GCCS 2017 – Chairman's Statement

Introduction

1. In continuation of the London Process, which began in 2011 to initiate a broad dialogue on the opportunities and challenges in an increasingly networked world and to create a platform to address key themes in cyberspace, the delegates to the Fifth Global Conference on Cyberspace (GCCS) 2017, met in New Delhi from November 23-24, 2017 to promote an inclusive, sustainable, open, secure, stable and accessible cyberspace.

2. The Conference recognised that international community, including the governments, private sector, civil society, industry and technical and academic communities and think tanks, through development of appropriate legislations, strategies, skills, research, innovation and entrepreneurship, have developed significant capacities, technologies and mechanisms/frameworks to harness the vast potential of ICTs for development. The focus needs to be on looking beyond digitisation to digital technology as means to empower people.

3. Governments across the globe are innovatively using ICTs for making the policy formulation and monitoring more effective and speedy, connect to its citizens on real time basis, making the social welfare programmes more targeted, transparent, accountable and revamping the service delivery paradigm through mobile governance and digital payments. The mobile power (M-power) can be used to empower the citizens. ICT has emerged as the most important tool for realising the goal of Good Governance with Minimum Government.

4. A safe and secure cyber space fostering inclusivity and growth and resulting in sustainable development is the new imperative. Digital Technology has emerged as a great enabler and has paved the way for efficient service delivery and governance and should therefore be used for improving "ease of living" of people. Freedom with reasonable restrictions in the larger interests of societies and respect for the privacy rights of individuals and groups are prerequisites for creating Cyber Space for all.

5. However, delegates also noted with concern that the existing digital divide among the countries presents a challenge to many States to access the vast pool of available expertise in cyberspace to realise their full potential. It was acknowledged that in order to demonstrate our commitment to address these challenges, there is need to create an enabling environment for inclusive and sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity and to supplement and complement cyberspace initiatives, there is a need to share knowledge, best practices and expertise among various stakeholders.

6. In particular the conference noted with satisfaction India's Digital Initiative of transformation and empowerment of the people through programmes like Digital India, Skill India, Startup India, Standup India that are empowering common people.

7. Digital inclusion is integral to digital development and extraordinary initiatives like Digital India are effective in fulfilling this objective. Mass digital movements like Common Service Centres in the rural areas of India are promoting entrepreneurship and innovation in the digital delivery of services.

8. The conference noted that women form a significant part of the IT workforce. Digital technology has facilitated several new enterprises led by women. In this way the IT sector has potential for gender empowerment.

Cyber 4 Growth:

9. A free, safe and secured cyber space is the most important tool to foster innovation, entrepreneurship and economic growth. Therefore it is equally important that access should be available without discrimination. Digital world offers new toolsto innovators and quench their thirst to create and build something new. The conference discussed that if the digital world is supported by proper policy framework, it boosts the economic growth of countries. A citizen connected through internet is better informed and has access to opportunities relating to education, employment and community development.

10. The conference emphasized that a transformed global economy will call on governments to fulfil a new kind of role: one that places enablement and facilitation over regulation and intervention. It will require governments to build a new interface of digital points of presence between citizens, their economy, and their public agencies. It will require legislators to understand and manage the role that small start-ups play – with increasing speed, and constant disruption – in the countries' economic growth trajectories. It will need an exploration of how trust is important to the adoption of digital technologies. Above all, it will require a new paradigm of policy thinking for the world's leaders in business and government.

11. The conference highlighted that Enterprise 4.0, which is the next evolution of business, is making innovations smarter and more productive in delivering value. Widespread use of business analytics, GIS based decision support systems, machine based learning and allied automation technologies have an amazing potential for transformation of governance structures of the future. Artificial Intelligence, IoT, data analytics, robotics and virtual reality are transforming global business and economies.

12. We need to plan proper policy environment with open and free cyber space to ensure that benefits reach the masses. All technologies and innovation must be useful for common man. For this to happen, traditional knowledge must be combined with modern science and technology. Cyber space, the largest and

dynamic repository of information and knowledge, has huge potential for developing technology for masses.

13. Governments around the world are leveraging digital platforms, and building digital infrastructure, to transform how they deliver public services and support to citizens. This is a crucial first step to digital empowerment. However, for this digital push to meet its targets – for the resources and assets generated, mobilised, and housed by these platforms, to be accessible to citizens – it must be accompanied by the creation of digital points of presence: contact nodes at the 'last mile', which can deploy sustainable business and service models to engage citizen demand for financial inclusion, healthcare, education, and more. This effort will necessarily acknowledge and engage the rise of mobile-based m-Governance frameworks, enabling participative, bottom-up citizen engagement and anytime/anywhere service delivery within disadvantaged communities.

14. The conference recognised that Cyberspace is a uniquely powerful engine for economic growth. The internet by nature is inclusive and not exclusive. It offers equality of access and equality of opportunities. Its low entry barriers unleash a constant stream of innovation. Its globe-spanning network effects drive vast and rapid scale-up. Its market presence is expanding continuously till the Bottom Billion come online.

15. The turbulence that results from these forces has only increased with the advent of new digital technologies: the Internet of Things, which extends cyberspace – and its disruptive innovation – into the day-to-day objects that make up our material lives, from the refrigerators that store our food to the lights that illuminate our homes; artificial intelligence, which will transform our most basic activity, from the office commute to the annual medical check-up; and mobile phone proliferation, which is connecting a billion more lives to the digital economy. The result will be a global economy pervaded entirely by cyberspace, its every aspect influenced by digital technology. It is important to give primacy to human face of technology in this context.

16. Cyberspace remains a key area for innovation. Startups, are providing solutions to common everyday problems, and improving the lives of people. The global investor community, recognizes the immense potential waiting to be tapped.

Cyber 4Digital Inclusion

17. The conference stressed the fact that Inclusiveness is the bedrock of sustainability. A digitally inclusive society reduces the gap of social and economic opportunities between haves and have-nots and also leads to development of the ordinary individuals.

18. The conference reiterated that the effort to build a society that offers all its citizens a life of dignity, unconstrained by their gender, geography, demography, and socio-

economic context will define the future. It is an effort animated by local, national and multilateral programmes across the world, executed by every kind of stakeholder – enterprise, government, civil society, and scholarship. The success of this effort will determine whether billions of citizens can overcome marginalisation, and live by their own choices.

19. Creating digitally inclusive societies calls for a program based approach with focus on access programs, digital skill training, community technology spaces, low cost access devices and their reuse. Digital Inclusion, which takes all on the path forward, is the foundation stone of sustainable development. Cyberspace can contribute powerfully to them: offering the ability to almost instantaneously target and transfer help from asset to need, medical advice from physician to patient, education from teacher to student; across the boundaries of physical space and social construct. The rise of mobile technologies and connectivity allows these resources to diffuse more deeply within society, and be tailored almost for each individual, in a manner that was inconceivable for physical organisations and institutions.

20. The conference reaffirmed that Digital citizen engagement is a proactive approach to increase citizen engagement and voice in policy making and service orientation with large doses of transparency and accountability. Support of political leadership, strong measurement tools, ability to loop the feedback into systems and policies and right choice of technology are key drivers of success. India's myGov initiative is an example of how digital technologies could be tools of effective citizen engagement and help in creating a more participating and functional democracies.

21. The conference recognized that for the fight to build a more inclusive society, cyberspace's openness has also allowed the recipients of this capability – millions of disempowered citizens across the world seeking knowledge, education, and healthcare – to have their diverse needs answered by an equally diverse pool of digital toolmakers. Equally crucial to the mission of inclusion, an open and free cyberspace allows voices of varying power to be heard equally: permitting the disempowered to be heard unimpaired by their own marginalisation. For these benefits to reach further across humanity, particularly among the Bottom Billion now migrating into cyberspace, the Internet's openness and freedom to those who offer and seek to its content must be preserved and expanded.

22. The conference discussed and appreciated that differences in physical ability heavily influence, even now, a citizen's ability to access the development capabilities and agency she needs to build a life of her choosing. Her abilities to enjoy an education, to receive healthcare, to pursue a productive livelihood, and to engage with the decision-makers who oversee these capabilities: these remain unacceptably conditioned by the physical characteristics, rather than the human right to a life of dignity – and the possibilities for future capability and talent – with which she is born.The digital technologies of cyberspace offer the tools with which to break these constraints. They can allow all citizens to access knowledge and capability – and contribute content and services – in a manner more precisely tailored to their strengths.

23. Cyberspace itself can be opened further to citizens who are differently-abled. Its access mechanisms can be designed more thoughtfully, both to reflect the general diversity of human ability, and also to more precisely engage every individual's specific strengths (visual, auditory, and more) in provisioning her with digital resources. The result will be a society and economy that can more intelligently respond to, and draw on, the vast global pool of human talent and ability – un-blinkered by an artificially narrow focus on an arbitrary subset of human physical capacity.

Cyber4Security

24. Securing the information has become one of the biggest challenges in the present day. Nations must take responsibility to ensure that the digital space does not become a playground for the dark forces of terrorism and radicalization.

25. Whenever we think about the cyber security the first thing that comes to our mind is cybercrimes which are increasing immensely day by day. Proliferation of mobile phones and social media, large scale adoption of digital payments by governments, spur in e-commerce, resulting in huge flow of data over internet has made the challenge multifaceted for governments and organisations. Social media platforms are making cyber space participative for all. However, the same technology has also been misused by some. The internet being an open medium often leads to vulnerability also. We need to ensure that vulnerable sections of the society do not fall prey to evil designs of cyber criminals.

26. As attackers grow bolder and employ more sophisticated techniques, network security must integrate with other security services in order to detect attacks. Information sharing and coordination among security agencies is essential to counter the ever-changing threat landscape. We need to create the fine balance between privacy and openness on one hand, and national security on the other. Together, we can overcome the differences between global and open systems on one hand, and nation-specific legal requirements on the other.

27. One must improve security techniques in order to prevent more threats coming in the future. A holistic approach to safety in cyber space consists of deploying a host of cyber security techniques, promoting cyber ethics; strengthen cyber law and cooperation, both at national and international level and building skills at various levels. One of the major focus could be the training of well-equipped and capable professionals (cyber warriors) to counter the cyber threats. We need to ensure that cyber protection becomes an attractive and viable career option for the youth.

28. The borderless nature of cyberspace results in cybercrimes originated by unidentified persons at unidentified locations. This makes security without identify one essential component of safety approach. The conference establishes a need for

all the nations to cooperate with each other to create common pool of resources for combating the vague forms of cybercrime.

29. The future of cyber security and financial technologies is interlocked. Secured eco-system for digital payments rides on the backbone of machines thwarting attacks and failures, and networks smart enough to automatically reroute and reconfigure themselves to avoid them. Strong cyber governance trusted secured partnerships, trusted networks and advanced security technologies are some key drivers.

30. The conference reconfirmed that cyber attacks are not a security challenge that can easily be eliminated. With banking, telecom, power, government and other important sectors increasingly digitising their processes and services, the need of protecting the critical infrastructure has become more evident. The critical success factors are sharing information across organisations and nations, developing alert and alarm systems, training and skill building and developing technology based solutions. International cooperation on decoding best practises, guidelines and frameworks is the need of the hour.

31. The conference emphasised that due to enormity of Internet it's very difficult to monitor all the content. This poses a significant challenge to the Law Enforcement Agencies who many times are not tech savvy and hence are dependent upon others. Hence there is need of proper tools and technologies to assist the LEA to track negative elements and to remove them. An effective monitoring mechanism has to be developed which can monitor & scrutinize illegal cyber content and the agency doing this has the legal authority of taking down and directing the service providers to remove those contents.

32. While recognizing the important roles and contributions of all stakeholders in their respective roles and responsibilities, we emphasise the leading role for governments in cyber security matters relating to national security.

Cyber 4Diplomacy

33. Cyber diplomacy in digital age can be used as a tool to promote economic growth, development of technology to ensure an open source, interoperable and accessible cyber space to all. The extensive use of cyber space by states to carry out its legitimate activities including service delivery of its citizens, has thrown up new challenges in terms of establishing norms of responsible state behaviour, handling cyber crime through trans- national cooperation and resolving conflicts in cyberspace.

34. Cyber Diplomacy needs a deeper understanding on issues concerning prosperity (Digital Economy and implementation of Sustainable Development Goal's), a new global cyber order and the applicability of international law/norms.

Conclusion & Way Forward

35. Cyber4All–Cyberspace is a public resource, improving the quality of life of individuals, improving the reach and productivity of business and effectiveness of governments. Technology breaks barriers. It validates the Indian philosophy of "VasudhaivaKutumbakam" – the world is one family.

36. Efforts to manage this public resource should preserve the core values of openness, freedom and flexibility. At the same time, all stakeholders including the representatives of vulnerable groups like women, children should be part of dialogue and programmes giving new directions to optimise the use of this global public resource. The private sector should take the responsibility of managing challenges through cooperation and governments to facilitate the dialogue and make it useful for all.

37. India emphasizes the need for creation of a digital platform which would enable various stakeholders to address potential information and communication technology gaps and harness information and communication technology for sustainable development. There is particularly the need for finding scalable models and innovative solutions in education and health, using digital technology. There is also the need to make cyberspace an enabler for the differently-abled. The global community may share experiences and success stories In furtherance of this objective, we affirm our common desire and commitment to create, access, utilise and share information and knowledge, enabling individuals and communities and people to achieve their full potential in promoting their sustainable development and improving their quality of life, premised on the purposes and principles of the charter of the United Nations.

38. India also reiterates the need for all stakeholders to work together to enable evolution and diffusion of information and communication technologies underpinned by the contribution of both public and private sectors, which has seen penetration into almost all corners of the globe, created new opportunities for social interaction, enabled new business models and contributed to economic growth and development in all other sectors, while noting the unique and emerging challenges related to their evolution and diffusion.

39. We also note that access to information and Communication technologies has become a development indicator and an aspiration in and of itself. With this positive intent, we affirm to commit our energies to fortify the role of ICTs as a tool of empowerment and inclusivity and improving the quality of life of the citizens by promoting digital economy.

40. Emerging digital technologies could impact our future in ways that we cannot yet foresee. Important questions of transparency, privacy, trust and security may need to be addressed. Digital technology serves to empower mankind. We must ensure that it continues to stay that way.

41. To facilitate this India will enable a Digital Knowledge Sharing Platform which will help in sharing of knowledge and expertise between different countries as represented by their governments and any private and civil society organisations these governments may nominate. This Digital Knowledge Sharing Platform will allow different countries to complement and supplement their own cyberspace resources with expertise drawn from collaborating nations who can respond with swift, specific and relevant knowledge support as needed. India commits to provide the initial support, resources and hosting of the digital knowledge sharing platform.

42. The large multi-stakeholder participation at this event, is proof of the global endorsement that this platform has received. India calls upon Nation states, the industry, academia and civil society, all need to work towards a formal collaborative framework. This will enable a secure cyberspace which improves quality of life.

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