

A Collaboratively Developed Set of Principles for Internet Governance, 8 March 2014

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Abstract

The Internet provides an open, decentralised platform for communication, collaboration, innovation, creativity, and economic, cultural, social and political expression and development. It is an enabler of human rights, and can contribute to a more peaceful and world and greater social equality. This document is an edited compilation of principles contained in the following documents, many which have been submitted independently to NetMundial. It was developed by a small group of individuals who have been active in Internet governance processes for many years.

Document

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PREAMBLE

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The documents referred to include statements of principles for Internet governance or policy-making from the following networks and institutions:

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Council of Europe (CoE)

Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

Internet Rights and Principles Coalition (IRPC)

Internet Society (ISOC)

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE)

“Necessary and Proportionate” - International Principles on the Application of Human Rights to Communications Surveillance

The Brazilian Internet Steering Group (CGI.BR)

Global Network Initiative (GNI)

1. FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES THAT SHOULD UNDERPIN INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Human rights and the rule of law

The governance of the Internet must be based upon, guided by and respectful of human rights, and particularly freedom of expression, association and the right to privacy supported by the rule of law. The Internet must remain open and inclusive so that users may benefit from all that it offers.

Resilience and interoperability

The Internet must remain resilient and interoperable, underpinned by international standards and associated technical measures developed in open and inclusive processes

Diversity

The Internet is an open and inclusive medium that must respect and promote diversity in all its forms.

A global resource

The Internet must remain an un-fragmented, scalable and accessible global medium for the benefit of all.

2. PRINCIPLES FOR PROCESSES AND PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNANCE OF THE INTERNET

Transparency and accountability

Decision-shaping and decision-making in Internet governance should be open, comprehensible and accountable.

Openness

Internet governance processes should be open to interested parties, accessible to all including those not present in person and should welcome and encourage participation from around the globe.

Inclusive participation

Internet governance should be undertaken on a multi-stakeholder basis, enabling the full and equal participation of all stakeholders.

Collaboration and cooperation

Internet governance should be based on and encourage collaborative and cooperative approaches to policy development that reflect the inputs and interests of stakeholders.

Empowerment of users

Internet governance should have as a core driver the goal of enabling users around the globe to realize their human rights and to access the Internet to realize their social and economic potential.

Distributed governance

The Internet’s global reach is best served by governance characterized by decentralized and multi-stakeholder mechanisms and organizations.