WORKING GROUP ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE – NINE PRINCIPLES FOR THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND NINE WORKING METHODS

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The Secretary General of the UN is soon going to appoint the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG). Internet Governance as a subject covers various complicated and ticklish legal issues, which are constantly evolving with each passing day. These legal issues have to be tackled in an appropriate manner.

For the WGIG, I propose the Nine Golden Principles for Internet Governance for the perspective of Internet law and policy. Thereafter I further propose nine working methods, which need to be followed by the WGIG.

Nine Golden Principles For Internet Governance

The Nine Golden Principles for Internet Governance from the perspective of Internet Law and policy are as follows:-

PRINCIPLE 1

Internet Law and policy issues should not take U-turn for the worse.

PRINCIPLE 2

Work on Internet law and policy, already done so far, should not be disregarded.

PRINCIPLE 3

Duplication of work on Internet law and policy needs to be strictly avoided.

PRINCIPLE 4

There is a need to keep in account the neck breaking pace of technology and the Internet.

PRINCIPLE 5

The best of all the world's models need to be picked up, adapted and nurtured.

PRINCIPLE 6

There is a need for ensuring effective enforceability of the legal regime that evolves.

PRINCIPLE 7

Internet law and policy issues should keep into account actual world jurisprudential principles and innovate upon them

PRINCIPLE 8

Major conflicts of critical legal propositions need to be avoided for robust development of Internet law and policy.

PRINCIPLE 9

There is a burning need to rationalize and balance varied legal principles for greater good and future growth of Internet.

Nine Working Methods for WGIG

I personally believe that the WGIG needs to adopt flexible methods for achieving its stated objectives. I believe that the following Nine Working Methods for WGIG cover the substantial ground of the working methods that need to be followed by the WGIG. My Nine Working Methods for WGIG are as follows:-

1. Method of Neutrality
2. Method of Transparency
3. Method of Following Due Process of Law
4. Method of Accountability
5. Method of Collaborative Exploration (not necessarily Decisive Decision)
6. Method of Non-Discrimination
7. Method of Facilitative Governance, not Obstructive Governance
8. Method of Minimal Regulation
9. Method of Digital Empowerment of Humanity.

I believe that if the WGIG follows the aforesaid nine golden principles for Internet Governance from the perspective of Internet law and policy as also adopt the nine working methods, it will go a long way towards the facilitating the achievement of objects and final task of the WGIG.

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