Arab Internet Governance Community Proposal on Global Internet Principles

- Area: SET OF INTERNET GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES
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Abstract

Members of the Arab IGF community and representatives of Internet Governance stakeholders in the Arab region would like to present a list of global Internet Governance principles aimed at guaranteeing people around the world the full educational, economic, social, cultural, developmental, and transformational benefits of an open, secure, stable and multilingual Internet, maintaining unrestricted access to all resources and capabilities of this global network, while securing privacy, freedom of expression, the availability and free flow of information and net neutrality.

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The Internet plays an important role in fostering knowledge, education, innovation and business. It is a revolutionary tool which has had, and will continue to have, major impacts on humanity, and has drastically transformed every aspect of our being. For the Internet to continue growing as a global tool beneficial to the public interest, global principles of Internet Governance need to be discussed, agreed upon and adopted by all stakeholders of the Internet community.

Such agreement on Internet Governance principles should take into consideration the following:

1. Governance of the Internet should be based on a multi-stakeholder model with wide, balanced and global representation of all stakeholder groups. More efforts should be deployed to ensure wider engagement of stakeholders from developing countries to achieve a globally balanced multi-stakeholder model for Internet Governance.

2. While Internet public policies implementation is the main responsibility of governments, the necessary mechanisms should be adopted to encourage a bottom up and community driven approach in designing those policies to best serve the public interest.

3. Respecting international laws, rights, and freedoms are the responsibility of every Internet stakeholder. The internet must guarantee Human Rights and freedoms as ordained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and any other pertinent legal document.

4. Users' Rights online are central and should be improved materialization of those rights offline. Current legislation applied on the Internet which hinders any aspect of the basic human rights as stipulated in international instruments should be reviewed and adapted to guarantee that Internet rights are identical to offline rights.

5. Open, inclusive, neutral and unrestricted access to the Internet is central to democratic and socio-economic development. Data protection, privacy, security and freedom of expression are basic to the development of the Internet.

6. The rule of law, open, equal, unhindered, affordable access, and multilingualism are basic requirements for every Internet user to be empowered to reap the full benefit of internet resources. Any adopted governance mechanisms should be based on worldwide best practices to avoid Internet censorship.

7. While the general security and the protection of the users and their rights are global multi-stakeholder responsibility lead by governments, the day-to-day technical management of the Internet is the responsibility of the private sector and the technical

community. None of these responsibilities (i.e., neither security and the protection of the citizens nor technical management) should undermine the general principles of Internet neutrality, transparency and Inclusiveness of all stakeholders in the decision making process.

8. State sovereignty stipulated by international treaties and users privacy should be respected and protected from external surveillance operations.

9. The Internet is a global public good. Critical Internet resources, including root servers, names and numbers, need to be managed globally, through a model that is fair, transparent and accountable to the international Internet community.