



РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ  
НАРОДНО СЪБРАНИЕ



## The Sixth General Assembly of the International Parliamentarians' Association for Information Technology

**IPAIT VI**  
**Information Technology and Ethics**  
8 – 11 June 2008  
National Assembly  
Sofia, Bulgaria

### SOFIA DECLARATION

We, the members of the International Parliamentarians' Association for Information Technology (IPAIT), have gathered here in Sofia, Bulgaria, for the Sixth General Assembly of our Association in order to share experience and to discuss various opportunities and challenges facing our societies as a result of the development of information and communication technologies (ICT). We addressed the topic of the Sixth Assembly "Information Technology and Ethics" from various perspectives, and this fruitful exchange of ideas will benefit us in the fulfilment of our tasks as parliamentarians. This social network of parliamentarians interested in ICT legislation and governance will continue to serve us well in the future.

- *Considering* the main purpose of the Association is to support the development of Information Technology (IT) at the parliamentary level, as well as to achieve a balanced development of information technology and to share information among all countries around the world by promoting international exchange and cooperation among parliamentarians;
- *Recognizing* the global and real-time dissemination of information, as well as the volume of that information, has a growing impact on society;
- *Noting* the steadily increasing impact of the Internet on the public mind and on political life in the individual countries and the arising threat of using them for unethical purposes;
- *Building* on the declared guidelines approved at the Fifth General Assembly of IPAIT in Helsinki, Finland;

Expressing the opinion of the majority, we agree to:

1. Assist the Knowledge Society in the introduction of international regulation and standards of ethics for the dissemination of information.
2. Facilitate the establishment of a mechanism for international regulation for the purpose of avoidance and prevention of the use of information and global ICT to the detriment of basic human ethical values and human public safety.
3. Encourage the technical development and implementation of hardware and software for protection against Internet threats.
4. Recommend coordinated legislative actions of malware and cyber threats transmitted on the Internet.
5. Require from our governments and parliaments to take legislative measures for the use of the Internet by children and for the protection of children on the Internet.
6. Require from our governments and parliaments to take stringent legislative measures against child pornography using ICT tools.
7. Support the dissemination of rules of ethical conduct for users communicating through ICT.
8. Work towards preventing the dissemination of illegal and harmful information by recommending to Internet Service Providers to monitor or block such information.
9. Ensure that Internet Service Providers cooperate fully with authorities investigating criminal activities utilizing the Internet, including malware distribution, child pornography, copyright infringement, terrorist activities and libel.
10. Safeguard civil rights, privacy and freedom of expression in all forms of communications.
11. Recommend the establishment of an international cooperation system to respond to increasing international cyber threats and cyber crimes with adequate and immediate solutions.
12. Recommend the continuous provision of education and campaigns to raise public awareness in establishing a sound ethical culture.
13. Strive to strengthen international cooperation by sharing information to prevent illegal and harmful information and to encourage participation in international organizations.  
(INHOPE etc)

*Done at Sofia, on June 10, 2008, with an equivalent version in Bulgarian.*