

(Revised) Just Net Coalition statement, June 11 2014 delivered by Norbert Bollow, co-founder and co-convenor of the Just Net Coalition

Excellencies, dear VIPs.

I can save a bit of time in the greeting because in my view everyone is a VIP, a very important person.

Yesterday I spoke with a civil society colleague from a country of about 161 million VIPs.

What he told me convinced me that I must change the topic of my statement. The originally planned statement is still going to be available at the website of this event and at JustNetCoalition.org.

This country of 161 million VIPs is connected to the Internet via undersea fiberoptic cable. The capacity of this cable is small for a country of 161 million VIPs, but the main problem is that only a small part of the capacity of the cable is made available to end users. Something happens between the landing station and the end users. Whatever happens there is not what needs to happen in order to make this capacity available to end users.

There are many people in that country who would like to buy good Internet service, and who could pay for it. That is not the problem which causes most of the capacity to be unused. The country's fibreoptic cable connection to the Internet was paid for with public funds, with the money of the people. Still they can't get good Internet access. This injustice has already continued for many years.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you need to find out the root causes of the main Internet injustices in your country. The people of every country are subjected to mass surveillance. There is spam. Maybe in your country there is also a country specific problem like in the country of 161 million VIPs that I mentioned. And there is the problem that some global Internet companies are simply too powerful.

It is possible to figure out the root causes of these problems and insist that they must be solved. These are systemic problems. You can use thinking tools like the logic trees of the Theory of Constraints. It is easier to learn to use these tools than it is to learn to read and write. You can do it.

But you need to do it. Do whatever it takes to figure out the root causes of these problems. We need to get these problems solved.