



**RIPE NCC**

RIPE NETWORK COORDINATION CENTRE

# Digital Cooperation

Working Towards Common Goals in  
Changing Times

# Then and Now

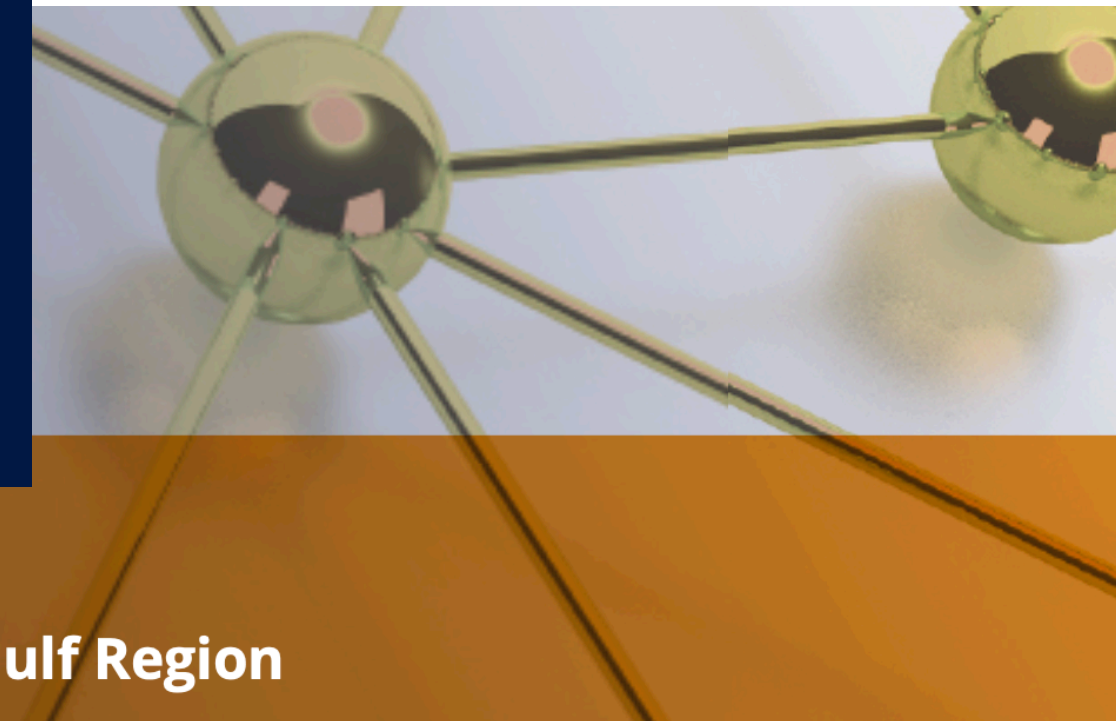


- This time last year: From Regulator to Facilitator...
  - The changing role of regulators
  - Need for cooperation, responsiveness, flexibility
  - Regulatory processes that are collaborative, cross-sectoral
- 2020 has shown the Internet (and its governance challenges) to be more important than ever:
  - Security
  - Safety online
  - Privacy
  - Access
  - Reacting to new tech (or new use of tech)

# Practical Insight



the world like Europe and North America, the region has prioritised digitisation and made huge strides in achieving its digital transformation goals. Governments and service providers have each had a role to play. Removing regulatory barriers has made it easier to establish Internet exchange points and deploy IPv6. A more diverse field of service providers are acquiring Internet address resources and running their own networks.



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Internet Country Report: Gulf Region

November 2020

[\[link to report\]](#)

digital landscape is changing and is no longer the sole domain of large incumbent service providers. We rely on Internet connectivity more than ever before to keep our economies and societies thriving. Governments need to adapt to this changing environment through open and flexible regulation that supports growth.

# Building Trust and Confidence



- Understanding and support of governments and regulators is essential to maintain and strengthen the global registry system
- A range of challenges emerging that intersect with government interests
  - Application of sanctions to Internet administration
  - Developing IP address markets
  - Security and how to ensure safety of citizens online
- Strong relationships of trust and understanding with governments and regulators are vital in navigating these challenges



# Changing Times (not just COVID)



- Globally, up to the level of the United Nations, people are re-evaluating Internet governance
  - UN Secretary-General's High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation (convened July 2018)
  - The Age of Digital Interdependence: Report of the High-level Panel (June 2019)
  - Governments of Germany and the United Arab Emirates named as “Champions” to facilitate follow-up on recommendations related to the Digital Cooperation Architecture
  - UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (June 2020)
  - Germany & UAE deliver Options Paper for the Future of Global Digital Cooperation (September 2020)

# The Future of Internet Governance



- The challenges addressed at the UN level match those across the Internet governance ecosystem:
  - How do we build on the models that have brought us to this point, while responding to the changes that have occurred in recent decades?
  - How do we ensure that all stakeholders have an opportunity to contribute to Internet governance discussions, regardless of geography, politics, money or any other factor?
  - How do we better connect the processes and discussions already going on? \*
  - How do we get beyond talking about Internet governance issues to the actions necessary to address those issues?
- **Can an “IGF+” address these issues? (definitely not alone...)**

*\* Multiple discussions even at the UN level: OEWG, GGE, Third Committee*

# Identifying Common Goals



- A globally interoperable network of networks
- Trust in the governance processes and bodies responsible for carrying them out
- Fair, equitable access and ensuring that Internet access does not further widen the digital divide

*Ensuring we remain focused on those clear, common goals key to practical, cooperative Internet governance*