

•
•
•

Delivered at the
TERMIUM Exposition

Beirut, Lebanon
September 21, 2000

• • • • • • • • • •

•
•
•

Content & Media Convergence Require New Regulatory Policy

- Multiple forms of information content on one network (published material, video, audio, etc.)
- Multiple distribution media (telecom., broadcasting, publishing, etc.)
- Traditional regulatory classifications need to be revisited

•
•
•

Convergence Implications

- Technologies
- Business models
- Public policy strategies

•
•
•

Let the Internet be the Internet

- Traditional regulatory classifications restrict Internet growth
- Limited Internet impairs economic growth
- Appropriate regulatory environment makes Internet key tool in economic development

•
•
•

Creating Appropriate Regulation

- Industry activism necessary for supportive regulation
- Dialogue with government to establish relationship & educate
- Establish strategic policy priorities for ICT sector
- Dialogue with government to implement

-
-
-

Internet Requirements

- Dynamic & robust telecom. & IT infrastructure
- Capital accumulation
- Risk incentives
- IPR
- Human resource development
- Open international markets

•
•
•

Telecom. & IT Infrastructure

- Privatization
- Independent regulatory body
- Competition
- PC/network appliance

-
-
-

Capital Accumulation

- Policies that facilitate:
 - free flow of capital (domestically and internationally)
 - favorable tax treatment for capital gains
 - trusted equities markets
 - broad use of stock options for employees
 - venture capital & nontraditional lending

-
-
-

Risk Acceptance

- Education
- Mentoring by serial entrepreneurs
- Intrapreneurship
- No social stigma associated with entrepreneurship

•
•
•

Intellectual Property Rights

- Necessary prerequisite to content creation
- Facilitates venture investment in new enterprises
- Provides competitive advantage to owner

-
-
-

Human Resource Development

- Education provides:
 - IT savvy employees
 - IT literate public
 - IT knowledgeable government

•
•
•

Open International Markets

- No tariff or trade barriers
- Minimize or eliminate foreign ownership restrictions
- Compliance with international organization trade provisions (WTO & WIPO)

-
-
-

Internet Contribution

- Creates new business and jobs in the Internet sector
- Supports increased profitability in all economic sectors
- Encourages creativity and entrepreneurship

•
•
•

Build Internet Sector in Each Country

- Infrastructure enterprises (computer hardware & software, telecom. service providers, etc.)
- Internet services (ISPs, search engines, etc.)
- Online content providers (media content, hosted applications)

-
-
-

The Multiplier Effect

- Internet empowers all businesses to reduce costs & increase revenues
- Internet enhances efficiency and responsiveness of public sector institutions (gov't. & education)

•
•
•

Creativity & Entrepreneurship

- Internet expands marketplace for creative content
- Internet rewards risk-taking, innovation and flexibility
- Creativity & entrepreneurship are key factors in economic development

-
-
-

Internet Empowerment

- Promotes cooperation & collective action
- Fosters new technologies & innovative applications
- Enables individuals, organizations and nations to recover from past disadvantages

-
-
-

Conclusions

- Convergence requires new regulatory paradigm
- Deliberate effort required to create new model
- Success supports effective use of Internet to drive economic development
- Failure creates serious competitive disadvantage