NETmundial pathway

- Area: COMBINED INTERNET GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES AND ROADMAP
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Abstract

NETmundial is in demand for a holistic and pluridisciplinary approach to address the growing complexity of the ecosystem Internet and its governance. It is relevant to underline the interdependence of the normative, technical, and social components of this open ecosystem and the inseparability between issues of access, content and expression.

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Following the definition by UNESCO, Internet governance is understood as “the complementary development and application by governments, the private sector, civil society and the technical community, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and activities that shape the evolution and use of the Internet” (UNESCO 2012b).

We understand Internet in strengthening democratic and democratizing societies by developing the Internet and its services with other area of public policy. This must be assured by promoting an open, transparent and inclusive approach to Internet Governance based on the principle of openness, encompassing the freedom of expression, respect for privacy, universal access and technical interoperability, including Ethics and the respect for cultural and linguistic diversity in cyberspace (see UNESCO 2014).

The international partners and members of instkomm.de request NETmundial to express its support for the proposals made during the Bali Internet Governance Forum (IGF 2013) and the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) to UN Secretary General: (1) With regard to surveillance and monitoring activities through the Internet, there is need for better protection for all citizens' privacy and security on line by balancing actions between national interests and respect for internationally recognized human rights; (2) representatives from several governments emphasized the importance of finding common ground amongst all stakeholders of certain cyber-ethics that place value on respecting local cultures on line while safeguarding users from emerging cyber threats; (3) the importance of strengthening and maintaining the multistakeholder spirit and mechanism in

the Internet governance.

Following the view of UNESCO, there is need for a holistic and pluridisciplinary approach to address the growing complexity of the ecosystem Internet and its governance. We highlight the interdependence of the normative, technical, social components of this open ecosystem and the inseparability between issues of access, content and expression. Mechanisms have to be put in place to communicate “Internet Universality” based upon the strength and interdependence of : “(i) the norm that the Internet Use is Human Rights based, (ii) the norm that it is non-discrimatory“Open”, (iii) the norm that highlights “Accessible to All”, and (iv) the norm that it is nurtured by Multi-stakeholder Participation” (UNESCO 2013).

Internet Universality is a precondition to construct information and knowledge societies (UNESCO 2012a), combined with open access to information, ICT in education, information and media literacy in combination with Openness in content and technology including Open Access to Scientific Information, Open Educational Resources, Free and Open Source Software and Open Distance Learning.

Having present intercultural diversities we nevertheless claim all the best worldwide effort to shaping the global internet usage for all mankind, thus avoiding national or even regional restrictions and thresholds. We support the encouraging and funding of indispensable professional governmental and non-governmental organizations, institutions and associations.

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