**RIPE NCC's Response to the CWG-Internet Open Online Consultation "Building an enabling environment for access to the Internet"**

The RIPE NCC welcomes the decision of the Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues to hold an open consultation regarding the elements that create an enabling environment for access to the Internet.

We would like to draw your attention of some the activities undertaken by the RIPE NCC and members of the open RIPE community that contribute to creating such an enabling environment.

In particular we would like to mention the activities that focus on the deployment of IP version 6 throughout the Internet, its networks and its services.

With the IPv4 address space now nearly exhausted, with only a very small number of address still available from the Regional Internet Registries, we believe that deployment of it successor IPv6 is critical for an environment that enables further growth of and access to the Internet.

While some operators have implemented technologies that allow for sharing IPv4 addresses amongst users (Network Address Translation, or NAT), we believe that such technology in the longer term will form an impediment to the Internet's quality. This is not only from a performance perspective, but more importantly relating to the Internet's quality as an innovation platform that enables for new economic activities to develop and existing ones to prosper.

Enabling networks and services to support the IPv6 protocol is the only way to unlock the full potential of the future Internet, including the Internet of Things (IoT).

In recent years the deployment of IPv6 has made great progress, with many Internet access networks now supporting it by default and offering IPv6 access to their users.

These developments have been the result of the work of many stakeholders in the Internet industry and the Internet technical community; by developing standards to support IPv6, such as 3GPP Long Term Evolution networks and more recently in a number of networks aimed at the IoT; by building human capacity through documenting best practices and developing training materials that can help network operators with their IPv6 deployment.

The RIPE NCC has developed a series of bespoke training courses on the subject of IPv6 deployment, and has facilitated a Train-the-Trainer program in the Middle East, Central Asia and CIS regions to embed knowledge of IPv6 directly in the communities that most depend on it. Cooperation with national authorities regulators has been key to the success of this program, and in ensuring that it reaches the appropriate people.

In this context we would also like to draw the Working Group's attention to the work items undertaken by the Internet Governance Forum that addresses the issue of "connecting the next billion". Specifically, we recommend consideration of the 2015 Best Practice Forum on IPv6 and its output document, "Creating an enabling environment for IPv6 deployment". This describes how governments and other stakeholders can best cooperate to expedite the deployment of IPv6[1].

The RIPE NCC has appreciated the cooperative spirit demonstrated in such activities, and would again emphasise the vital importance of bringing together the different stakeholder groups to benefit from each others' expertise and capabilities. We hope that this spirit will continue to be reflected through the work collected via this open consultation.

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[1] http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/best-practice-forums/creating-an-enabling-environment-for-the-development-of-local-content/581-igf2015-bpfipv6-finalpdf/file