



ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 102 (Marrakesh 2002): Management of Internet domain names and addresses

The Plenipotentiary Conference of the International Telecommunication Union (Marrakesh, 2002),

aware

that the purposes of the Union are, *inter alia*, to promote, at the international level, the adoption of a broad approach to the issues of telecommunications in the global information economy and society, to promote the extension of the benefits of new telecommunication technologies to all the world's inhabitants and to harmonize the efforts of Member States and Sector Members in the attainment of those ends,

considering

- a) that advances in the global information infrastructure, including the development of Internet Protocol (IP)-based networks and especially the Internet, are of crucial importance as an important engine for growth in the world economy in the twenty-first century;
- b) that the private sector is playing a very important role in the expansion and development of the Internet, for example through investments in infrastructures and services;
- c) that the development of the Internet is essentially market-led and driven by private and government initiatives;
- d) that the management of the registration and allocation of Internet domain names and addresses must fully reflect the geographical and functional nature of the Internet, taking into account an equitable balance of interests of all stakeholders;
- e) that Internet domain names and addresses, and more generally the Internet and global information networks, must be widely accessible to all citizens without regard to gender, race, religion or country of residence;
- f) that the methods of allocation of Internet domain names and addresses should not privilege any country or region of the world to the detriment of others;
- g) that the management of the Internet is a subject of valid international interest and must flow from full international cooperation;
- h) that the expanding use of the Internet is expected to lead to the need for an increased capacity of IP addresses;
- i) that Member States represent the interests of the population of the country or territory for which a country code top-level domain (ccTLD) has been delegated;
- j) that Member States should play an active role in coordinating the resolution of management and administrative constraints arising with respect to their ccTLDs,

recognizing

- a) that ITU is dealing with issues related to IP-based networks in general and the Internet in particular;
- b) that ITU performs worldwide coordination of a number of name and address allocation systems and acts as a forum for policy discussion in this area;
- c) that ITU can play a positive role by offering a platform for encouraging discussions, and for the dissemination of information, particularly to developing country governments, on the management of Internet domain names and addresses;
- d) that through international cooperation, ITU should contribute to policy development related to the management of Internet domain names and addresses,

emphasizing

- a) that the management of Internet domain names and addresses includes:
 - technical and coordination tasks, for which technical private bodies can be responsible;
 - public interest matters (for example, stability, security, freedom of use, protection of individual rights, sovereignty, competition rules and equal access for all), for which governments or intergovernmental organizations are responsible and to which qualified international organizations contribute;
- b) that the methods of allocation of global and essential resources such as Internet domain names and addresses are of interest to both governments and the private sector;
- c) that the role of governments is to provide a clear, consistent and predictable legal framework, to promote a favourable environment in which global information networks are interoperable and widely accessible to all citizens, and to ensure adequate protection of public interests in the management of Internet domain names and addresses;
- d) that it is in the public interest that the system that manages Internet domain names and addresses has transparent rules and procedures, including dispute resolution procedures to facilitate the protection of intellectual property rights;
- e) that governments are expected to promote, as appropriate, a fair competitive environment among companies or organizations responsible for Internet resource allocation,

resolves to instruct the Secretary-General

- 1 to take a significant role in international discussions and initiatives on the management of Internet domain names and addresses, taking into account associated developments and the purposes of the Union;
- 2 to encourage all Member States to participate in the discussions on international management of Internet domain names and addresses, so that worldwide representation in the debates can be ensured;
- 3 to liaise and to cooperate, in conjunction with the Bureaux, with the regional telecommunication organizations pursuant to this resolution;
- 4 to provide assistance, in conjunction with the Bureaux, to Member States, if so requested, in order to achieve their stated policy objectives with respect to the management of Internet domain names and addresses;
- 5 to report annually to the Council on the activities undertaken on this subject,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Standardization Bureau

1 to continue to liaise and to cooperate with appropriate entities on relevant Internet domain name and address management issues, such as the transition to IP Version 6 (IPv6), ENUM, and internationalized domain names (IDN);

2 to work with Member States and Sector Members, recognizing the activities of other appropriate entities, to review Member States' ccTLD and other related experiences;

3 to work with Member States and Sector Members, recognizing the activities of other appropriate entities, to develop a recommendation to clarify the management of the domain ".int";

4 to report annually to the Council on the activities undertaken on this subject,

instructs the Director of the Telecommunication Development Bureau

1 to organize international and regional forums, in conjunction with appropriate entities, for the period 2002-2006, to discuss policy, operational and technical issues on the Internet in general and the management of Internet domain names and addresses in particular for the benefit of Member States, especially for least developed countries;

2 to report annually to the Council on the activities undertaken on this subject,

instructs the Council

to take appropriate measures in order to contribute actively to international discussions and initiatives related to the management of Internet domain names and addresses,

invites Member States

1 to participate actively in the discussions on the management of Internet domain names and addresses and notably on progress being made in pursuit of their policy objectives;

2 to participate in and follow the policy, operational and technical developments of the management of Internet domain names and addresses;

3 to increase awareness at national level among all appropriate entities, and to encourage their participation in the management of Internet domain names and addresses.