

## **EXTRACT**

**from the Session Protocol No 34 as of 14<sup>th</sup> of August 2014  
of the Government of the RA**

### **12. On Approving the Principles of Internet Governance**

Based on point 55 of N1 Appendix of Resolution 800 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia on July 18, 2013

1. To approve the Internet governance principles, in accordance with the Appendix.
2. To the Minister of Transport and Communication: within three-month period following the entry into force of the given decision to submit for the approval of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia the list of members for the interdepartmental group of "Internet Governance Forum in RA" as a body providing suggestions on development of policy making in the sphere of Internet governance of Armenia with their agreement, including representatives of public and private sector.

The Prime Minister of the  
Republic of Armenia

Hovik Abrahamyan

August 28, 2014  
Yerevan

Appendix of the 34<sup>th</sup> Protocol  
Decision of the Government of  
the Republic of Armenia as of  
14<sup>th</sup> of August 2014

INTERNET GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES  
INTRODUCTION

The great achievements in Internet, telecommunications and information technologies give wide range of opportunities to our nation with great Diaspora to have a special place and role in the general development of society maintaining national characteristics. The Internet has also become a major factor both in economic development and in civil society development.

It is natural that the regulation and management of the sphere have become national and international major concern.

In order to solve this problem and develop the Internet continuously it is necessary to define the principles of Internet governance used in the Republic of Armenia and make recommendations for problems solutions based on these principles.

Internet governance is the discussion and suggestion of projects approval procedures principles, rules and norms of the use and development of the Internet by the government, private sector and the civil society based on which it will be possible to submit legislative initiatives, programs of the Government and other legal acts.

Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was created in World Conference on Information Technology in order to solve and regulate the problems concerning to the governance of Internet, the basis of its activity is the formation of the Information Society action plan program accepted on December 18<sup>th</sup> in 2005 in Tunis. The program was adopted by 172 country representatives, by 46 country leaders including the President of the Republic of Armenia.

The local Internet sector, being a part of the global Internet, is being developed by its own unique characteristics. In this regard, participation in Internet Governance Forum, sharing the experiences and the usage of new reasonable approaches will enable to present the position and current practices of the Republic of Armenia to the international community.

A rapid progress has been registered in the electronic communications sector in the Republic of Armenia in the last years enabling to provide electronic communications services by using modern requirements of technical and technological solutions.

For the sector improvement the establishment, maintenance and development of harmonious relations with operators, content creators and application developers in line with those of international practices are of significant importance.

## **I. THE MAIN PURPOSES AND ISSUES**

1. The main objectives of Internet Governance in the Republic of Armenia are:
  - 1) To promote the development of Internet and create favorable conditions.
    - a) regardless of the type of activity and residence of our compatriots for more often and affordable communication implementation to use high quality Internet services, portable computer devices, smartphones and IP telecommunications with multimedia systems:
    - b) consistent with the Armenian cultural features to create favorable conditions for providing public participation in the formation of the global information databases in order to overcome the linguistic obstacles and facilitate the use of information database:
    - c) to organize material classification, retrieval, guidelines in order to form knowledge-based society, to have our place and role in global modern developments, to introduce the Armenian cultural values with dignity, to shape National unified information space for the centennial of the Armenian Genocide:

- d) to shape modern information "digital" society in the Republic of Armenia:
- 2) To create the position of the Republic of Armenia on worked out and adopted documents of Global Internet Governance Forum.
- 3) To support the cooperation with International organizations of Internet Governance as well as the regional associations and other related unions.
- 4) To provide the public, private and state institutions participation in the process of Internet governance.
- 5) To assist appropriate infrastructure development in the Republic of Armenia.
  - a) to create conditions for establishing, collecting and preserving information materials:
  - b) to assist the development of fiber-optic communications networks:
  - c) to create the effective interconnection system, increasing the reliability of internal networks concerning to the Internet, security provision and solution of the development issues:
  - d) to support the creation of native language guidelines for using effectively the computer devices, modern phones and Internet, as well as the guidelines for using distance learning, media manuals, internet services and Armenian quality translation and development activities handbooks in order to maintain the netiquette among the network users:
  - e) to facilitate the acceleration and promotion of cultural heritage digitization.

## **II. INTERNET GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES**

- 2. The Internet Governance Principles of the Republic of Armenia are:
  - 1) Providing people with Internet access
  - 2) Wide distribution of Domain Names
  - 3) Support of DNSSEC distribution
  - 4) Support of IPv6 distribution
  - 5) Support of Human Rights protection in Internet
  - 6) Network users Identification with Personal Data protection
  - 7) Support of Innovations

- 8) Support of Intellectual Property Rights protection
- 9) Support of the establishment of local Exchange Centers of Internet traffic
- 10) The most common approaches of Internet regulation
- 11) Effective usage of Internet Numbering and Addressing System
- 12) Effective solutions suggestion of Traffic routing
- 13) Security Support
- 14) Support of Open Standards adoption
- 15) Support of Child Online protection
- 16) Support of Network Neutrality principle usage
- 17) Support of free and open content development

### **III. THE DESCRIPTION OF INTERNET GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES AND APPROACHES**

3. Providing people with Internet access
  - 1) Basing on the cooperation between public and private sector to solve the issues of Internet development and access in the Republic of Armenia.
  - 2) By raising the level of knowledge among computer users based on basic educational process, retraining and promotion of internationally recognized certification and volunteers involvement.
  - 3) By broadband Internet access.
4. Wide distribution of Domain names
  - 1) To create favorable conditions for registration and usage of Domain names as a basis of establishing a Pan-Armenian Cooperation Network by reducing bureaucracy and ensuring minimum obstacles.
  - 2) To create favorable conditions for hosting services in the Republic of Armenia as Pan-Armenian Cooperation Network basic hubs providing the involvement of specialists of the Republic of Armenia in the creation, maintenance, provision of security and development and innovations implementation in these hubs.
  - 3) To target use the domain names by the community within the framework of state and public cooperation excluding the improper use of public appeals which aimed to fail the constitutional orders such as terrorism, ethnic strife sowing and distribution of trafficking and pornographic materials. Broadly to use national and

international cooperation of resources of information exchange while fighting against such challenges.

- 4) To develop the solutions of controversial issues related to domain names, based on the Law of the Republic of Armenia and on the Judicial or Arbitral decisions without using administrative restrictions.
- 5) To launch domain names in the national alphabet system, which is an important purpose of domain names coordination. This system is suitable to apply after formation and wide usage of main information resources using Latin scripts in the Republic of Armenia, which will allow us to properly represent the Republic of Armenia to the global Internet community mostly using the Latin keyboards.
5. Support of DNSSEC distribution
  - 1) To encourage and motivate the acting operators and Internet service providers in the Republic of Armenia to use DNSSEC in their networks and domain protocol.
  - 2) To support the extend of more secure protocols, offering measures to protection Personal Data.
6. Support of IPv6 distribution

To encourage and motivate the acting operators and Internet service providers in the Republic of Armenia to use IPv6 protocol in their networks and domains.
7. Support of Human Rights protection in Internet
  - 1) To support both the free expression of opinions and the right of creating unions in Internet based on the principles enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Armenia and on the International agreements and conventions.
  - 2) To involve the representative of Ombudsman Office in the Republic of Armenia in Internet governance activities.
  - 3) To support the cooperation between state and society, which aimed to prevent the sowing of interethnic dissension, the public appeals directed to overthrow the constitutional order, as the propaganda of pornography, terrorism and trafficking.
8. Network users Identification with Personal Data protection

To support the technologies allowing to maintain the protection of personal data along with providing the opportunities of Internet users to be identified according to law requirements.

## 9. Support of Innovations

To support the unhindered access of innovations for Internet users and service providers of the Republic of Armenia, including Internet economy, e-commerce, telemedicine, distant learning and new technology solutions. To use the potential of IT Development Supporting Council, IT organizations and other public, commercial organizations for the effective cooperation with the leaders of the Republic of Armenia in all aspects of economy.

## 10. Support of Intellectual Property Rights protection

- 1) To support the best application practices for the Intellectual Property Rights protection both in national legislation and in World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) for solving the controversial issues of domain name system related to the intellectual property.
- 2) To support the public initiatives aimed at protecting the intellectual property of internet users, forming intolerance environment against the illegal use of intellectual property among the Internet users of the Republic of Armenia.
- 3) To fight against the copyright infringement within the national legislative framework using the international cooperation.
- 4) To support the set up of netiquette standards among the Internet users.

## 11. Support of the establishment of local Exchange Centers of Internet traffic

The creation of local Internet traffic exchange points has a positive impact on reduce of Internet access prices and on the speed increase. These centers can be created and operated when their activity is economically efficient. A priority issue to create local exchange centers of Internet traffic is to ensure technical security.

To specify the areas of working principles, activities and settlement of the exchange centers of Internet traffic.

## 12. The most common approaches of Internet regulation

The development of Internet was provided without centralized regulation which allowed the creation of modern requirements systems for free competition, consolidation of community efforts, set up of operational innovations, the usage of scientific and technical potential, volunteers work as a result of open source

software. The settlement of these factors may be helpful, however our experience shows that the result without targeted regulation has significantly modified both business and social, political climate. Internet Regulation is appropriate to apply only in the case when the existence of Internet environment and domain name content without the regulation is under threat.

#### 13. Effective usage of Internet Numbering and Addressing System

- 1) The Internet numbering and addressing system, the best current practice of addresses provision enable the possibility to support the emergence of new service providers; the operating identification system allows the users to identify the numbers of operators, if necessary to ensure the improper use of addresses.
- 2) The development of the system has led to the unimpeded distribution of IPv6 protocol allowing the spread of modern technical methods usage in everyday life. The absence of the preconditions of changes of effective work of the numbering system cause the effective operation of the system. To support the possibility of using the existing Internet numbering and addresses.

#### 14. Effective solutions suggestion of Traffic routing

The development of Internet has created possibility to increase the reliability of bandwidth usage at the expense of usage of many alternative routes automatically. The automatic selection of specific routes makes it possible not to mention a description of each route, otherwise it will be impossible with a growing number of channels and the development of Internet. Modification to the manual input of separate channels of dynamic routing system will not allow the development insurance of Internet, using the best international practices. Taking into consideration the above mentioned, to support the usage of existing dynamic routing system.

#### 15. Support of Internet security of Armenia

- 1) The solution of Internet security problems is the close collaboration of public, private and non-governmental organizations. The complexity and diversity of existing systems, their continuous development and improvement do not allow to set formal implementation system step by step but require a quick response to the emergence of new challenges.



The ensuring of security in the current conditions except the measures defined by Law also offers state and society collaboration providing cooperation with Computer Emergency Response Teams (CERT). To involve the community into Internet security process, conducting the Interstate cooperation in the framework of convention of fight against cybercrime as well as legislation by a competent authority.

- 2) To support the increase of electronic communications infrastructure owners, service providers and the professional capacity of database owners.
  - a) By the means of increasing the users level of awareness and education to support the cooperation with state, private, public, academic, industry networking CERTs and the International similar organizations.
  - b) In cooperation with public-private sector to take measures for preventing terrorism, public appeals directed to overthrow the constitutional orders, pornography, trafficking and propaganda of interethnic disagreement, spam, messages of e-fraud purposes and the spreading of harmful programs in domain names system of Armenia.
  - c) To provide security for state information system, internet connection of public authorities and information (submitted) in internet by authorized state authority.
  - d) To conform the agreements of interstate legislation of the Republic of Armenia and the sphere that regulates the international legal acts, validated by the Republic of Armenia enabling to have more advanced and flexible legislation acts in order to regulate the field of information security.
  - e) To create backup satellite channels: this will provide with more important information flow routing regardless of terrestrial channel failures.

#### 16. Support of Open Standards adoption

- 1) The Internet development is based on processing and using the open standards which allow all interested parties to join to already operating system without paying for intellectual property.
- 2) To use an open standards which should be the priority in Internet-related development projects process, except for the cases when

the usage of open standards is impossible or it can make a danger for national security functions.

17. Support of Child Online protection

The issues of child protection are among the important issues discussing at the World Internet Governance Forum. The proposed solutions plan work-out complex measures today, involving operators, public organizations, schools and family in the overall process. Child protection is a continuous process the complex solutions of which should have been offered as a result of work of the Internet Governance Council of the Republic of Armenia, by responding to new emerging challenges.

18. Support of Network Neutrality principle usage

1) The following approaches are proposed (the approaches for state agencies are determined by the state authority, taking into account the national security issues).

- a) to support access to all computer ports
- b) transparent work of all Internet protocols
- c) to ensure transparent access to all information sources

2) To exclude the filtering of information flows passing through the public electronic communications network, except for the following cases.

- a) Court Decision or Law requirement
- b) end-user consent
- c) ensuring the robustness and integrity of the operator's network (with the mandatory end-user prior notice)
- d) preventing the overloading of operator's network, all protocols necessarily considered as equal

19. Support of free and open content development

To support the dissemination of information unbound by Copyright protection.

#### **IV. THE STATE POLICY OF INTERNET GOVERNANCE**

20. Within the state policy of Internet Governance

1) To stimulate the projects implemented by the private sector, particularly the schools inter-connection, construction and operation of the broadband telecommunications network, as well as expanding the directions of Internet services.

- 2) To stimulate the public involvement in the process of Internet governance.
- 3) To shape and develop infrastructures ensuring efficient implementation of policies, resulting from the given decision.

## **V. THE MAIN DIRECTIONS OF IMPLEMENTATIONS**

- 21) In order to regulate the functions of the Internet Governance the functions of the established Internet Governance Council of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter the functions of IGC of RA) are as follows:
  - 1) To organize discussions concerning the functions of Global Internet Governance Forum within the framework of the principles of Internet governance and the emergence of new challenges resulting from the development of the Internet. To form approaches resulted of the discussions to involve them into the working programs, projects of the Government of the Republic of Armenia, to come out with legislative initiatives, to propose other legal acts.
  - 2) To cooperate with the Secretariat of the Global Internet Governance Forum introducing the modern approaches of IGC of the Republic of Armenia, to organize discussions for those approaches localization and representation, submit proposals for their reasonable usage in order to work out legal acts or make changes in them.
  - 3) To arrange public discussions proposed by other international and intergovernmental bodies concerning to Internet by formulating recommendations regarding to the positions of the Republic of Armenia, to represent these positions at those International or regional bodies, where the Ministry of Transport and Communications of the Republic of Armenia is the participant.
  - 4) To submit the IGC remarks and recommendations of the issues discussed at other international or regional associations to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.
  - 5) To support the participation of representatives proposed by the IGC of the Republic of Armenia to the Global Internet Governance Forum providing them with state policy-driven guidelines coordinated by representatives of public and private sectors.

- 6) To support the best practices instigation by the representatives of the world experience exchange, academic, scientific and technical oriented centers.
- 7) To provide consultation to all agencies of the Republic of Armenia concerning to main directions of Internet developments abroad.
- 8) In pace with the emerging issues of Internet development to provide the community of the Republic of Armenia with public information.
- 9) To promote the creation of human potential for using and managing the Internet in the Republic of Armenia, by means of the potential of local specialists.