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Stakeholder Group

Technical Community

Country

Netherlands

I - PRINCIPLES FOR INTERNET GOVERNANCE PROCESSES

I - A) THE 2014 NETMUNDIAL PROCESS PRINCIPLES

1. The 2014 NETmundial meeting adopted a set of 10 Principles for Internet Governance (<https://netmundial.br/pdf/IGPP-NETMUNDIAL2014.pdf>) Processes. In light of the rapid technical, social, and economic evolutions that have taken place since then, please indicate below your degree of support for the following statements:

The 10 "NETmundial Internet Governance Process Principles" adopted in 2014 remain relevant to address today's digital governance challenges

Strongly agree

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / I'd rather not respond

Our persistent difficulties in dealing with digital issues largely stem from insufficient inclusion of all relevant stakeholders in policy discussions

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / I'd rather not respond

Our persistent difficulties in dealing with digital issues reflect different interests, priorities and value systems of distinct stakeholders

Strongly agree

- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / I'd rather not respond

2. After reviewing the set of Principles for Internet Governance Processes from NETmundial 2014, do you think they need to be supplemented, in order to guide the development of the governance of the digital world? Please detail.

The 2014 Principles for Internet Governance Processes remain valid, critical and relevant in the present day. It is prudent to reassess them and invite stakeholders to review them, given their development through a multi-stakeholder process. Reaffirming these principles is necessary for shaping Internet governance but also for gaining a deeper understanding how to practise and implement them effectively within the complex interdependencies of the Internet Governance ecosystem.

I - B) STAKEHOLDER RESPONSIBILITIES

3. The 2014 NETmundial statement includes the following “multistakeholder” Internet Governance Process Principle: “The respective roles and responsibilities of stakeholders should be interpreted in a flexible manner with reference to the issue under discussion”. The distribution of roles and responsibilities between stakeholders is an ongoing (and contentious) subject of debate. In this regard, please indicate below your degree of support for the following statements:

Each stakeholder group has different roles and responsibilities, depending on the topic and phases of specific governance processes

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / I'd rather not respond

Most digital governance processes are applying the above mentioned “multistakeholder” principle

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / I'd rather not respond

4. Do you see room for improvements in the implementation of the above mentioned “multistakeholder” principle? If yes, what would you suggest?

While widely recognized, the multistakeholder principle requires improvement in implementation to ensure stakeholders engage effectively in their respective roles and responsibilities. Acknowledging the diversity of multistakeholder approaches is essential, including their flexibility. There is no single multistakeholder model. However, there's a need for special emphasis on enhancing stakeholder cooperation, participation, and process transparency, particularly within certain multilateral fora. It's crucial to establish fair processes to fortify trust. Multilateral fora should further integrate non-governmental stakeholders including the technical community into governance processes for its unique governance expertise and better cooperation, as demonstrated during the WSIS +10 review, which showcased extensive stakeholder participation, fostering inclusivity, diversity and legitimacy.

I - C) COORDINATION

5. Numerous initiatives and processes have emerged to address the broad diversity of issues raised by the digital revolution. Sometimes, multiple processes address the same issues in parallel. Please indicate below your degree of support for the following statements:

Separate siloed discussions on a specific issue risk creating incompatible and even conflicting outcomes.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / I'd rather not respond

Distributed initiatives on a particular issue can help cover the diversity of approaches and perspectives.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral

- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / I'd rather not respond

Better coordination is needed between processes dealing with overlapping issues

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / I'd rather not respond

6. If you believe better coordination is needed, please suggest ways to do so and specific text or language that could be included as recommendations in a NETmundial+10 outcome statement.

When multiple venues address overlapping issues, stakeholders, including governments, face challenges in monitoring and contributing, which may reduce the incentive for inclusivity. However, embracing the diversity of initiatives addressing specific issues within a shared space can be productive, particularly in response to urgent matters. Rather than stifling this diversity, efforts should focus on gradually converging toward compatible policy outcomes. Cooperation among stakeholders, through a fully inclusive process, is necessary between organizations and processes to achieve consensus and address overlapping issues effectively.

There is broad consensus to support the multistakeholder approach, but little common or broadly-shared understanding about how to put it into practice. NETmundial+10 aims to help operationalize, through guidelines, principles and mechanisms, improvements for multistakeholder collaboration.

II - A) PARTICIPATION IN MULTILATERAL PROCESSES

7. Some multilateral processes offer the possibility for non-governmental stakeholders to contribute through consultations. However, these examples remain limited and there is often no transparency on how these inputs are taken into account in subsequent stages of discussions among States. Please indicate below your degree of support for the following statements:

Since NETmundial 2014, opportunities for non-governmental stakeholders to participate in multilateral processes have been improved

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / I'd rather not respond

More transparent mechanisms should be put in place regarding how input from non-governmental stakeholders is taken into account

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / I'd rather not respond

Relevant non-governmental stakeholders should be able to attend/observe multilateral negotiations on digital issues.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / I'd rather not respond

Relevant non-governmental stakeholders should be able to contribute in a meaningful way to multilateral negotiations on digital issues.

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree
- I don't know / I'd rather not respond

8. Please suggest ways to improve meaningful participation of non-governmental stakeholders in multilateral processes and add specific text or language in that regard that could be included as recommendations in a NETmundial+10 outcome statement. If possible, please indicate examples you know of meaningful participation of stakeholders in multilateral-driven processes.

Traditionally, multilateral processes have encountered difficulties in integrating viewpoints from non-governmental actors, although recent initiatives such as the UN's open stakeholder consultation on the GDC zero draft demonstrate progress. However, these endeavors are not flawless, highlighting the necessity for new processes to incorporate expertise from non-governmental actors such as the technical community on a global scale. Bottom-up expert selection and stakeholder endorsement are crucial elements in shaping effective governance structures. The Multistakeholder Preparatory Process for the WSIS +10 review serves as a commendable example to emulate, as it involves all stakeholders, thus providing greater legitimacy and ownership to the process.

II - B) GUIDELINES FOR MULTISTAKEHOLDER CONSENSUS-BUILDING AND DECISION-MAKING

Principles of open and inclusive multistakeholder collaboration in digital governance are scattered in various foundational documents and declarations. The characteristics enunciated below are distilled from some of those documents that deal with multistakeholder collaboration processes as well as from current good practices and experiences.

The aim here is to obtain feedback from the community as to the relevance of each of these characteristics, with a view to elaborating a sort of "gold standard" or "protocol of protocols" that may serve national, regional, and global communities to establish and develop multistakeholder collaboration processes and mechanisms, as well as to assess processes and mechanisms that are presented as being multistakeholder.

9. Please rank the relevance of the following guidelines in the order of importance in your view. Assign a number from 1 to 12 to each item, where 1 indicates the most important and 12 indicates the least important:

Multistakeholder processes should be accessible to all stakeholders, regardless of their background, status, or level of expertise.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Multistakeholder processes should empower stakeholders by providing them with the necessary information, resources, and skills to participate effectively.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Stakeholders should treat each other with mutual respect, recognizing the value of diverse viewpoints and contributions.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Multistakeholder processes should involve informed and deliberative discussion among stakeholders.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Stakeholders should share responsibility for the outcomes of the multistakeholder process.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Multistakeholder processes should be governed by the rule of law, with respect for constitutional principles, human rights, and legal frameworks.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Mechanisms for resolving conflicts among stakeholders should be in place to enable decision-making.

- 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Digital governance processes should be flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances, evolving technologies, emerging issues, and changing geopolitical dynamics.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Decisions should consider the long-term implications and sustainability of outcomes.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Capacity-building efforts enhance understanding and skills of stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries and underrepresented communities.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Multistakeholder processes should strive to treat all stakeholders fairly and equitably, considering their respective needs, capacities, and vulnerabilities.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

A global multistakeholder approach to digital governance should recognize the need for collaborative action across national borders and stakeholder groups.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

10. Please identify up to three relevant items from the above list you consider are not being effectively implemented in current digital governance processes.

Multistakeholder processes should be accessible to all stakeholders, regardless of their background, status, or level of expertise.

Multistakeholder processes should empower stakeholders by providing them with the necessary information, resources, and skills to participate effectively.

Stakeholders should treat each other with mutual respect, recognizing the value of diverse viewpoints and contributions.

Multistakeholder processes should involve informed and deliberative discussion among stakeholders.

Stakeholders should share responsibility for the outcomes of the multistakeholder process.

Multistakeholder processes should be governed by the rule of law, with respect for constitutional principles, human rights, and legal frameworks.

Mechanisms for resolving conflicts among stakeholders should be in place to enable decision-making.

Digital governance processes should be flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances, evolving technologies, emerging issues, and changing geopolitical dynamics.

Decisions should consider the long-term implications and sustainability of outcomes.

Capacity-building efforts enhance understanding and skills of stakeholders, particularly those from developing countries and underrepresented communities.

Multistakeholder processes should strive to treat all stakeholders fairly and equitably, considering their respective needs, capacities, and vulnerabilities.

A global multistakeholder approach to digital governance should recognize the need for collaborative action across national borders and stakeholder groups.

11. Please suggest additional elements that could take part in a set of guidelines for multistakeholder collaboration that could be included as recommendations in a NETmundial+10 outcome statement. If possible, please indicate examples you know of multistakeholder processes that stand out in your view as positive models of such collaboration.

At the core of any process lies the fundamental principle of inclusivity, ensuring that the voices and perspectives of all relevant stakeholders are heard and considered. This principle calls for active participation of a diverse range of stakeholders, including those with expertise, representatives of affected communities, and entities with vested interests. Before any decision is made, it is imperative that this diversity and inclusivity is upheld, allowing for comprehensive discussions and the integration of varied viewpoints. By embracing inclusivity from the outset, processes can enhance their legitimacy, foster greater trust among stakeholders, and ultimately lead to more informed and equitable outcomes that are sustainable in the long term.

III - INPUT TO ONGOING PROCESSES

III-A) THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM – IGF

12. The IGF environment, including the global annual event, the National and Regional Initiatives and the intersessional work, brings together all stakeholder groups on an equal footing. Please indicate below your degree of support for the following statements regarding the IGF:

The IGF has been an effective space for Internet governance debates and cooperation

- Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neutral
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree
 - I don't know / I'd rather not respond
-

The IGF lacks the required financial resources to properly perform its mission

- Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neutral
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree
 - I don't know / I'd rather not respond
-

With appropriate conditions, the IGF has the capacity to innovate multistakeholder approaches

- Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neutral
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree
 - I don't know / I'd rather not respond
-

A strengthened IGF would be the preferred space to improve coordination among digital governance processes

- Strongly agree
 - Agree
 - Neutral
 - Disagree
 - Strongly disagree
 - I don't know / I'd rather not respond
-

13. Do you believe that a strengthened IGF environment, including the NRIs and the intersessional work, could be the right place to coordinate debates on the governance of the Internet and digital issues, and thus help tackle the problem of governance fragmentation? If so, in which ways should the IGF environment be strengthened in order to fulfill this role?

xxx

III-B) OTHER PROCESSES (GDC, WSIS+20 Review)

Several processes are under way in the UN context regarding the governance of digital issues, in particular the negotiations around the Global Digital Compact (included in the Pact for the Future) and the WSIS+20 review process. They may set fundamental guidelines and recommendations for the further development of the Internet and the digital ecosystem as a good for society and for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs. As a unique gathering with all participant stakeholders on an equal footing, do you believe that NETmundial+10 should send messages to these processes?

14. If you think NETmundial+10 should send messages to the Global Digital Compact, please indicate below what these key messages would be.

GDC process is an opportunity to reaffirm a commitment to preserving an open, inclusive, trustworthy, secure and interoperable Internet and other objectives with specific call on closing the digital divide.

15. If you think NETmundial+10 should send messages to the WSIS+20 review process, please indicate below what these key messages would be.

xxx

16. Do you think there are other processes that could benefit from the outcomes of the NETmundial+10 meeting? Please detail and indicate which key messages could be sent to those processes.

xxx

organizer

cgibr

Brazilian Internet
Steering Committee

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