Concept Paper on the CICA Confidence Building Measures in the area of Information Technology

I. Background

This Concept Paper aims to facilitate confidence building among CICA Member States through cooperation and interaction within the Information Technology sector in accordance with the Catalogue of the CICA CBMs adopted on 22 October 2004 and the Cooperative Approach for Implementation of the CICA CBMs adopted on 14 March 2007.

The Information Technology sector has become one of the most important agendas for CICA member states not only because of its implications for economic growth but also the impact it has on the general public. As the coordinating country for CBMs in the IT sector, the Republic of Korea proposes the following areas of cooperation among CICA Member States: 1) Policy and regulatory activity and 2) E-Government.

II. Objectives

The vast development in the IT sector has led to the creation of new services and products that no longer bind themselves within specific sectors or areas but converge over different fields. This phenomenon can be identified in the telecommunication and broadcasting sectors which has called for new forms of policy designs and regulatory systems. Digitalization and convergence of networks, devices, services and applications have made it more difficult to pursue a coordinated policy.

Meanwhile, the IT industry has been one of the fastest growing areas in the world economy. The tremendous influence of the Internet, digital services and devices on the day to day operations of the general public has called the attention to new types of security concerns including information security. Therefore, it has become necessary to address wide range of these issues, from ethical issues to hostile cyber attacks, including those of them that have criminal, terrorist and military nature.

At the same time, demand for easier access to government services and improved measures for government efficiency has risen. In response, governments have made continued efforts to keep up with the development of the industry sector by taking innovative measures to create an e-Government system that can

coordinate intra-governmental communications as well as provide better and more efficient access to the people.

Furthermore access to open networks, such as the internet, requires reliable protection mechanisms for individuals to freely use and interact. Relevant legal, regulatory and technical issues need to be addressed.

With these agendas in mind, the Republic of Korea proposes the following areas of cooperation and action plans for implementation.

III. Areas of Cooperation

1. Policy and Regulatory Activity

The CICA member states will aim to:

a. Share the experiences of addressing digitalization and convergence of networks, devices, services and applications from a policy and regulatory perspective;

b. Cooperate in providing information and assistance on best practices to manage institutional reorganization to meet needs of the changing IT environment;

c. Facilitate exchange of regulatory policies addressing newly introduced services in the IT sector including services such as remote exchange of legally significant information and electronic authentication [PKI];

d. Coordinate policies and regulations on illegal online activities such as piracy, cyber attacks and other forms of threats on information security;

e. Exchange information on policies and regulations regarding social and user ethics regarding the Internet; and

f. Encourage the establishment of advanced broadband networks to overcome the digital divide and provide better access to the Internet for the general public.

g. Ensure the rule of law and the protection of human rights while developing policies and regulations concerning the IT sector, where applicable.

2. E-Government system

The CICA member states will aim to:

a. Exchange practices and experience of applying network and information technologies in the field of e-government among Member States, facilitate the development of e-government system for vital business activities in Member States and facilitate the exchange of legally significant documents, while taking into account the recommendation of UN Committee on Information; UN/CEFACT 35 and ITU-T X/842 Facilitate the development of information network among CICA Member States on government services under an e-Government system by sharing relevant experiences;

b. Provide assistance in designing policies related to e-Government;

c. Promote the exchange of experts/officials to share experience and knowledge to contribute to capacity building within the CICA Member States;

d. Provide technical assistance to other Member States, if so requested, in the field of information security;

e. Facilitate the wider participation of relevant businesses that can provide consultancy and expertise in the establishment of infrastructure for e-Government as well as development of partnerships with local companies so as to build their capabilities.