American Model United Nations
World Summit on the Information Society +10

WSIS+10/I/1

SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION: Bridging digital divides

SUBMITTED TO: The World Summit on the Information Society +10

The World Summit on the Information Society +10,

Taking into consideration the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and expressing in particular the need to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging countries to aid in bridging the digital divide,

Reaffirming the past resolutions of the World Summit on the Information Society+10 (WSIS+10), particularly the 2003 and 2005 Summits, and fulfilling the Sustainable Development Goals previously designated by the United Nations,

Recognizing that Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructural development has long been a priority and must be conducted in an equitable, sustainable, accessible and responsible manner to bridge the digital divide,

Further recalling that the use of ICT technology should take into account cultural, economic and technological realities among physical and digital societies where the most ICT development is needed,

Noting the importance of the private sector in assisting public benefit development with the goal of bridging the digital divide,

Guided by the need to expand true access to both vital technologies and basic ICT necessities and their success in bridging the digital divide,

Emphasizing the crucial points that are brought forth in Articles 19 and 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,

Reminding the committee that funding mechanisms should play a large role in the activities of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF),

Endorsing financial accountability and responsibility,

1. *Acknowledges* the need for increased expertise to be directed towards regions where ICT development is needed, expertise which:

(a) Considers that experts of current and emerging technologies are organized by the International Governance Forum (IGF) and International Telecommunications Union (ITU);

2. *Endorses* the idea that ICTs can be described in a pyramidal fashion that includes:

(a) The establishment of reliable, sustainable and affordable electric supplies as the foundation for bridging the digital divide;

(b) Electronic literacy (E-literacy) in business and government, technology education and the capacity for mass mobile phone use;

(c) Reliable and affordable internet access as the top of the pyramid;

3. *Acknowledges* that lesser developed nations should be prioritized by the international community for ICT development which quite often have the largest digital divides;

4. *Recommends* that sources of ICT capital, on a voluntary basis via the ITU, adopt policy guidelines for the lending and granting of funds and other resources that:

(a) Encourage the development of clear, measurable goals when any money is allocated and periodic benchmarks to be taken to evaluate the effectiveness of any given policy;

(b) Recommends money be allocated by application or request for aid and given based on availability and needs of all applicants;

5. *Further requests* that Member States treat internet access as a basic human right as affirmed in the 2003 WSIS+10 Declaration of Principles;

6. *Encourages* governments at the national and sub-national levels to provide individualized incentives for investment from private companies attempting to bridge the digital divide, who:

(a) Provide ICT connections in an established quota of lower socioeconomic households as predetermined by Member States;

(b) Provide substantial technological support and educational software;

(c) Facilitate the creation of jobs for the respective States;

7. *Endorses* the idea of a two step approach to build domestic capacity in bridging digital divides that includes:

(a) Strengthening ICT infrastructure to increase tech literacy by establishing stronger Public-Private Partnerships (PPP's) can increase the supply of ICT equipment in schools in a cost-effective manner;

(b) Building community involvement through training and support that;

(i) Acknowledge the cultural, political and economic differences within nations and across nations, which necessitate flexible policy recommendations that can best serve each specific community;

(ii) Uses private telecommunication and technology companies to establish connections with existing community networks to train individuals on how to use the technology and troubleshoot;

(iii) Account for cultural sensitivities and linguistic diversity;

8. *Further invites* Member States to increase regulation on Internet Service Providers' (ISP) ability to limit consumers' bandwidth and network speed with the following guidelines:

(a) ISP's should not be able to restrict internet access by;

(i) More than 25% of the contract-stated bandwidth for open market connection;

(ii) More than 40% of the contract-stated bandwidth for State sponsored programs;

(b) Whenever ISPs voluntarily lower bandwidth connectivity, they must offer appropriate justification for doing so;

(c) In the absence of justification, Member States are encouraged to develop an accountability framework that includes consideration of;

(i) The relative size of the restriction;

(ii) The duration of suspension;

(iii) The demographic of those restricted with the understanding that people disadvantaged by the digital divide and of minority groups often receive less access to ICT;

9. *Encourages* Member States to educate disadvantaged individuals of the global digital divide on the harms of disposing of electronic waste (e-waste) on the environment and their health in the manner of:

(a) This education should be offered and available to citizens when purchasing electronics in the form of;

(i) Information at place of purchase;

(ii) Available online resources;

(b) Offering drop-off and/or pick-up locations for citizens to properly dispose of e-waste and electronic devices that are;

(i) Easily accessible;

(ii) Modeled after Planet Aid's Find a Bin initiative;

10. *Further urges* Member States to ensure that ICT providers are properly providing educational supplements and resources to consumers when installing new ISP's with the following guidelines:

(a) Informing consumers on the appropriate channels by which to receive assistance in ICT use and ICT troubleshooting;

(b) Outlining the methods by which ICT can be used for economic benefit and gain, and understanding that ICT can aid in efficiently stimulating economic development through;

(i) Investments;

(ii) Business management;

(iii) Economic profiles;

11. *Encourages* Member States at the national and sub-national levels to provide individualized incentives for investment from private companies who fit the following criteria:

(a) Provide ICT connections in an established quota of lower socioeconomic households as predetermined by the sovereign nation;

(b) Provide substantial leap frog tech support and educational software;

(c) Facilitate the creation of jobs for the respective nations;

12. *Emphasizes* the need to monitor the development of ICTs by:

(a) Evaluating the success of programs established by PPPs;

(b) Encouraging Member States to consider creating a ranking system to assist in using funds effectively and efficiently.

Passed, Yes: 66 / No: 7 / Abstain: 22