertise of technically focused organizations to policy formulation for the Internet economy.

The main purpose of the ITAC is to contribute constructively to Internet-related policies developed in the OECD. It mostly contributes to the work of the OECD Committee for Information, Computer and Communications Policy (ICCP) and its specific working

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[1] This echoes [Closing remarks by Angel Gurria, Secretary General of the OECD]() and comments on stakeholders' future participation in the OECD's work (18th of June 2008): "A more decentralized networked approach to policy formulation for the Internet economy also includes the active participation of stakeholders. Such active participation needs to be the norm. We appreciate the participation of stakeholders in this ministerial meeting. But I think we need to go further. I would recommend that we begin the process of formalizing the participation of civil society and the technical community in the work of the OECD on the Internet economy."

[2] [http://www.oecdministerialseoul2008.org/en]() and [http://isoc.org/pubpolpillar/issues/oecd_ministerial.shtml]()
[3] [http://www2.oecd.org/oecdgroups/Bodies.asp?body_id=1837&lng=E]() (emphasis added).

parties such as the Working Party on Communications and Infrastructure Services Policy (CISP), the Working Party on Information Economy (WPIE) and the Working Party on Information Security and Privacy (WPISP).

The ITAC is not intended to speak for or on behalf of any of its members. The ITAC's goal is to provide useful information to the OECD organizations in which it participates. Members will seek to develop consensus positions to transmit to the OECD, or to present a range of different views with explanations for the differences, in a form that will assist the OECD to develop useful advice to member governments and other interested parties. In any case, ITAC members can contribute to OECD's work independently.

III. Criteria for ITAC Membership

All Internet organizations that endorsed the Internet technical community Seoul Memorandum, at the 2008 OECD ministerial, are invited to become "**founding members"** of the ITAC.

The intention of the Internet Technical Advisory Committee is to provide an avenue for new technical insights to contribute to the work of the OECD, in cases where they do not have a pre-existing avenue of involvement (e.g., business, government).

ITAC membership is open to **Internet technical or research organizations** that:

- Support the principles set out in the ITC Seoul Memorandum (Annex 2);

- Contribute to the open Internet model;

- Demonstrate technical expertise and commitment to the public interest;

- Commit to open collaborative and multistakeholder modes of work;

- Respect the "Principles for the Participation of Non-governmental Stakeholders in the Work of the ICCP Committee and its Working Parties" adopted by OECD Member States (Annex 1);

- Are prepared to contribute to the work of the ITAC on issues of interest to their organization; and

- Are not currently participating in other Advisory Committees to the OECD Committee(s) and do not have independent official relations with such committees.

Should any organization wish to cease participating in the Internet Technical Advisory Committee, advance written notice should be provided to the coordinator within thirty (30) days.

IV. Coordination mechanisms for participation and input

Each organization will designate a "**contact point**" to facilitate the coordination and circulation of relevant information between the ITAC and its organization. The contact points can participate to the ITAC mailing list and to periodic conference calls that will be the essential means of coordination.

It is the role of the ITAC's "**coordinator**" to ensure the continuity of the group's input in the OECD's and the ICCP Committee work. In order to build on the success of the ministerial, the Internet Society (ISOC) is prepared to play this role.

The coordinator is assisted by a "**coordination group**" composed of volunteer "contact points".

This role could of course be reviewed in the future, and potentially could be taken up by any other organization of the technical community stakeholders' group. The organization facilitating the work of the group should be designated by the majority of the organizations constituting the Internet Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC).

The role of the coordinator is not to represent the other entities, but to facilitate their participation by:

- Acting as a liaison with the OECD Secretariat, without supplanting any interactions any group member might have with the OECD in their own right;

- Recruitment and outreach to new members;

- Ensuring the "Principles for the Participation of Non-governmental Stakeholders in the Work of the ICCP Committee and its Working Parties" (Annex 1) are respected (e.g. rules of circulation and use of OECD documents);

- Collecting working documents through OECD's on-line information system (OLIS) and circulating them among the group;

- Facilitating the participation of the group and its members in the work of the ICCP Committee;

- Facilitating input by the group and its members in relevant OECD events (e.g. Foresight Forum, Ministerial conferences, etc.);

- Scheduling periodic conference calls with other participants in the Internet technical experts group to prepare for meetings, exchange information and discuss activities and interests.

- Maintaining and updating the ITAC's web presence: www.internetac.org.

V. Commitments by organizations participating in the ITAC

The organizations participating in the Internet Technical Advisory Committee commit to continue respecting the terms of the Criteria for Membership set out above in paragraph III, and to the "Principles for the Participation of Non-governmental Stakeholders in the Work of the ICCP Committee and its Working Parties" (Annex 1) as agreed to by the ICCP in March 2009.

ITAC Founding Members:

ANNEX 1

Practical modalities for the participation of non-governmental stakeholders in the work of the ICCP Committee" [DSTI/ICCP(2009)1]

Annex A - Principles for the Participation of Non-governmental Stakeholders in the Work of the ICCP Committee and its Working Parties

1. Self-organisation by non-governmental stakeholders

Non-governmental stakeholder communities participating in the work of the ICCP Committee[4] should create or designate a co-ordination group through which to channel that participation. These co-ordination groups should:

- Represent a broad spectrum of views from the stakeholder community, reflecting expertise in the subject matters covered by the ICCP Committee

- Aim to develop consensus views from its members, with a view to facilitating the policy-development process in the ICCP Committee

- Exchange information and views with the ICCP Committee, including through participation in Committee meetings and submission of comments on work in progress

- Establish a single contact point or liaison to streamline communications with the Secretariat and delegates and assist in distributing information within the co-ordination group.

2. Access to Documents

Official documents considered by the ICCP Committee and classified as "For Official Use" will be made available to non-governmental stakeholders participating in its work through OLIS (where possible) or directly from the Secretariat for the purpose of expert consultation and comments. Circulation and use of "For Official Use" documents should be limited to this purpose and such documents should not be cited or posted on a publicly-accessible website. Non-governmental stakeholders will be accountable for respecting these rules.

3. Participation in official ICCP Committee meetings

In accordance with Rule 10.b of the Rules of Procedure of the OECD, a non-governmental stakeholder can be invited as expert to a meeting. Procedurally, the invitation is extended by the Secretariat, having consulted with the Chair. In general, after consultation with the Chair, the Secretariat will notify the four stakeholder communities, through their contact point, of the date and venue of the meetings of the Committee with an indication of the main issues for which their expertise is sought.

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[4]   The term "ICCP Committee" includes the Working Parties of the Committee.

The co-ordination groups should in return indicate to the Secretariat who will be participating in any given meeting so that they may be registered in the OECD events management system. The number of participants may be restricted for space or other reasons.

Although it is expected that non-governmental stakeholders will be invited to participate in ICCP Committee meetings on a regular basis, the Committee may restrict participation in a particular meeting to member government delegations (with or without observers). It may also do so for a particular item on its agenda. These restrictions should be communicated in advance, where possible.

During a meeting, the ICCP Chair may invite interventions from non-governmental stakeholders on any issue, although Committee decisions are reserved for member government delegations. Interventions are generally expected to reflect the agreed views of the stakeholder community in question, and not simply the views of the individual making the intervention.

4. Participation in inter-sessional work of the ICCP Committee and ad-hoc events

In general, when the Committee delegates are consulted on work items in between meetings, non-governmental stakeholders views should be invited as well, with access to relevant documents provided by the Secretariat.

The Committee should also maximise the opportunities to consult and engage with non-governmental stakeholders through conferences, workshops and related events.

5. Transparency

On agreement of the ICCP Committee, these principles should be made publicly available on the OECD Web site.

Likewise each stakeholder community should maintain a public Web presence that provides a list of its members and other general information about its participation at the work of the ICCP Committee, while respecting the confidentiality of the Committee's deliberation process and the OECD rules on access to official documents.

INTERNET TECHNICAL COMMUNITY MEMORANDUM

Internet Technical Community Forum

16 June 2008, Seoul, Korea

The Internet technical community was actively engaged in the preparation of the OECD Ministerial Conference held in Seoul in June 2008. The Internet technical community's Forum was designed to be a direct contribution to the ministers' work in three areas: **Creativity**, **Confidence**, and **Convergence**. It also provided delegates from OECD members and the Internet technical community with an unprecedented opportunity to share experiences and exchange perspectives on the "Future of the Internet Economy".

The participating organizations from the Internet technical community come from a wide range of entities from around the world. They work with governments, national and international organizations, civil society and the private sector to pursue their objectives in a collaborative and inclusive manner. While each has its own mission and its own role to play, these Internet technical community organizations are motivated by a common vision of an open and accessible Internet that brings shared economic and social benefits to all the world's citizens, now and in the future.

As OECD members elaborate the policy framework for the next decade, we of the Internet technical community urge continuing engagement with all stakeholders (the technical, civil society and business communities). As the Internet grows and continues to spur economic and social development around the world, the policies and practices of tomorrow must grow from the shared principles and the shared vision that underpin our collaboration. These principles have been developed by our community in the following Memorandum.

INTERNET TECHNICAL COMMUNITY MEMORANDUM
ON THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET IN A GLOBAL ECONOMY
16 June 2008, Seoul, Korea

We, a group of interested and active participants from the Internet technical community assembled in Seoul, Korea on the 16th of June, 2008, want to express our shared desire and commitment to join with the OECD's member states in common cause to ensure the future of the Internet as a force for continued social and economic development on a global scale.

1. To achieve this objective in the coming decade, we **CALL UPON** governments, civil society, the private sector and individuals to ensure that the human capacities that are enhanced or enabled by the Internet are preserved, including:

a) **The ability to connect**: The end-to-end architecture of the Internet is essential to its utility as a platform for connecting people, and thus for education, innovation, creativity and economic opportunity. In an information society, to support human development and protect human rights, all people need to have affordable access to an open and neutral network, and to the services that it provides.

b) **The ability to communicate**: By enabling communication on an unprecedented scale, the Internet is a revolutionary medium for expression and collaboration. Genuinely free communication can only be guaranteed when privacy and anonymity are assured in principle, and where content controls are an exception rather than a rule.

c) **The ability to innovate**: The remarkable growth of the Internet and its applications follow directly from the open model of Internet connectivity and standards development. Policies must encourage open technical standards and protocols that are developed through open, transparent and accessible processes.

d) **The ability to share**: The Internet is based on a "many-to-many" architecture, making it a powerful tool for learning, sharing and collaborating. It has enabled the emergence of a global community that has developed many key components of the Internet, such as the Domain Name System (DNS) and the World Wide Web. This characteristic must be protected by fostering balance in the system of intellectual property rights, which is essential to scholarship, education and collaboration.

e) **The ability to choose**: The hope and expectations for the continued development of Internet-related capabilities is that this will speed economic growth and social progress. Such development can best be realized in an environment that is not encumbered by excessive governmental or private controls on its component technologies, infrastructure, or content. Therefore, policies must promote competition and diversity in telecommunications, Internet services, products and applications.