April 16, 2014

Subject: US Commerce Department’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) announcement of 14 March 2014 of its “intent to transition key Internet Domain Name Functions” to the “Global Multistakeholder community”

Dear Mr. Fadi Chehede,

Please refer to the NTIA’s announcement on “Intent to Transition Key Internet Domain Name Functions” to the “global multistakeholder community” on March 14, 2014.

2. In this regard please find enclosed a statement regarding India’s initial response

Annexed.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

(J. Satyanarayana)

Mr. Fadi Chehede
President and CEO
Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers (ICANN)
Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90094-2536, USA
Annexure

Government of India notes the announcement by the US NTIA of its intent to transition its role on coordination of Internet DNS as a first step in the right direction aimed at attempting to reform one of the aspects of Internet Governance.

2. In continuation of India’s commitment to maintain an open, safe and secure Internet, and as a key stakeholder in the global internet space, India will engage constructively and actively with other important stakeholders to develop a transition proposal that is representative, democratic and transparent.

3. The announcement is a recognition of the widely held view that this aspect of Internet Governance, as also others, needs to be made representative, democratic and that inclusive and the institutions responsible for managing and regulating the Internet need to be Internationalised.

4. India believes that the transitional proposal should have a proper international legislative authority for it to have legitimacy, credibility and acceptability by the international community.

5. Efforts to frame a transition proposal are an initial move towards addressing only one aspect of Internet Governance. While India would actively participate in this process, we do not see it subsuming discussions and considerations that are taking place elsewhere in multilateral fora and international mechanism on the management of the Core Internet Resources and on the entire range of International Public Policies in the Cyber Space.

6. As we, along with other stakeholders work to develop a transition plan, ICANN should ensure that the process is representative and democratic. There should be full participation of all the stakeholders in accordance with Tunis agenda.