

UN summit could impact internet freedom

As the United Nations debates whether it should play a greater role in overseeing the internet, tech companies and rights groups are voicing concerns over greater censorship and less innovation in cyberspace

International Telecommunication Union (ITU) – UN agency tasked with promoting information and communication technologies



Summit aims to revise **International Telecommunication Regulations (ITR)** treaty, unchanged since 1988

Proposed treaty changes could give UN oversight of issues such as cyber security, fraud, international tariffs, and management of internet addresses

Critics say countries such as China and Iran will use treaty to further their current efforts to restrict web

ITU is challenging authority of existing bodies, mainly **ICANN** – internet addressing agency under U.S. government influence. Russia, China and other ITU member states want control to pass to UN



Internet search giant **Google** says proposals would require services such as **YouTube**, **Facebook** and **Skype** to pay new tolls to reach people across borders, which could limit access to information



WORLD INTERNET USAGE, millions (% of population), June 2012

