



COMMONWEALTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS
ORGANISATION

Commonwealth Cybergovernance Model

By the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation

Trends in Cyberspace

- Cyberspace provides access to ICT
 - Bridging the digital divide and influencing social-economic activities
- Cyberspace is increasingly becoming a global system
 - Anticipated to grow from 2-4 Billion users by 2020 (mostly from developing countries)
- Cyberspace is open, decentralised and empowering
 - This has fostered innovation, collaboration and rapid development
- Cyberspace success depends on it's infrastructure
 - Infrastructure should be secure, resilient and available to users
- Cyberspace can also be used for criminal activities
 - Cybercrimes, extremisms and other social crimes

Why a Commonwealth Model

- Contrasting views emerging across the world on governing the Cyberspace
- Harmonisation is critical to facilitate the growth and to realise the full potentials of Cyberspace
- Commonwealth family subscribes to common values and principles which are equally well applicable to Cyberspace
- CTO is the Commonwealth agency mandated in ICTs
- The project was launched at the 53rd council meeting of the CTO in Abuja, Nigeria (9th Oct 2013)
- Wide consultations with stakeholders
- Adopted at the Commonwealth ICT Ministers Forum on 3rd and 4th March 2014 in London

Objectives

The Cybergovernance Model aims to guide Commonwealth members in

- Developing policies, legislation and regulations
- Planning and implementing practical technical measures
- Fostering cross-border collaboration
- Building capacity

Commonwealth Values in Cyberspace

- Based on Commonwealth Charter of March 2013
 - Democracy, human rights and rule of law
- The Charter expressed the commitment of member states to
 - The development of free and democratic societies
 - The promotion of peace and prosperity to improve the lives of all peoples
 - Acknowledging the role of civil society in supporting Commonwealth activities
- Cyberspace today and tomorrow should respect and reflect the Commonwealth Values
 - This has led to defining Commonwealth principles for use of Cyberspace

Commonwealth Principle for use of Cyberspace

Principle 1: *We contribute to a safe and an effective global Cyberspace*

- as a partnership between public and private sectors, civil society and users, a collective creation;
- with multi-stakeholder, transparent and collaborative governance promoting continuous development of Cyberspace;
- where investment in the Cyberspace is encouraged and rewarded;
- by providing sufficient neutrality of the network as a provider of information services;
- by offering stability in the provision of reliable and resilient information services;
- by having standardisation to achieve global interoperability;
- by enabling all to participate with equal opportunity of universal access;
- as an open, distributed, interconnected internet;
- providing an environment that is safe for its users, particularly the young and vulnerable;
- made available to users at an affordable price.

Commonwealth Principle for use of Cyberspace

Principle 2: *Our actions in Cyberspace support broader economic and social development*

- by enabling innovation and sustainable development, creating greater coherence and synergy, through collaboration and the widespread dissemination of knowledge;
- respecting cultural and linguistic diversity without the imposition of beliefs;
- promoting cross-border delivery of services and free flow of labour in a multi-lateral trading system;
- allowing free association and interaction between individuals across borders;
- supporting and enhancing digital literacy;
- providing everyone with information that promotes and protects their rights and is relevant to their interests, for example to support transparent and accountable government;
- enabling and promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships;
- facilitating pan-Commonwealth consultations and international linkages in a single globally connected space that also serves local interests.

Commonwealth Principle for use of Cyberspace

Principle 3: *We act individually and collectively to tackle cybercrime*

- nations, organisations and society work together to foster respect for the law;
- to develop relevant and proportionate laws to tackle Cybercrime effectively;
- to protect our critical national and shared infrastructures;
- meeting internationally-recognised standards and good practice to deliver security;
- with effective government structures working collaboratively within and between states;
- with governments, relevant international organisations and the private sector working closely to prevent and respond to incidents.

Commonwealth Principle for use of Cyberspace

Principle 4: *We each exercise our rights and meet our responsibilities in Cyberspace*

- we defend in Cyberspace the values of human rights, freedom of expression and privacy as stated in our Charter of the Commonwealth;
- individuals, organisations and nations are empowered through their access to knowledge;
- users benefit from the fruits of their labours; intellectual property is protected accordingly;
- users can benefit from the commercial value of their own information; accordingly, responsibility and liability for information lies with those who create it;
- responsible behaviour demands users all meet minimum Cyberhygiene requirements;
- we protect the vulnerable in society in their use of Cyberspace;
- we, individually and collectively, understand the consequences of our actions and our responsibility to cooperate to make the shared environment safe; our obligation is in direct proportion to culpability and capability.

Practical Application of Commonwealth Principles

- Commonwealth members can develop individual strategies
 - Aimed at addressing unique local needs and socio-economic priorities
- The Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation welcomes engagement by all stakeholders

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