

NETMUNDIAL+10 CONSULTATION

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INTRODUCTION

The NETmundial+10 event builds upon the 2014 NETmundial meeting and its outcome statement to advance discussions pertaining to the further implementation of multistakeholder practices in the digital world. It is not the goal of the NETmundial+10 event to duplicate efforts in the discussion of specific Internet governance and digital cooperation issues. Nevertheless, the event will serve as an arena that enables the multistakeholder community to build together concrete political commitments and strong messages about the multistakeholder approach. Therefore, the NETmundial+10 consultation aims to be complementary to other consultation processes and to benefit from the unique political characteristics and goals of the event.

SCOPE AND GOALS OF THE NETMUNDIAL+10 EVENT

The main goal of NETmundial+10 is to discuss how to further the multistakeholder approach as the basis for consensus-building and decision-making in the governance of digital policy issues, including in existing multilateral and other relevant decisional fora, at all levels. To achieve this goal, the event scope intends to:

1. Reconfirm all stakeholders' commitment to the NETmundial Internet Governance Process Principles from 2014 and discuss their implementation in light of the changing landscape over the past decade;
2. Further the evolution and implementation of the multistakeholder approach as the basis for the inclusive governance of the digital world, improving governance processes to cope with issues arising from the accelerating pace of digitalization and disruptive technologies, as well as structural asymmetries, power imbalances, and gaps;
3. Strengthen discussions on mechanisms and structures, in order to further and improve multistakeholder approaches and protocols to shape better decisions in the field, reaching consensus among diverse communities, in multiple distinct national and international decision-making arenas, and setting the ways forward with effective tangible outputs.

Expected outputs

The event will generate a final document with concrete recommendations for the future of the digital governance ecosystem, including:

1. Improved process principles for the governance of the digital world;
2. A framework of shared guidelines for multistakeholder consensus-building and decision-making that could be applied in any relevant decisional fora, at all levels;
3. A commonly agreed set of areas for improvement in the multistakeholder governance of the digital world for the future attention of the international community.

The present call for inputs will serve as the basis for the discussions to be held at the NETmundial+10 event on April 29-30, 2024. This consultation is structured around three major groups of issues:

- I. Principles for digital governance processes
- II. Guidelines for the implementation of multistakeholder mechanisms
- III. Input to ongoing processes

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 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.

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?

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.

If you do not believe better coordination is needed, please explain why, including possible ways to prevent potential conflicts, and suggest specific text or language that could be included as recommendations in a NETmundial+10 outcome statement.

II - GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF MULTISTAKEHOLDER MECHANISMS

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.

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.

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.

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.

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?

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.

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

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.

DRY