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To: "scit.mail@wipo.int" <scit.mail@wipo.int>
Date: Sat, Apr 17, 1999 1:00 AM
Subject: SCIT Strategic Plan

To the attention of Mr. Wittig, Deputy Director, Inter-Office Information Services
Department, WIPO

Original and attachment by letter
U N E S C O
REF. ECY/C/99/11-C44

Dear Mr. Wittig,

Re: SCIT Strategic Plan

On behalf of UNESCO, I wish to thank you for your letter of 3 March 1999 (Ref.: C.SCIT 2431), requesting that UNESCO comment on the SCIT Strategic Plan. We also appreciate the extension of the submission deadline. UNESCO's strategy with regard to the societal aspect of cyberspace, recently reaffirmed by the Director-General of UNESCO, encourages international co-operation and interdisciplinary reflection on the ethical and legal issues in order to make the emerging Information Society more democratic and participatory. We are also anxious to promote universal access to information and knowledge, guarantee respect for privacy, enrich children's lives, embrace greater cultural pluralism and foster non-violence on the Internet.

This approach is, of course, the fruit of many discussions, regional meetings, symposia etc. The "Task Force on Cyberspace Law and Ethics" is responsible for planning and executing UNESCO's activities relating to the societal aspect of cyberspace. Thus, the Task Force will be your main interlocutor.

As many views of our Organizations are complementary and aimed at the same main goals, we would like to suggest a renewed and more active co-operation between UNESCO and WIPO on these issues. We would, therefore, be very grateful if you could accept the following additions to the SCIT Strategic Plan:

1. At the end of the Introduction, please add "taking into account UNESCO's strategy on cyberspace".
2. At the end of para. 6 "Organization responsibilities", please add "Other relevant organizations such as UNESCO for ethical and legal issues of cyberspace".
3. In para. 9 "Implementation", please add, "e.g., how to find a balance between public and private interests in the digital environment".

Please find attached the DG/Note/99/7 of 22 February 1999 on the reinforcement of UNESCO's strategy on cyberspace.

Yours sincerely,

Bruno de Padirac
Chief "Task Force on Cyberspace Law and Ethics"