

Marek Michalewski
Polish Mission to the UN

Good afternoon everyone and thank you for being here. I direct my special thanks to the representatives of multi-stakeholder community who arrived here, sometimes from far away. I listen carefully and I take notes so your input to WSIS+10 review can be taken into account during intergovernmental negotiations. The success of the Internet lies not only in its technical design but also in its global multi-stakeholder governance system, in which individuals and organizations representing the technical community, civil society and governments work together to safeguard its stable and resilient functioning.

Enormous success of ICT that empowers an individual as well as increases gains of national economies is obvious. I think, it is also highly probable that we will succeed in our efforts and determination to overcome the gaps in the spread of ICT worldwide, in not too distant future.

So, for the moment, I would like to direct our attention to challenges and risks that do not have obvious solutions. Those challenges are the results, are part of the success of ICT and of Internet in particular. There are at least 9 of them, such as:

- 1 commercial surveillance or stalker economy model,
- 2 near-monopolization of Internet by very few huge internet intermediaries, according to the economic model in which the winner takes all,
- 3 net neutrality – as some already said that as well as zero rated content also mentioned here earlier,
- 4 personal data ownership,
- 5 pollution of ICT environment by excessive metadata,
- 6 big data technologies,
- 7 algorithmization of decision-making processes,
- 8 responsibility of those internet search intermediaries that are getting close to fulfilling the role of public trust professions such as for example doctors or lawyers,
- 9 last but not least, let's not forget that as we work to extend the Internet to every corner of our planet – dark net grows also

So I have a word of caution. If we solve the technical, infrastructural and even skills gaps in building global cyberspace but wait too long to build into it safeguards against risks I listed, then those risks will turn into grave problems for our well-being and it will be too late and too hard to solve those problems in a balanced way.

The strategic challenge is sustainable growth of Internet, in which particular commercial or political interests do not endanger but support building of information society based on respect for human rights and dignity of Internet users.

From the list of tactical challenges, that were mentioned here, I would like to comment on ability, capacity and skills to use Internet. I do not want to repeat obvious so I would like to emphasize one aspect of that. We see so much hate speech and intolerance online that we should think about infusing into programs and trainings ethical aspects of being online. I do not have a recipe for this now but I am saying this as a food for thought. We must promote ethical behavior online and reaction to hate speech. Otherwise the governments will have to step in with censorship, to defend fundamental rights of others and this would not be good for freedom online in general.

I would like to emphasize that the progress of civilization is measured not only by economic development, that ICT fosters on an enormous scale, but also by progress with respect to the fundamental rights set out in the UN charter. The Internet like no other historical phenomenon so far, allows every individual to exercise certain rights, in particular the freedom of expression and the freedom of information.

Thank you.