

## ***Briefing Paper***

**Subject: Cooperative relationship between the Internet Society and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and the Society's request to waive ITU's minimal annual dues requirement of US\$32,000**

**Purpose: This paper is intended to provide background information relative to the Internet Society's request, and the points relevant to the request being granted**

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### **BACKGROUND**

1. The ITU and the Internet Society are both global international organizations with comparable purposes and aims. The ITU serves as the principal means for worldwide coordination and cooperation among traditional PTO telecom networks, operators, and related national regulatory authorities. The Internet Society has a similar role in the Internet environment and its related technologies and applications, but involves a broader spectrum of largely private-sector players and doesn't directly deal with regulatory matters.
2. Both organizations engage in standards making, support administrative activities, promote infrastructure development, assist developing countries, provide information, coordinate initiatives, and cooperate with other international organizations. While the ITU has only governments as members, the Internet Society allows for individuals, corporations, non-profit organizations and government agencies as members reflecting the broad nature of the Internet environment today. It also includes rapidly increasing chapters in countries. See Annexes Listing Membership and National Chapters.
3. The Internet Society since its inception in 1992 has embarked on continuing cooperative relationships with numerous public and private international organizations with which it has a common interest, or constitute major users. This now encompasses a great many organizations. The World Bank is a regular organizational member of the Society; and both the UNDP and NATO provide considerable funding for the Society's Developing Country Workshops.
4. At the first meeting of the Society's Board of Trustees (Kobe, 1992), a resolution was adopted to pursue a formal cooperative relationship with the ITU with respect to standards making, development assistance, and general inter-organizational matters. Similar initiatives were undertaken with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and Class A (peer international standards organization) status has been granted. The European Computer Manufacturer's Association (ECMA) also now has a cooperative relationship with the Society. The Society's Executive Director regularly collaborates and meets with the Secre-

tary-General of the ITU, the Director General of the ISO, the Director General of ECMA, and other relevant international organizations.

5. Pursuant to this Kobe resolution, the Society's President contacted the ITU Secretary-General and, in accordance with a provision in the ITU's Convention, sought to establish the cooperative relationship. This included requesting that the Secretary-General waive the ITU's significant annual dues of approximately US\$32,000 for both the standards (US\$30k) and development (US\$2k) sectors. Normally, such a waiver was pro forma granted by the Secretary-General to nearly all of the nearly 60 international organizations entering into such a relationship.

6. At the ITU's special Additional Plenipotentiary Conference, (Geneva, 1992), the explicit reciprocity provision pertaining to International organizations that had existed and routinely granted for almost 50 years on the advise of the Secretary-General was removed from the ITU's Constitution. Instead, the ITU's highest level continuing management organ, the ITU Council, began to explicitly with such waivers at its annual meetings.

7. By letter dated 20 August 1993, the ITU Secretary General indicated that the only remaining unresolved matter in establishing the relationship with ISOC is the payment of annual dues - referred to as defraying the expenses of ITU Sectors (i.e., standards, development, and radio).

8. The 49th Session of the Council was being held 2-17 May 1994 at Geneva. A document was prepared and provided to the 43 national Administrations represented at the May ITU Council meeting dealing with the Internet Society's request. It was dealt with in the context of ITU relationships with non-governmental organizations, as well as the Society specifically. However, the matter was deferred to the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference (Kyoto, 1994) for further recommendations. Although the Conference did not further deal with the matter of International Organization or Society relationships, it's actions and resolutions did imply a need to become more facilitative in the computer networking environment.

9. In April 1995, Internet Society President Vint Cerf filed a formal request with the ITU Secretary-General to again consider the ITU-Internet Society reciprocity matter before the 50th Session of the Council which will be held 26-30 June.

## **Supporting Considerations**

Factors supportive of the Society's request include:

### **A. General (applicable to all international organizations)**

#### **1. Historical Practice and Policy.**

The ITU has for many decades routinely exempted peer international organizations from paying dues. See Annex A. There were many reasons for doing so. It was felt, for example, that the value of attracting the

participation of other international organizations having related interests far outweighed the relatively modest sums that would be garnered in assessing them dues. Additionally, there was a concern that such assessments would result in counter actions where the other organizations would assess the ITU for participation in their work. This would result either in considerable new bureaucratic paper work to exchange dues money, or else stifle cooperation among the organizations.

## **2. Lack of Justification.**

Typically most international organizations that have enjoyed a cooperative relationship with the ITU have used few resources. They rarely send participants to meetings or request large quantities of documents. The principal practice is to receive the ITU's circular letters and further inform their own organizational members about significant developments.

## **B. Specific (applicable to the Internet Society)**

### **1. Ongoing collaboration with the Internet Society is valuable to ITU.**

The Internet Society brings needed expertise to the ITU secretariats, its various bodies, and its Members - concerning the Internet and its technologies and applications. This is not hypothetical, but has been ongoing for the past three years through constant collaboration over the Internet. ITU secretariat staff attend Internet Society meetings and conferences, and vice-versa. The Internet Society highlights the ITU and contributes promotes its activities via the Society's publications and network servers.

The Society has recently engaged in two large-scale public events with the ITU in Geneva - the last one attended by several thousand people and held at Geneva's largest conference center as *Geneva Internet Days*. Several of the ITU's staff have been instrumental in creating the Internet Society's Geneva chapter, and encouraged by ITU management. The Society will participate at ITU's Telecom-95 trade show in October 1995, as well on it's associated Telecom-95 Forum. The Society also participated in the April 1995 ITU Development Bureau symposium at Addis Ababa. And lastly, ITU's use of the Internet itself is now at a very large-scale - with over 100,000 users per week of its Internet server.

### **2. The Society's standards activities benefit the ITU and its Members.**

The Internet Society's open standards have found rapid universal marketplace acceptance, and its standards making process has been repeatedly lauded as uniquely the best in the business. A number of Internet Standards have technical and administrative linkages to the standards and administrative activities of the ITU Standards Sector. Thus there are major benefits and expertise which the ISOC brings to the ITU both with respect to the standards and improving the attendant processes.

**3. The ITU's use of the Internet is dramatic and facilitated by Internet Society.**

The ITU itself is a major user of the Internet. The ITU was granted a valuable Class B Internet address sufficient for 64,000 computer hosts, and ITU today maintains a sizeable internal Enterprise Internet. During 1994, the ITU transited 50 Gigabytes of traffic via the USA NSFNet Backbone alone, and during 1994 it's transit traffic via that route increased by nearly 400 percent. See Annex 2. It is understood that ITU computer hosts receive more than 100,000 connections per week via the Internet. Current use of the Internet constitutes by far the preponderance of ITU communications to the outside world, and now includes nearly its entire Membership. The Union now has a 2 Mbit/sec connection to support its current usage.

**4. The Internet Society's activities significantly benefit all ITU Members.**

The Internet is an enormously powerful infrastructure that allows all countries - particularly developing countries - to make optimum use of existing underlying telecom infrastructure, to allow their citizens and organizations to access information and people and collaborate in countless professional, research, educational, and scientific sectors. The World Bank has found that investment in internet infrastructure is one of the most valuable actions they can take in a developing country. A major segment of Internet Society activity is devoted to constantly increasing the awareness, availability, and use of the Internet worldwide. Every year, the Society brings more than leaders in computer networking from 80 developing countries to a week-long Internet Technical Workshop held in conjunction with its annual International Networking Conference (INET).

**5. It is not equitable to assess ITU dues for the Internet Society.**

The Internet Society's financial resources are comparatively very limited vis-a-vis the ITU whose income is obtained overwhelmingly from governments. The Society's income is obtained from individual and organizational memberships - almost entirely non-governmental. The Society's use of ITU resources are likely to remain very minimal, and significantly less than the support the Society conversely provides to the ITU and its Members.

All of the above arguments amply support the waiving the Union's contributory requirement for the Internet Society on the basis of reciprocity.



May 1995

Annex 1

**International Organizations Participating in the Work of the ITU  
On the Basis of Reciprocity, 1976-1992**

African Postal and Telecommunications Union (formerly African and Malagasy Postal and Telecommunications Union)

Agency for the Safety of Air Navigation in Africa and Madagascar

Arab States Broadcasting Union

Arab Telecommunication Union

Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (formerly Asian Broadcasting Union)

Association of State telecommunication undertakings of the Andean Sub-Regional Agreement

Committee on Space Research

Commonwealth Press Union

European Broadcasting Union

European Communities

European Telecommunications Satellite Organization

Gulf Cooperation Council for Arab Countries

GULFVISION

Hispano-American Association of Telecommunications Research and Study Centres

Ibero-American Television Organization

Inter-American Association of Broadcasters

International Air Transport Association

International Amateur Radio Union

International Association of Broadcasting

International Astronautical Federation (formerly International Astronomical Union)

International Astronomical Union (formerly Federation)

International Bureau of Weights and Measures

International Chamber of Commerce

International Chamber of Shipping

International Committee of the Red Cross

International Conference on large High Voltage Electricity Systems

International Criminal Police Organization

International Electrotechnical Commission

International Federation for Documentation

International Federation for Information Processing

International Federation of Newspaper Publishers

International Gas Union

International Law Association

International Life-Boat Conference

International Maritime Radio Association

International Maritime Satellite Organization

International Organization for Standardization

International Organization of Space Communications

International Radio and Television Organization

International Satellite System for Search and Rescue

International Society for Aeronautical Telecommunications

International Special Committee on Radio Interference

International Teletraffic Congress

International Time Bureau

Inter-Union Commission on Frequency Allocations for Radio Astronomy and Space Science and Space Science

International Council of Scientific Unions

International Union of Producers and Distributors of Electrical Energy

International Union of Public Transport

International Union of Radio Science

International Union of Railways

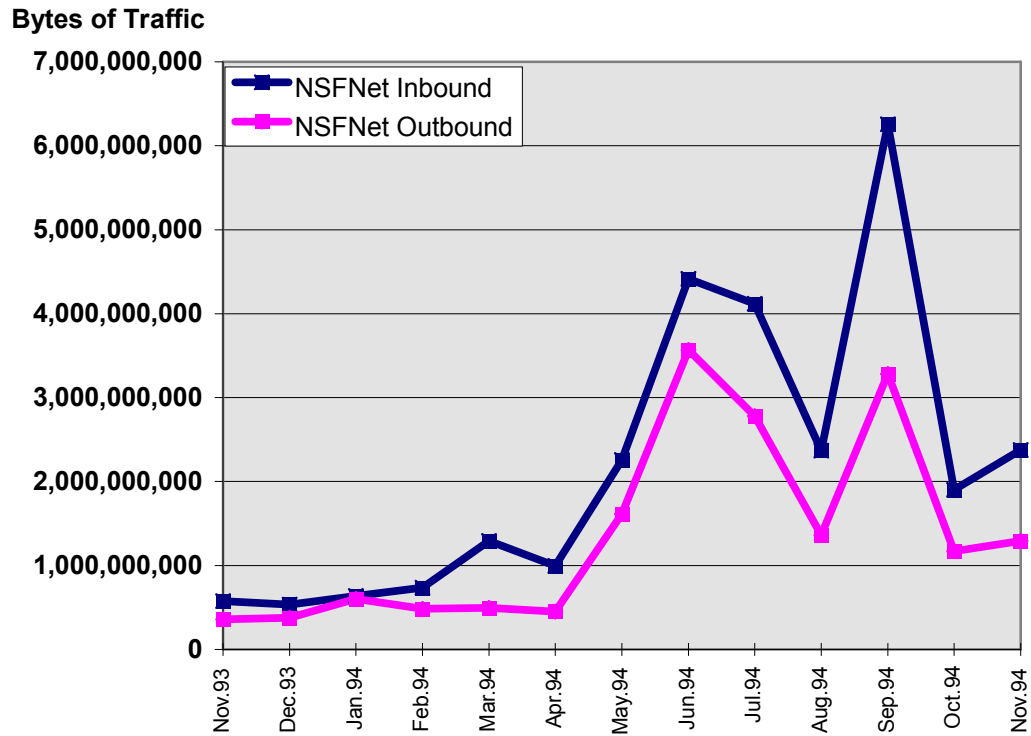
Latin American and Caribbean Union

North American National Broadcasters Association

Union of National Radio and Television Organizations of Africa

Annex 2

Profile of ITU 1994 Traffic via USA NSFNet Backbone



## Annex

## Internet Society Individual Membership by Country (15 May 1995)

### Including Chapter Activity

Angola	1	Italy	55	Taiwan	10
Argentina	17	Japan*	254	Tanzania	3
Australia*	78	Kenya	2	Thailand	86
Austria*	30	Korea	1	Tonga	1
Azerbaijan	3	Korea, South	13	Trinidad	1
Bahamas	4	Laos	1	Tunisia	3
Bahrain	1	Latvia	3	Turkey*	4
Barbados	1	Lithuania	7	Ukraine	14
Belarus	5	Luxembourg	3	United Arab Emirates	4
Belgium	32	Macau	1	United Kingdom	140
Bermuda	3	Macedonia	3	Uruguay	4
Bolivia	2	Malawi	1	USA	2561
Botswana	1	Malaysia	3	Dallas*	
Brazil	5	Malta	1	Florida*	
Brunei	1	Mexico*	15	North Carolina*	
Bulgaria	8	Moldova	4	San Francisco*	
Cameroon	1	Mozambique	1	Washington DC*	
Canada	167	Myanmar	1	Uzbekistan	2
Chile	23	Nepal	1	Venezuela	4
China	8	Netherlands	90	Vietnam	3
Colombia	11	New Caledonia	1	West Africa	1
Costa Rica	4	New Zealand*	14	Zambia	1
Croatia	19	Nicaragua	3	Zimbabwe	1
Cuba	2	Norway*	35		
Cyprus	2	Occupied Territories	1		
Czech Republic	43	Pakistan	2		
Denmark	31	Paraguay	2		
Dominican Republic	3	Peru	19		
Ecuador	31	Poland*	20		
Egypt	5	Portugal	5		
El Salvador	1	Puerto Rico	1		
Eritrea	1	Romania	12		
Estonia	9	Russia*	32		
Fiji	3	S. Australia	1		
Finland	42	Saudi Arabia	7		
France*	69	Senegal	2		
Germany*	85	Singapore*	23		
Greece	12	Slovakia	12		
Guyana	1	Slovenia	9		
Hong Kong	16	South Africa*	12		
Hungary	26	South Korea	1		
Iceland	1	Spain*	47		
India*	9	Catalonia*			
Indonesia	11	Sri Lanka	1		
Iran	2	Suriname	1		
Ireland*	8	Sweden*	44		
Israel*	29	Switzerland	61		
		Geneva*			

\* = Chapter activity



Internet Society Chapters

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