<u>**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FOR IGF THEMES**</u>

Australia submits its comments in response to Mr Desai's invitation to suggest three public policy issues for discussion at the first meeting of the Internet Governance Forum. These are given below and, in order of preference are: (1) Spam, (2) Cyber-crime and cyber-security and (3) E-commerce, E-business and consumer protection.

<u>**I Proposed theme: SPAM**</u>
To develop common principles for action in combating Spam particularly in terms of awareness raising, capacity building, information sharing and enforcement action.

Brief description of why this theme is important
Spam is a significant problem – (according to a recent estimate, spam now accounts for 10 out of every 13 email messages), it is not only annoying, it is costly and decreases user confidence in the online environment. Consideration of this theme is important given the significant financial and consumer harm it can give rise to and, correspondingly the benefits to be derived from tackling them. Apart from the inconvenience to users, spam has significant economic costs in terms of lost productivity and additional bandwidth costs. Developing countries are particularly affected by spam as it impedes Internet access given their Internet infrastructure is often low capacity. Most countries face a situation where the majority of received spam originates outside of their legal jurisdiction, hence the need to develop common principles internationally. Thus a consideration of this issue will benefit both developed and developing countries.

How are these themes in conformity with the Tunis Agenda in terms of substance and particularly with reference to paras 34-54 (but not exclusively)
The Tunis Agenda identifies these issues and calls for action on them. However the text gives little specific guidance as to what should be done in these areas. It is therefore important that these issues are targeted and further developed in the IGF.

How these issues fit within the mandate of the IGF and its mission detailed in para 72 of the Tunis Agenda
Several subsections of para 72 are applicable. In particular subsection (k) which highlights the need to find "solutions to the issues arising from the use and misuse of the Internet of particular concern to everyday users". Other relevant subsections include subsections (a), (c), (d) and (e).

Who are the main actors in the field and who could be encouraged to participate in the thematic sessions?
All stakeholders have an interest in this issue and should be encouraged to participate. This includes ISPs, industry, consumer groups and governmental and intergovernmental organisations. In particular, organisations engaged in and contributing to spam-related activities (such as the OECD, APEC, ITU and Industry bodies) should be encouraged to participate. The contribution of the substantial thought and work these bodies have put into the issue of spam will benefit the progress of IGF discussions and outcomes, and prevent potential duplication of work.

Why should this issue be addressed at the first annual meeting of the forum rather than at subsequent meetings.
Given the significant financial and consumer implications of spam, and the benefits to be derived from tackling them, it is important that this issue be discussed as a priority. Australia has consistently highlighted the need to consider Internet use and misuse issues as a priority and has been a leading player in the global campaign against spam. The consideration of this issue at the first IGF meeting will also help to advance the IGF's standing given that it is more than likely to result in tangible practical, achievable and implementable outcomes.

II Proposed theme: Cybersecurity and Cybercrime
To develop common principles to improve the security of the internet, for example by encouraging the development and use of appropriate standards, equipment, software and user practices and information sharing.

Brief description of why this theme is important
The Internet has become a vital global public infrastructure and is becoming increasingly central to economic and social activity. The increased dependency on this ubiquitous computing environment has highlighted the need for a safe and reliable Internet to ensure the Internet's accessibility and usability. Therefore coordinated and cooperative action is urgently needed to minimise the myriad of current threats to the online environment and increase consumer and business confidence in the use of the Internet and other communications technologies.

How are these themes in conformity with the Tunis Agenda in terms of substance and particularly with reference to paras 34-54 (but not exclusively)
The Tunis Agenda identifies these issues and calls for action on them. However the text gives little specific guidance as to what should be done in these areas. It is therefore important that these issues are further developed in the IGF.

How these issues fit within the mandate of the IGF and its mission detailed in para 72.
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Who are the main actors in the field and who could be encouraged to participate in the thematic sessions?
All stakeholders have an interest in this issue and should be encouraged to participate. This includes ISPs, industry, consumer groups and governmental and intergovernmental organisations. In particular, organisations engaged in and contributing to cybercrime/cyber security related activities (such as the OECD, APEC, ITU, UN Crime Congress, and Industry bodies) should be encouraged to participate as this will minimise the potential for duplication and help to expand and progress existing work on cybercrime/cyber security issues to the benefit of IGF discussions and outcomes.

Why this issue should be addressed at the first annual meeting of the forum rather than at subsequent meetings.
Misuse of the online environment undermines its significant economic and social benefits by eroding user trust and confidence in its safety and security. Consequently, it has significant financial and consumer implications, and corresponding benefits to be derived from tackling these issues as a matter of priority. Australia has consistently highlighted the need to consider Internet use and misuse issues as a priority

III Proposed theme E-Commerce, e- business and consumer protection
To facilitate processes towards the promotion of certainty and trust in trading goods and services online by for example encouraging greater international cooperation, drawing on the existing work of specialist bodies engaged in this area and sharing information, best practices, awareness raising and capacity building initiatives.

Brief description of why this theme is important
The Internet has become a key global public infrastructure and is becoming increasingly vital to economic activity and international trade. Therefore coordinated action in this area is critical to the ongoing economic utility of the Internet and this is likely to deliver real benefits to users and the wider community.

How are these themes in conformity with the Tunis Agenda in terms of substance and particularly with reference to paras 34-54 (but not exclusively)
The Tunis Agenda identifies these issues and calls for action on them. However the text gives little specific guidance as to what should be done in these areas. It is therefore important that these issues are further developed in the IGF

How these issues fit within the mandate of the IGF and its mission detailed in para 72.
Several subsections of para 72 are applicable. In particular subsection (k) which highlights the need to find "solutions to the issues arising from the use and misuse of the Internet of particular concern to everyday users". Other relevant subsections include subsections (a), (c), (d) and (e).

Who are the main actors in the field and who could be encouraged to participate in the thematic sessions?
All stakeholders have an interest in this issue and should be encouraged to participate. This includes ISPs, industry, consumer groups and governmental and intergovernmental organisations. In particular, organisations engaged in and contributing to e-commerce, e- business and consumer protection issues such as the WTO, UNCITRAL, WCO, OECD and Industry bodies should be encouraged to participate as this will minimise the potential for duplication and help to expand and progress existing work on the issues the benefit of IGF discussions and outcomes.

Why this issue should be addressed at the first annual meeting of the forum rather than at subsequent meetings.
Electronic commerce has the potential to substantially benefit businesses and consumers. Consequently, it has significant financial and consumer implications, and corresponding benefits to be derived from tackling these issues as a matter of priority.