Contribution by DotConnectAfrica

Trust to the ITU CWG-Internet :

Public Consultation (March 2014)

2014

Abstract

ITU Council resolved that the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (CWG-Internet) would hold online consultations for all stakeholders on certain policy issues to be decided by the Group. The Topic on that will result in the recognizing and enabling the equal role and responsibility by all governments globally for international Internet governance and for ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the Internet.

All governments in the world are partners in the development and sustainance of a continued review and contribution to the wider and growth of the internet technology and the subsidizing of this resource for the use and localization all over the world. Most governments especially in the developing continents such as Africa appreciate the need to train and develop skills that will aid and reinforce the urgent need for development of public policy by governments in consultation with all stakeholders.

ITU's commitment is to connect, global communications infrastructure must therefore be continuously monitored to ensure that it runs as smoothly and efficiently as possible, and that enables everybody to access the benefits of ICTs while at the same time assisting in mitigating new risks.

DotConnectAfrica Trust is a millennial organization that has the African Vision embedded in its inception and looks to create a continental domain and registry that will not only revolutionize but also create a platform that will nurture all other facets of African socio-economic development.

Introduction of DotConnectAfrica

DotConnectAfrica Trust is an independent, non-profit and non-partisan organization that is based in Port Louis, Mauritius (Reg. ID. CT8710DCA90) with its registry operations located in Nairobi, Kenya. Its main charitable objects are: (a) for the advancement of education in information technology to the African society; and (b) in connection with (a) to provide the African society with a continental Internet domain name to have access to Internet services for the people of Africa as a purpose beneficial to the public in general.

As an independent Non-Profit, non-partisan entity, DCA Trust intends to utilize surplus proceeds from the registry operation accruing to the Trust Fund for Charitable projects. Funds will be regularly allocated to different corporate social responsibility programs. Specific projects will be identified, and supported. As the first gTLD for Africa, it will aim at bridging the digital divide that exists between other regions of the Internet community and Africa by promoting the use of ICT for development. DotAfrica gives a positive branding opportunity for Africa that will benefit all Africans and in the use of technology to power their businesses.

DotConnectAfrica and its Principal and Members have in the past has worked or been advisors with International organizations such as Organization for Africa Union (OAU) aka Africa Union, United Nations Economic Commission for Africa UNECA), and International and regional organizations such as the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA), Internet Corporation of Assigned Names and (ICANN), The International Telecommunication Union (ITU), The Internet Society (ISOC), Internationalized Domain Resolution Union (IDRU), Internet Business Council for Africa (IBCA), and various private sector technology companies in Africa and internationally, with a view to increase synergy that encourages all stakeholders to participate in this dialog, in particular the African Diaspora.

In 11 July 2012, the ITU Council decided that the Draft of the future ITRS be made publicly accessible for an open consultation process, where all stakeholders could express their views and opinions on the content of the Draft of the future ITRs or any other matter related to WCIT. DotConnectAfrica as a concerned stakeholder in the ICT sector of the African continent submitted several recommendations to that effect. DCA's contribution has been published at ITU's Public Views and Opinions page

Topic:

Open Consultations and actions are to be undertaken by governments in relations to each of the international Internet-related public policy issues identified in Annex 1 to Resolution

On 4 March 2014 the Council Working Group decided that Open Consultations would be convened on the following issue:

- "Recognizing the scope of work of ITU on international Internet-related public policy matters, represented by the list of topics in Council 2009 Resolution 1305 Annex 1 which was established in accordance with decisions of ITU membership at the Plenipotentiary Conference, the Council Working Group on International Internet Related Public Policy **invites all stakeholders to provide their position on following question :**

  Q1. What actions are to be undertaken by governments in relations to each of the international Internet-related public policy issues identified in Annex 1 to Resolution 1305 (adopted by Council 2009 at the seventh Plenary Meeting)?"

Introduction

The ITU has the advantage of being a global institution, at the helm of international matters that deal with multi-institutional policy making strategies. The increasing attention that is being given to the ITU to take leadership in matters that deal with ICT and globalization.

The ITU has the responsibility of being at the center and the platform of coalescing strategies and ideas from governments and private organizations and making acceptable strategies

ITU convened the World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, from 3-14 December 2012. This landmark conference reviewed the International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs), which serve as the binding global treaty designed to facilitate international interconnection and interoperability of information and communication services, as well as ensuring their efficiency and widespread public usefulness and availability. The results of the conference gave an opportune moment for the entire world to be able contribute through delegations, the urgent need and benefit of a multistakeholder model of deliberations both for individuals, private organizations and governments.

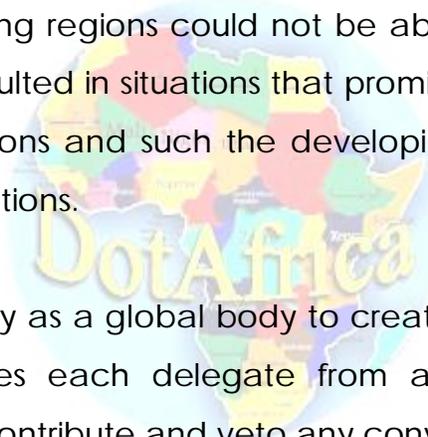**Strategic Actions and Focus Areas and Future Joint collaboration**

Sovereignty and Individualism

In developing past agendas the advantage of countries maintaining their individual identity as countries in voicing opinions has been important in making sure that each country is able to contribute to the global agendas without being forced to conform to consortiums that may not be in line with individual positions.

Africa as is with other developing nations are learning fast on how to develop country specific conventions and legislations with annexes that provide in-roads and assimilations to already developed global agendas. It's important to help and enable countries to be able to create suitable legislations that are individual so that then implications of any universal conventions like the ITR's are then understood this will help to ensuring the stability, security and continuity of the Internet.

Equal playing field.

In the past, developed countries have led forums and global conventions in developing global agenda, however in this scenario, some countries especially those from the developing regions could not be able to put their voice in the forums, this may have resulted in situations that prominence of conditions come from the developed nations and such the developing nations were forced to conform to existing legislations.

The ITU has an opportunity as a global body to create a level playing field that supports and encourages each delegate from all over the world to feel empowered enough to contribute and veto any conventions.

The equal playing field should offer an equal footing to the developing nations especially to participate.

Multistakeholder approach.

Its very important to encourage a bottom up approach that includes every voice and idea from all stakeholders such as governments, policy experts, civil society, academia, business constituencies and independent bodies.

Transparency and Accountability

For the creation of proper systems legislations or technologies that equally affect the growth of internet, accountability and transparency must be encouraged at all the times.

This affects all sections and facets such as policy development processes, finance e.t.c

Communication

The ITU should also encourage the constant dissemination of information that is available at each stage, this way all partners will be able to participate with an informed frame of mind, this also creates openness.