



सत्यमेव जयते

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT  
RAJYA SABHA

Member of Standing Committee on Finance  
Member of Consultative Committee on Finance  
Member of Parliamentary Forum on Youth  
Co-Chairman, Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Bangalore Urban District  
Vice Chairman, National Military Memorial Management Trust, Bangalore

Dear Shri Doval

5 August 2014

I am enclosing herewith a strategic document on leadership on the Internet Governance issue that we discussed recently. I have emailed you a copy of the same as well.

Yours sincerely,

RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

Shri Ajit Doval  
National Security Advisor  
Prime Minister's Office  
South Block  
New Delhi

Encl: as above



## Note for Brief

### India: Assuming leadership over Global Internet Governance

#### A Proposed Strategy

### Background

Internet Governance (IG) is a global issue that impacts all of the world's 7 billion citizens, of which 3 billion will be connected to the Internet at the end of 2014. This includes 1.25 billion Indian citizens, of which approx. 200 million are on the Internet, and half of this are active on social media.

Issues of IG include access (including for the disabled and unconnected); Internet as an engine for growth and development; local content and multilingualism; critical Internet resources; human rights (including freedom of speech and right to privacy); cyber security (which includes cyber crime); and emerging issues & technologies such as M2M, Cloud, video and net neutrality etc.

Over the last two years, there has been a deep divide wherein countries, such as United States, Europe, Japan, Australia and South Korea, have demanded an inclusive, global, multi-stakeholder regime for managing international public policy decisions relating to the Internet, while India, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Russia have demanded an intergovernmental body (multilateral) arrangement. China and Brazil are seen as shifting their positions without any clarity regarding the final direction.

IG has several critical aspects – most important is the national interest which includes providing access to nearly one billion citizens, e-governance, and at the same time, national security. It also includes aspects of international trade and FDI for India. Finally, India's image in the international community will be determined by where it stands on the issue of multi-stakeholder versus multilateral management of the Internet.



## Opportunity

India has a tremendous opportunity, especially due to complete lack of global leadership (including and especially USA/Europe) to take lead and become the internationally recognized neutral platform for dialogue. This, over the next 2-3 years, will firmly establish India's reputation amongst its own citizens, global communities, international governments, international business community, academia, civil society and technical community as the "go to" country for holding neutral discussions to arrive at an international settlement for an international regime on how to manage the Internet. This would translate into instant success vis-à-vis other multilateral international opportunities such as WTO, disarmament or climate change. It's a low hanging fruit where India brings credibility and Mr. Modi's profile as a savvy online and interactive politician remains unmatched in the world. It is a fast track for the Hon'ble PM to swiftly gain global recognition across the world.

## Strategy

The strategy has four elements as below :

1. Developing a single National view - Aligning inter-Ministerial views by clearly identifying national interest. Simultaneously withdrawing India's hard stance seeking a multilateral regime for Internet Governance.
2. Developing key messages - Developing key messages which not only support a multi-stakeholder dialogue, but assures the world that India can be trusted as a neutral destination for global negotiations - without the fear of its national position coloring the global debate.
3. PMO to oversee IG and Appointing of a Special Envoy - Appointing an Envoy on IG, preferably in the Prime Minister's Office. Simultaneously ensuring that all decisions and messages are conveyed through the PMO to the related ministries – Communications & IT, Commerce, MEA, Home Ministry (including the National





Security Council Secretariat). Executing the messages through ministerial and Special Envoy's presence along the calendar of events and roadmap provided below between August 2014-February 2015.

4. **Plan and execute based on a Calendar/Roadmap** - Using this six-month period to preparing the global community for a international, multi-stakeholder conference on the Internet in India which will include political leadership from across the world in end 2015 / early 2016. Simultaneously pitching for UN IGF 2016 or 2017 and ICANN transition / board meetings in 2015.

### **Suggested Messages**

1. Internet Governance is an extremely broad, complex and all encompassing issue. It has several parts and each one of them deserves special attention and appropriate mechanisms.
2. We believe that for the most part, a democratic, representative, robust and transparent multi-stakeholder mechanism, established through global consultation and international dialogue, will be the way forward. This will take time and patience. We are willing not only to participate, but in fact, host such discussions in the future.
3. There are some aspects of IG such as cyber security in general, and cyber crime in particular, that infringe upon national security and sovereignty. These issues require a serious inter-governmental dialogue, consultation, capacity building and cooperation.
4. Virtually everyone would agree that a multilateral platform for issues related to cyber crime and national security, is necessary. Equally, it would be wrong to see the entire IG space - which includes access (including for the disabled and unconnected); Internet as an engine for growth and development; local content and multilingualism; critical Internet resources; human rights (including freedom of speech and right to privacy); cyber security (which includes cyber crime); and emerging issues & technologies such as M2M, Cloud, video and net neutrality etc - from the prism of cyber crime or national security.



5. Even in areas of cyber security and cyber crime where Governments have a significant and primary role, the private sector and technical communities will need to be consulted. Their cooperation is mandatory, if Governments have to be effective.
6. Further, to the extent that cyber security impinges upon free speech and privacy, civil society's views must be considered.
7. In effect, we need to approach IG as a nuance and complex subject, rather than suggesting one model or the other.
8. As a first step, we request all parties and stakeholders to approach this dialogue with an open mind. Leave behind their existing positions. Bear in mind your national interest, but approach the discussion with the larger good of global citizens, and most importantly, our youth and children to whom we will hand over this wonderful legacy called the Internet.
9. India stands ready with an open mind to invite comments and discussions on a global scale, to play any proactive role that would help bring a negotiated closure to this issue. We also offer ourselves as a host for a wide-ranging discussion during 2015-16 to help bring diverse, pluralistic and even conflicting vies to the table in the hope that we will all give a little and gain a lot.



## Roadmap

1. 28 August, 2014 : World Economic Forum (WEF) Briefing (if India is invited. If not, this invitation should be arranged through WEF / ICANN) - This would show India's commitment at the first global discussion to an evolving IG Ecosystem based on multi-stakeholder principles.
2. 01-05 September, 2014 : Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2014, Istanbul, Turkey - Both in the Ministerial session on Day Zero – high level meeting hosted by Turkey on 01 September, 2014, and in the Meeting itself, there would be opportunities to exhibit our views on the evolving IG ecosphere. Hon'ble MoCIT may consider attending.
3. September 2014 : UN General Assembly (UNGA) / US visit - PM can certainly give a communication of India's willingness to lead the discussions and participate in the process with an open mind in his UNGA speech. A few lines will suffice. Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff had used UNGA in 2013 to give messages which eventually led to NetMundial.
4. October 2014 : ICANN 51, Los Angeles - Opportunities for dialogue with key government players (NTIA, UK, Germany, Brazil); to re-enforce messages, like Chinese Minister spoke at the ICANN 50 in London recently.
5. 20 October-07 November, 2014 : ITU Plenipotentiary (PP) Conference 2014, Busan, Korea - Plenty of opportunity to be supportive, not least in opening policy statement (all governments have opportunity to do), and in negotiation of Internet Resolutions.
6. January 2015 : Use of consultation on World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) – CSTD Review -<http://unctad.org/en/Pages/CSTD/WSIS-10yearReview.aspx> to input positive key messages on multi-stakeholder approach.
7. February 2015 – World Economic Forum, Davos – Can become the culmination of a six-month effort for the Hon'ble PM to make a grand statement and placing India at the center stage of the IG dialogue for 2015-16. Hosting a global conference may be considered towards the end of 2015-16.