

Thank you Mr Chairman. I appreciate the opportunity to take the floor during these open consultations.

My name is Axel Pawlik, I speak for the RIPE NCC, a Dutch membership association that operates one of the Internet Root Nameserver clusters, and also performs the tasks of Regional Internet Registry for Europe, The Middle East, and parts of Central Asia.

Having been established in 1992, we are currently serving about 4300 members in that service region, most of them companies that – among themselves – are responsible for operating the Internet in this part of the world.

We have followed, and also actively contributed to the WSIS process, since the early Geneva phase. Only last week we hosted a Roundtable meeting for Governments and Regulators, an activity that I view as a direct outflow of our activities around the World Summit.

May I shortly say that we are impressed with and congratulate you for the progress made so far, which you, Chairman, and Mr Kummer, have been able to sustain until today.

Listening to the debate, in Malta last week, and here yesterday and today, we sense that there is a strong consensus emerging on the fundamental mechanics of the Internet Governance Forum. Clearly it will be multistakeholder, and it should not be bound by UN procedures or WSIS rules, in order to be fully open and accessible. We, too, feel that a duration of about 3 days is appropriate for the meeting itself, that there should be one meeting per year, that the secretariat should be relatively small and lightweight, and that there should be a Programme Committee that prepares the individual meetings. We agree with what has been put forward to be among the first topics: Spam and Multilingualism. Further, consistent with our own actions over the last years, we would like to emphasise the need for a strongly development oriented approach.

Finally, I would like to close this intervention with the statement that for the IGF to be a success, it is essential that the Internet Community, operating this pervasive medium for decades, is recognised as a primary stakeholder in

the process, on an equal footing with Governments, Civil Society and the Private Sector.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.