techUK response to the NET mundial meeting on Internet Governance

- Area: COMBINED INTERNET GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES AND ROADMAP
- Entitled by: Stephen Hearnden
- Region: UK
- Organization: techUK
- Sector: Private Sector
- Keywords: multistakeholderism, ICANN

Abstract

techUK believe for the Internet to remain a source for the good then it is vital that the Governance Principles are fully supported by all the stakeholders with a proper consensus.

Document

We believe for the Internet to remain a source for the good then it is vital that the Governance Principles are fully supported by all the stakeholders with a proper consensus. The Internet is evolving rapidly and if the principles are too specific and detailed then they become out of date very quickly as society changes as well as the technology. It is better for the principles to be high level rather than just a long list of detailed statements which will be less effective. We have seen examples in the past where this has happened and as a result they have not attracted support from some stakeholders. If possible we should aim for a genuine Global consensus that is capable of being flexible to the changing needs of the stakeholders and their roles. If we don't then we risk stifling innovation.

techUK fully supports the continuing use of the multi stakeholder model recognising that it will continue to evolve to remain fit for purpose. It should also be able to take on the needs of countries who have less resources to allow the developing world to grow. Rural

and remote communities worldwide will benefit from the internet and it is incumbent on the developed nations to help support these aims. Here in Europe market liberalisation has brought enormous benefits which we would like to see replicated in all parts of the world which in turn will allow growth to benefit all.

We do not see a need for the creation of a single international organisation as internet problems are perfectly well taken care of in existing organisations such as the WTO and others. This allows stakeholders to have their concerns addressed using existing processes via existing organisations.

It is vital that a single internet is retained as fragmentation and localism would seriously undermine the economic and social benefits we draw from it today. We should also recognise however that the network architecture of the internet is changing with far less traffic being routed through the US than was hitherto the case. This is not a bad thing and it improves the traffic management as local hubs begin to appear in place of high traffic concentration. ICANN is reflecting these changes and techUK supports this. We also believe that ICANN should remain a technical organisation and should not stray into areas of politics and policy.

Finally to repeat again the multi stakeholder model is vital to the future wellbeing of the internet and changes should be resisted unless everyone can see major benefits in them.