

IFLA Position on Internet Governance

1. As the 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 therefore endorses both the forum and the principles for global public policy and oversight proposed in the WGIG report. Consistent with these principles and the desirability of minimising administrative overheads, IFLA favours model 1 but with direct representation of all stakeholders on the proposed Global Internet Council.
5. 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.