



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS
FÉDÉRATION INTERNATIONALE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE BIBLIOTHÉCAIRES ET DES BIBLIOTHÈQUES
INTERNATIONALER VERBAND DER BIBLIOTHEKARISCHEN VEREINE UND INSTITUTIONEN
FEDERACIÓN INTERNACIONAL DE ASOCIACIONES DE BIBLIOTECARIOS Y BIBLIOTECAS
МЕЖДУНАРОДНАЯ ФЕДЕРАЦИЯ БИБЛИОТЕЧНЫХ АССОЦИАЦИЙ И УЧРЕЖДЕНИЙ

IFLA Position on Internet Governance

1. As the peak international professional association concerned with information and library services, IFLA is concerned that Internet governance and management should facilitate unrestricted access to information and freedom of expression and should enable social and economic development and cultural creation by and for all the peoples of the world.
2. IFLA opposes any measures which would lead to control of information access and free expression by commercial, governmental or sectoral interests. Measures which may be necessary to ensure the reliable operation of the Internet, control spam, support intellectual property protection and enable individuals to protect their privacy must not be used to limit the rights expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, especially those in Article 19.
3. IFLA supports the development of the Internet as a reliable multilingual system which will be available to all and will facilitate unrestricted access to information by all peoples in their languages of choice.
4. In regard to the proposed approaches to the governance of the Internet, IFLA supports a multistakeholder approach which involves governments, civil society and business and which offers a path for increasing participation by those interests in all countries as the capacity to participate develops. IFLA consequently endorses both the forum and the principles for global public policy and oversight proposed in the WGIG report.
5. Consistent with these principles, IFLA favours a model which will enable all of the key stakeholder interests to influence governance of the Internet through appropriate participation. It appears that this goal might be achieved best, and without causing undue administrative overheads, by implementing modified versions of model 1 (with direct representation of all stakeholders on the proposed Global Internet Council) or model 2 (with effective representation of the proposed forum in the decision making processes).
6. As a voice for the 2.5 billion registered library users across the world and an ECOSOC accredited international professional organisation, IFLA is available to assist with the development of effective models for Internet governance.

Alex Byrne, IFLA President

6 September 2005

IFLA (The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions) is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession. IFLA is accredited by a number of United Nations agencies, including UNESCO with whom it enjoys Formal Associate Relations.