
ICANN80 | HLG – Session 1: ICANN and the Multistakeholder Model
Sunday, June 09, 2024 – 9:05 to 10:50 KGL

BAHER ESMAT: We now begin our first session of the day, ICANN and the multistakeholder model. This first session delves into the role of ICANN in the global internet governance ecosystem, its evolution and the impact of emerging technologies on the domain name system, DNS, and future policy development. I'd like to invite to the stage our moderator for this session, Ms. Christine Arida, Strategic Advisor to the Executive President, the National Telecommunication Regulatory Authority, Arab Republic of Egypt.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Thank you very much, Baher, and welcome everyone to our first session. For the sake of time, because we are already a bit behind time, I will right away start with our first remarks and allow me to welcome, together with you, our setting the scene speaker, His Excellency Dr. Volker Wissing, Federal Minister for Digital and Transport, Germany.

VOLKER WISSING: Thank you very much, Minister Paula Ingabire, Your Excellencies, Honorable Ministers. It came as no surprise to me that Rwanda was chosen as the venue for this ICANN meeting. A German news channel recently featured the following headline, well organized, excellently connected, Rwanda is the place to be in East Africa. I was already impressed by how open the country and its citizens are to digitalization

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on my previous visits here. Many countries could learn a thing or two from this passion for digitalization and new technologies. Many conversations here, such as those I had yesterday in the Digital Transformation Center, have only served to reaffirm this impression. Rwanda has established itself as a digitalization pioneer. It is investing in the future, in the population's digital skills, in the digital infrastructure and digital public services.

I am delighted to be in Kigali. I would like to thank in particular, the Rwandan government and ICANN for inviting us and organizing this high-level government meeting. Last October, we had the honor of celebrating 25 years of ICANN with you at the Annual General Meeting in Germany. There, besides looking at the future challenges, we also looked back at the history of ICANN. The interest of various global stakeholders in Internet governance has risen constantly since the 1990s. After ICANN was founded in 1998, the two UN World Summits on the Information Society took place in 2003 and 2005.

At these summits, the United Nations Member States first agreed the principles that still guide us today with the involvement of non-governmental stakeholders. Even back then, the focus was already on the same topics we are also going to discuss today, in particular digital inclusion and the multistakeholder principle, as well as the role governments play in the Internet governance. The world has changed in many ways since ICANN was founded. It has become more complicated. There have been major developments above all in digitalization. At present, more than 5.4 billion people use the Internet. Ensuring that the Internet is both secure and open is no easy task.

We are also facing fundamental upheaval. New disruptive technologies offer immense opportunities but also pose challenges. Artificial intelligence is one example. The developments in this area are simply breathtaking. We must address emerging technologies like AI at international level with smart strategies. It is imperative that we strike the right balance between innovation and security, between discretion and obligations. Especially at international level, we are moving in the right direction. For example, with the G7 Code of Conduct, which marks a milestone for safe use of artificial intelligence worldwide. One thing is clear.

The manifold global developments in this field call for a bold global response. This will be the topic for the UN Summit of the Future in September at the Pact for the Future, which will be negotiated there. Along with Namibia, Germany will serve as a co-facilitator for this. The Global Digital Compact, which is currently being negotiated at UN level, is to be an annex to this pact. One paramount principle for us is the process that we advocate for a global, open, free and secure Internet. Of course, this principle also translates into real action. The multistakeholder approach we are talking about today is essential for global digital cooperation.

The Internet and Internet-based digital technologies have only become the incredible innovative force that they are, a force that benefits all of us today because various interest groups worked together. As a complex and global distributed network, the Internet depends on the collective technical and political expertise of a range of stakeholders. The current challenges like bridging digital divides cannot be tackled by

governments alone. They call for a concerted effort with non-governmental stakeholders.

We must ensure that everybody has the same opportunities to benefit from the digital transformation. We can only do so if we work together. Just a few weeks ago, stakeholders from around the world came together in Sao Paulo for the NETmundial+10 conference to affirm the support for inclusive, collaborative and multistakeholder-based Internet governance. At the same time, it also became clear that we must continue our efforts to make these principles a reality. For this reason, NETmundial+10 adopted operative guidelines to promote the implementation of the 2014 principles. Germany was actively involved in the development of these guidelines and will contribute to their implementation. However, governments cannot achieve much on their own in this area.

This, too, will take the commitment of all stakeholders to implement the guidelines. Ladies and gentlemen, over the past 25 years, ICANN has proven itself a key hub for active participation of all stakeholders. That is not least due to the fact that ICANN plays a vital role in the technical administration of the global Internet. Every day, ICANN's affiliated organizations and the stakeholders represented here ensure that our Internet remains interoperable, stable and secure. Coordinating the Internet's unique identifiers, above all managing the root zone of the domain name system, is a task that brings with it great global responsibility.

The ICANN governance model relies on the ability of governments, civil society, the scientific and technical communities, industry and individual Internet users to come together and develop solutions cooperatively and in good faith. Of course, these solutions are not always satisfactory for everyone involved. However, it is the only model that guarantees that every voice is heard. Inclusivity and transparency are the fundamental principles.

Organizations with global mandates like ICANN must constantly ensure that they uphold these principles, especially for underrepresented communities and regions. And for us as governments in particular, the Governmental Advisory Committee is the central mouthpiece representing our public policy interests vis-à-vis the ICANN community and the ICANN board. The voice of governments is essential. Governments have regulatory powers at national level. It is their duty to protect their population from harm.

Their decisions influence the global fabric of the Internet. And this naturally leads to specific interests, for example, regarding the role of the domain name system in criminal persecutions or protective provisions for certain top-level or second-level domains. However, it is also clear that the Governmental Advisory Committee is only as strong as its members. And I am convinced that this high-level government meeting can make a valuable contribution to raising awareness and understanding among governments for the role of ICANN and the Governmental Advisory Committee in global Internet governance.

There can be no doubt that ICANN is living proof that the multistakeholder model can be implemented successfully in practice. However, it also has to adapt continuously to remain fit for the future. Germany will gladly continue to help promote the multistakeholder principle so that together we can safeguard the accessibility, stability, freedom and openness of the Internet in the future too. I am looking forward to the panel discussion now and thank you very much for your attention. Thanks for listening.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you. Thank you very much, Minister Wissing. And I would like now to call to the stage and invite our distinguished panelists. So, please welcome with me Mr. Alan Davidson. Mr. Alan Davidson is Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator USA. Please, Mr. Juan Ardisson. Mr. Juan Ardisson is Vice Minister for Information and Communication Technologies, Paraguay. Mr. Dawit Bekele, Vice President for Africa Internet Society. Please, sit. Mr. Wes Hardaker, Member of the Internet Engineering Task Force, Internet Architecture Board, IAB. And Mr. Paul Wilson, Director General of the Asia-Pacific Network Information Center, APNIC.

So, I welcome you to the stage and I thank you for joining this panel and we have heard this morning very interesting setting the scenery marks and also inspiring talks from our distinguished speakers in the morning. And the point of multistakeholder is something that is being said again and again. And it is sad, like Minister Paula said, internet governance

cannot exist without multistakeholder cooperation, which has continuously to adapt.

So, I will maybe start with our first question. It's actually a question that I will invite each one of you to reflect on. And maybe if you can each of you share with us your perspective on how the multistakeholder model has evolved over the years, it's been 25 years and maybe more. And what are the biggest challenges that were faced until today and how the challenges can be mitigated? So, allow me maybe to start with Mr. Alan Davidson, if you would like to respond to that.

ALAN DAVIDSON:

Thank you. Well, thank you. And let me start by saying many thanks to the government of Rwanda and to Minister Ingabire for their hospitality and for hosting us and welcoming us here today. We really appreciate it. And it's wonderful to see this collection of people coming together to talk about these hard and difficult and important issues. And as a start, I guess to say to your question, it's hard to understate the importance of the multistakeholder approach in the evolution and success of the internet. People from diverse perspectives coming together in a spirit of collegiality to solve problems of common interest online.

It's not an exaggeration to say that the internet would not exist without it. And as we've heard from some of the prior speakers, it's been a very powerful model for us, bringing together and addressing the need to bring together technical expertise, civil society, academics, industry experts, all and government together to help us learn how to build and

govern this evolving internet. And we've created now a system of organizations with shared responsibility for coordination of our technical infrastructure. And that's been in many ways an incredible success.

ICANN, as Minister Wissing said, is a proof of concept here, a great example of how we can, through a multistakeholder approach, ensure the stable and secure operation of our unique identifiers. And that's been a bedrock of the internet success over the last 20 plus years. As to the question of evolution, the only constant I think so far has been change. It has changed a lot. The internet has changed a lot. The challenges before us have changed a lot.

In some ways, this notion even of a multistakeholder model, it's really changed into a multistakeholder system. We actually have a system of organizations that now works at scale to ensure a stable and secure internet. And that really has been part of the evolution. Of course, the organizations themselves have changed too. But I think the biggest thing that I see as a change has been the steady march towards professionalism and a stronger set of organizations. And I'll just say quickly, as far as the challenges that are ahead of us, it's an interesting question.

The internet has changed a lot. I think that's probably the biggest thing as we've heard since the beginning, since the inception of ICANN and other organizations. The landscape, the technological landscape, the minister spoke about AI, is changing too. But what really has changed

is the central importance of the internet and connectivity in the daily lives of so many people around the world.

And so, we have to rise to that challenge to make sure that we're addressing the needs of people in the face of all this change and this greater need. If you think about issues, security, access and connectivity, privacy, are we meeting the moment? And ICANN has been an incredible success, for example, for the last 20 years. But we also need to recognize the need to meet the new needs with greater urgency.

So, the biggest challenge before us, I think, is ensuring that as we think about the next 20 years of ICANN and other structures, that we are rising to meet this moment where the internet is so central to our lives, and where we need to increase the pace of our ability to meet big challenges as they come up.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you very much. It seems that the change and the rapid change is a challenge in itself. So maybe if I would like to hear from Mr. Dawit Bekele, your insights on the topic.

DAWIT BEKELE:

Thank you, Christine. Excellency, Ms. Paula Ingabire. Excellency, Dr. Volkan Wissing. Excellency, Mr. Klaver Gatete. Distinguished ICANN leaders, panelists and participants. I am honored to be at this very important, high-level panel.

The Internet Society and the broader technical community have long supported and promoted the development of the internet as a global technical infrastructure. We view the internet as a critical resource that enriches people's lives and acts as a force for good in society. Our work aligns with our overarching goals for the internet to be open, globally connected, secure and trustworthy. We continuously seek to collaborate with all who share these objectives.

The technical community has historically played pivotal roles in the governance of the internet. Firstly, we lend our critical technical expertise to ensure that all stakeholders can make informed decisions without compromising the internet's core functions and processes. Secondly, having been involved from the very beginning, we bring a valuable historical perspective and serve a collective memory of the internet's evolution.

This involvement is evident not only on a global scale, but also at national levels. Over the years, the role of the technical community in internet governance has evolved significantly. In the early days, preceding the establishment of ICANN and WSIS, the technical community had a dominant role, which was understandable that the internet was essentially its creation and the community was responsible for its growth and development.

However, the formation of ICANN and the subsequent WSIS processes created frameworks that allowed other stakeholders to have their place in the internet governance. For instance, at the ICANN Policy Forum taking place this week, all stakeholders, including government, the

private sector, civil society, academia, and the technical community, are collaboratively deciding on the evolution of the governance of internet names and numbers.

Similarly, WSIS established the Internet Governance Forum, which provides a platform for all stakeholders to engage on internet governance issues. In the past two decades, there has been increased engagement from various stakeholders. This might sometimes create the impression that the technical community is less engaged. However, I believe the technical community has continued to play its critical role effectively. Addressing the second part of your question, I must express some concern for the future.

The technical community is increasingly worried about the growing number of multilateral processes that might hinder its participation. While we appreciate government's interest in welcoming stakeholders' consultations, separate stakeholder consultations often do not allow for meaningful participation. The expanding number of processes and proposals poses obstacles not only for the technical community, but also for many other stakeholders, including governments from developing countries with limited resources.

It is crucial to streamline these processes to ensure that the technical community and other stakeholders can continue to contribute effectively to internet governance. In conclusion, the technical community's role has evolved as new stakeholders become more involved in the multistakeholder model of internet governance, but it remains fully committed to its roles and responsibilities. I also believe

that it has an important role to play in the governance of the internet in the future, so that we can all benefit from an internet that works well but is also a force for good in society. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you, Mr. Bekele. It's interesting to see the perspective from the side of the technical community, so maybe let me revert back to the government stakeholder and listen to insight from Mr. Juan Ardissonne on the challenges and on the evolution.

JUAN ARDISSONE:

Thank you very much. It's a little difficult to me to explain all the ideas that I have in my head in English, so I will speak in Spanish. And thank you for the great team at the back. From a government standpoint, and from a technical standpoint, there's something that we share, for all of those who work in the area of technology. And at the end of the day, that's what moves us as communities. Within technologies, there are different types of communities.

Now, we're used to working in communities, to publishing codes, source code, etcetera. And we move under this concept, which creates a model for collaborative work. I think that from the government standpoint, we often feel that these multistakeholders act independently. And I think that, that is something that we must address and take into consideration, given the type of work we're talking about.

Now, today, there are cybersecurity communities, AI communities, software communities. And I believe that this model, under a

governmental framework, should not be seen as us having individual frameworks. We shouldn't be working independently, as governments, civil society, academia, technical communities. But rather, governments must facilitate contact with the different communities to work hand in hand.

Therefore, personally, I think that the most complex part of this is that governments see this as a collaborative model for working, which helps us to think together, take decisions together, discuss together in an environment in which we can effectively collaborate. And this concept of community in the technological field, that can be taken to the multistakeholder model so that we can take decisions together and to achieve better internet governance.

From the government standpoint, I think that that would be the priority when it comes to what we have to work on. And from Paraguay's standpoint, of course, I'm here on behalf of Paraguay, that is the work that we are doing. We're trying to engage in contacts and to really bring about a paradigm shift from working independently to working in a collaborative manner. That's the main mechanism which I think can make the multistakeholder model support us when it comes to taking decisions together. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you very much, and it's interesting to hear that the way forward from a government perspective actually addresses the challenges that have been said. So, Paul, you've also been quite long with the technical community. Maybe you can give us the view from your side.

PAUL WILSON:

Thank you. Thank you very much, Christine, and thank you, Excellencies and everyone here. It's really an honor to be here on this panel. I'm from APNIC. We're one of the five regional internet address registries, and we serve the Asia-Pacific. The RIRs are responsible for allocating, registering, certifying the IP addresses, which are the fundamental numeric identifiers of the internet, and represented by the second N in the acronym ICANN.

The first RIRs, RIPE NCC and APNIC, were established in 1992 and 1993, and I should note that here in Kigali also is the leader managing director of RIPE NCC, Hans-Peter Hollen. RIRs predated ICANN by some years, but we've supported and participated in ICANN since its inception as a critical coordinator and convener in the multistakeholder system of internet governance. RIRs are members of the technical community, representing specific technical responsibilities and expertise. Like ICANN, we convene open policy development processes, but for internet number policy, engaging the community of network operators who literally build the internet infrastructure.

Across all RIRs, we have 10 policy meetings every year, with a total attendance equal to that, approximately, of ICANN, and we've been getting together, successfully managing IP addressing for the last 30 years. So, in that time, we've seen huge growth, and I'll mention a couple of the topics that we're currently working with by way of evolutionary challenges. The first is IPv6. I've come to Kigali from meetings in Asia where I spoke to industry and government about the

critical importance of IPv6 to the future of the internet, about the proven success of IPv6, which now serves more than a third of all users of the internet and carries nearly half of all the traffic of the internet globally.

It sort of seems like IPv6 might be on a roll, so to speak, but we still actually have challenges as many new networks and devices are still being built for IPv4 only, and IPv4, which fueled the internet since 1983, has now been stretched way beyond its original design limits. With v4 address scarcity, new players are speculating on grey and black markets, they're fueling a false and temporary economy, with some resulting fragmentation, the opposing motivations of sometimes wealthy speculators is creating a chaotic environment which will impede healthy internet development for as long as we keep relying on IPv4.

The main driver for IPv6 isn't just to move on from IPv4 and leave it behind, it's actually to fuel the ongoing expansion of the internet to a much, much larger network, which will serve us for the next century, or as Doreen Bogdan-Martin said, the next centuries to come. So, the transition to IPv6 is still hugely important until it's actually done. Secondly, on security, RIRs, very briefly, have a role in the security of internet routing through digital certification of IP address allocations.

This allows operators to deploy new protocols and technologies which add needed security to the infrastructure layer. As with IPv6, there's a transition underway to a secured routing system and it requires the cooperation of all stakeholders. In both of these cases, governments

can help in essential ways by leading by example, for example, by requiring these technologies to be implemented in all of your own ICT systems through procurement and technology policy. I've been asked to speak about challenges and the current times are a bit challenging for many of us.

At the technical level, we support the growing and changing needs of the internet, as I've mentioned, but also in terms of governance, highlighted recently with attempts by enriched stakeholders to gain influence and to further interests which are frankly not aligned with a healthy internet. The RIRs are mobilizing on both of these fronts. For some of us, APNIC and RIPE NCC, for instance, our efforts have been in continuing to improve our institutions. In other cases, like AFRINIC, we're dealing with threats that are existential in nature. IPv4 resources which were destined for AFRINIC have been misused for profits which have been turned against AFRINIC, while developmental needs of the region, which are our first priority to be honest, have been inevitably sidelined or distracted.

Fortunately, AFRINIC continues to operate and that's thanks to the diligence and dedication of AFRINIC staff. Just to conclude, the internet is always growing and evolving, but we now see an increased need for cooperation across the multistakeholder system. I've outlined a few priority issues for RIRs and how governments can help, but I want to reiterate our willingness to engage with you for the best outcomes in terms of the internet's healthy development and for its best contributions to your societies. Thanks very much.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Thank you, Paul. It's been years, we've been discussing internet governance for many years, but we still stand here at the nexus of policies and technical and it seems that this is continuing. You're at the very heart of as technical as it gets with the internet architecture board, so can you give us your insights from your perspective?

WES HARDAKER: Yes, I'd be happy to. Thanks very much. I'd like to start by thanking the organizers of the HLG. This is a beautiful venue and this is a very important event and it's very hard to put together a conference like this, so thanks very much. Let me start by prefacing my remarks. I wear many roles and I'm a researcher with the University of Southern California. I'm the manager of a DNS root server, a member of the ICANN board, but today I'm really here to speak to you from my perspective as a member of the internet architecture board and my long-term participant in the internet engineering task force.

The evolution of the IETF's unique version of the multistakeholder model comes from its continual ability to take on new perspectives, new design requirements, and lessons learned from new implementations and deployment experiences in regions and governments alike. The IETF marks its success by carefully crafting the internet protocols and technologies that achieve worldwide deployment, not by mandate but rather by robust, well-designed engineering practice that attracts rather than enforces deployment.

Thus, my intervention today will really rest on one conclusion. Robust, secure, resilient, global communication technologies are best achieved when technologies, technologists, policymakers, decision makers, governments, civil society members, and network operators all come together to collectively design and deploy the next phase of the internet's global communication framework, which I think I heard a lot of similar viewpoints up here, so I'm not alone. It's good to hear.

The multistakeholder model and its many implementations and forms, and this includes the IETFs and ICANNs and the RIRs and others, have proven successful by their willingness to adapt to the needs and experiences of new cultures and internet end users. The internet began as a research project where anyone participating had the opportunity to express their opinion about what direction the developing technologies should head next.

This model of communication led to the creation of the IETF, which has no formal membership and where voices from many diverse opinions may be heard. The IETF is a very bottom-driven organization, and as such, our leadership does not actually make decisions in themselves but really is responsible for judging the consensus among its participants as decisions are made. This method of including a wide diversity of opinions has led to the widespread adoption of all the core internet protocols that we make use of today, and the internet's modern backbone of communication.

It includes the web, it includes global routing, it includes email address delivery, it includes, of course, the domain name system that allows the

internet users to refer to any online resource using humanly understandable names. Global adoption of new technologies like these occurs because there's a global consensus process mechanism like multistakeholder models that strive to accommodate a diverse set of opinions as possible.

Thus, the biggest challenge of a multistakeholder model is to ensure that it continues to accept and embrace new perspectives from new participants so it can continue to grow and expand with the dynamic needs of the world's population as more and more users come online. Thus, my initial conclusion that I stated in the beginning remains true. Robust, secure, resilient global communication technologies are best achieved when technologists, policy makers, decision makers, governments, civil society members, and network operators all come together to collectively design and deploy the next phase of the internet's global communication framework. To put it simply, the internet is best built by including voices from everyone, which is the fundamental root of the multistakeholder model.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you, Wes, and thank you all for this initial round of questions. I retain actually three words that kept coming again and again, adaptability and cooperation and inclusivity. I was asked by the translator to kindly ask you to speak a bit slower so that they can cope with us. Now that we've laid a bit from different perspectives, the challenges and the evolution that has happened, let us maybe dwell in

another round of questions that I kindly ask to take just a few minutes to answer so that we can open up the floor afterwards.

So, Alan, I turn to you with a question. NTIA has played a pivotal role in shaping the development of ICANN and has been a key stakeholder in the evolution of internet governance. So maybe you can provide us with insights how you see ICANN has evolved over the years and what are the key milestone changes that have occurred during that process?

ALAN DAVIDSON:

Maybe I can say something on a personal note, if you would. My first ICANN meeting was actually not an ICANN meeting. It was a meeting right before ICANN was created in 1998. Dealing myself a little. In Reston, Virginia, a group of people from around the world came together to think about how could we manage this important, essential function for the internet? And there was an excitement and energy around the idea. Could we take advantage of the nature of the internet itself, the decentralized nature, and find a way to build a system that would bring together, again, as we've said, technical experts, industry experts, academia, I was in civil society at the time, and build something enduring.

And that energy and excitement, I think, created a system that we are now able to celebrate today. And 20 years ago, there were only somewhere on the order of 150 million people on the internet, now over 5 billion. And we've created something that is 25 years later, I should say, a success story. Stable and secure, unique identifiers, delivered in a stable and secure way to the world. And it's a testimony, I think, to

the multistakeholder system. How has it evolved? Of course, it had to evolve. ICANN itself has changed a lot, not just in terms of what it's doing, just the scale of it, but the structures themselves, the Government Advisory Committee, which didn't really exist in the beginning in the same way, the GNSO.

There are many structures that changed. Probably one of the biggest changes from the US government perspective was in 2014, 10 years ago, we announced a change in our relationship with ICANN. The NTIA, my organization, had held a contract with ICANN to oversee key functions. And in 2016, we made, after a lot of work, this transition to replacing the US government's role with the role of a broader, empowered community from among the international community of users and impacted stakeholders of ICANN. And that was a huge change, too. I think all of that together shows that ICANN has evolved. The multistakeholder systems that we've developed have evolved. And we are ready to meet the challenges that are ahead of us.

ICANN has always been a place where governments could sit with technical experts like the ones we have on stage here and think about how to address the big problems facing this system. I think more broadly, as we said, it is a good proof of concept about the multistakeholder model and how it can evolve. And when we talked about the challenges earlier, when we talked about the challenges facing us today.

It is really the multistakeholder system that is probably most likely to be able to help us meet those challenges, because it was designed, as I

said, in those early days with the idea of how could we create something nimble, agile, something that brought together all the stakeholders, that was inclusive, that had governments sitting in an inclusive way with the experts who were building things and could help us together collectively govern this system that has so much impact on people's lives.

So those are some of the things that have changed. But again, I think it shows that the path forward for us to address these big challenges, to realize the Internet's potential, to meet our development goals, to meet the big challenges facing our planet, it lies in this multistakeholder model. And that's why we're here today, and that's why we're so excited about its continuing evolution. So, thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Yes, thank you for sure. The view on the milestones and the changes that took place and this evolution journey is definitely giving us confidence for the future. So, Juan, I'd like to turn to you, because Paraguay is at present chairing the GAC, and as much as the ICANN as a whole has evolved, I think the GAC also has quite evolved. So maybe you can share your insights how the GAC has evolved over the years, mainly in representing government's interests in Internet governance discussions, and are there any initiatives or strategies that you believe could further enhance government cooperation within ICANN?

JUAN ARDISSONE:

Thank you for the question. Yes, I'd like to start by saying that the GAC has evolved over the years, and I think that precisely that work that we have in conjunction with the GAC is what helps us to ensure that governments become more active within this role and within this model. From the government, it is very, very important to participate within this model of multiple stakeholders, because ultimately there is a very important part that we can work on, which is especially with the creation of public policies, and also with the legal part that includes and gives a complete coating to all of this.

So, that collaboration that we have with the GAC and that synergy that is being created and that has been created over the years allows us to get closer and closer, and to be part of this collaborative work and this synergy that we are creating day by day to make decisions and to be able to work together on everything that has to do with Internet governance and with the decisions that are being made related to this area.

The work that we have been doing, and that nowadays Paraguay has with Nicolás the presidency of the GAC, is important and allows us to get closer and work together to strengthen this model, which is increasingly important because finally, as we always mention in Paraguay, the government alone cannot make the decisions that have to do with this type of representation. We need to form a set of people and a set of different roles. And that is where, effectively, I insist, this synergy is given over the years, and that is what I personally believe has been strengthening with the GAC throughout all this time.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Yes, this is so true. And so, as we are seeing evolution on different levels, Dawit, I would like to come back to you again on the technical community. How do you see its role, that it has evolved over time? Do you see its future engagement in addressing those emerging challenges that we identified and the opportunities that the Internet and Internet governance is laying out? What do you think about the evolution of the role of the technical community?

DAWIT BEKELE:

Thank you, Christine. I think the challenges are going to grow. I believe that the Internet technical community has contributed a lot to bringing us where we are today. As some of you have indicated, 20 years ago, we had a few hundred millions of people connected to the Internet. And today, we have two-thirds of the population of the world connected and this couldn't happen without the involvement of the technical community, whether it is on the implementation side, on setting the standards, but also in the governance of the Internet. And as the Internet grows and its reach within the society increases, there are more and more complex issues that come to the table.

And it is critical that the technical community continues to bring its technical expertise so that the Internet is not broken. Because what we see increasingly is that many of the solutions that are proposed might break the Internet. And it is important that the technical community that has the historical perspective, that knows the core of the Internet, and that cares about the Internet, is at the heart of these discussions so

that bad decisions are not made and that the decisions that are proposed at national level, but also global level, will continue to help the Internet grow and become something that we can even rely on more.

Because today, I don't think there is anyone of us who can live without the Internet, and we don't want to lose that. And it is important that we don't break the Internet even without knowing it. And that is why it is important that we have the technical community everywhere at global level, regional level, and global level.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you. Yes, we can't afford living without the Internet, that's for sure. So, Wissing, I'd like to go a bit deeper to the domain name system. And technology is evolving, obviously, and there are so many emerging technologies that actually might impact or are impacting the domain name system. So, in your view, what is the role that the technical community could play in specific to address challenges that can come from those differences in emerging technologies?

VOLKER WISSING:

Thank you for the question. The good news is that technology has been changing since we created it. So, it's really a lot of practice of continuing our efforts to make sure that we can always keep changing it through things like a multistakeholder model. The reality is, for global communication on the Internet to be successful, we must have interoperable communication protocols. The DNS is a grounding

technology in the Internet's naming system. And it was first documented by the IETF in 1986, quite a while ago. It has received many extensions since then and many updates to continue its evolution with any new challenges that might be evolving.

In the year 2000, the Internet Architecture Board actually published RFC 2826 that documents the importance of a unique global DNS route. This was actually later followed by ICANN with the publication of ICP3 entitled A Unique Authoritative Route for the DNS. This was done to make sure that all users of the Internet would be able to communicate with the same naming and identifiers that is in use by the DNS. And that statement really needs to remain. In order to adapt to the changing requirements of the Internet, the DNS protocol receives updates through the IETF's consensus-driven process that makes up its, as I said before, unique multistakeholder model implementation. But the IETF is actually well renowned for embracing alternate technologies that improve upon our existing way of doing things.

Specific to the DNS, application developers, gTLD, ccTLD registries, registrars, DNS server operators, and resolver operators all participate in the IETF. They all want to invest in the IETF. In fact, now a new DNS working group is being created right now that will have its first meeting in Vancouver in a month that is going to enhance the ability for synchronization of delegation mechanisms between the ICANN's registry, registrar, and registrant parties. So, we're always continuing to adapt and always continuing to involve. And that is how we meet our challenges with respect to new emerging technologies. We embrace

them and we take them on and we use them as a starting point. So, that's good.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you. So, in the few minutes, Paul, we still have before we open up for the floor interventions. Regional internet registries, specific APNIC, where you're coming from, they have a tremendous role to play in the sustainability of the internet infrastructure and its development. So obviously, it's not just a technical role, it's also evolving. So, from your point of view, how should the role of RIRs actually evolve to address all those challenges that we've actually heard?

PAUL WILSON:

Sure. Thanks, Christina. As I mentioned, we've had 30 years of experience with RIRs. Just as an aside and a hook across the communities we're talking about here, the RIRs actually originated from the IETF. So, the IETF over 30 years ago saw emerging issues with the way IP addresses were being managed. And through IETF processes, RIRs were proposed or regional approach was proposed as a solution. And so, we came out of the processes that Wes has been talking about here. And we've been operating for 30 years.

That corresponds actually to and was, I guess, triggered by the commercial success of the internet as it was emerging in the early 1990s, primarily through the worldwide web. So, through that entire boom and continual expansion of the internet over that period of time,

the model that has prevailed has been an evolving model that is essentially the same model of policy development through the RIRs.

And I really think it's something that we can be proud of that we've supported the immense, incredible evolution and growth of the internet over that period. Because it was actually 10 years later, when the success of the internet was becoming apparent that the World Summit happened. And I don't believe the World Summit was initially intended to focus on the internet, but it quickly identified the internet as a critical factor in the development of the Information Society. And as governments do, I think the question then was, if this internet thing is so important, how then is it governed?

The Working Group on Internet Governance was formed to talk about that. I think it's important to realize that the Working Group didn't invent internet governance, and it didn't invent the multistakeholder model. It actually looked at what is the success of the internet, the success of the internet being bound up in its governance processes, and the nature of those governance processes already successful as they were, being a multistakeholder system.

And so, I really think it's important to see the multistakeholder system as something that predates its naming, and is something that is essential actually to the development of the internet and to the internet success over that time. And furthermore, since 20 years ago, the continual growth and success of the internet has been continued. It is apparent to us all, and it has happened under primarily the same approach. Now, I'm not saying that that approach hasn't been evolving,

it has been evolving. Back in the earlier times, I think many in the internet technical community were very proud of the fact that we were open, and actually always have been open, open to all comers who have an interest. But I think we've realized that openness on its own, particularly passively, is not enough.

A door may be open, but if nobody knows that the door is there, then they're not going to come to it. And so, I think we're now very much across the internet community, the technical community, seeing openness as an active and inclusive process that we need to work hard and work continually towards.

So I can't enumerate the number of ways in which internet technical community organizations are enhancing inclusiveness of, and not only within their own communities, but also enhancing inclusiveness in the context of the multistakeholder system that we support, and reaching out to other stakeholders and across those stakeholder boundaries, if you like, to make sure that what we're doing is both listening to and speaking with the stakeholders from across that entire system, doing it very actively.

And so, I think multistakeholderism is a much more active thing than simple openness. It's a bit like the difference between an absence of discrimination and affirmative action. It's something where you identify something that is needed and that it needs work to overcome, sort of a prevailing default approach. So, I do think we're evolving. I think we'll continue to evolve. And in fact, the evolution can be smoother and more rapid and more responsive precisely because we're

now operating absolutely in this mode of openness and inclusiveness.
Thanks.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you. And thank you, actually, all for those very insightful comments and this very interesting discussion, which I think could go on and on. But for the sake of time, I would like maybe now to open up for interventions from distinguished delegates and heads of delegation. And we have a list of requests for the floor. We will start with comments from Australia. And after Australia, we're having Bangladesh and the European Commission. Australia, please.

KATHLEEN SILLERI:

Thank you and good morning to all. My name is Kathleen Silleri and I'm representing Australia here today. Before I commence, I just want to acknowledge that we are here for this event during a period of remembrance for 30 years since the genocide against the Tutsi. The country's journey towards recovery and prosperity is a rightful source of pride for the people of Rwanda. Australia is a strong supporter of an open, free, safe, secure internet and advocates for continuing consensus-based improvement of existing mechanisms of multistakeholder internet governance.

The multistakeholder model is decentralized, placing individuals, industry, non-commercial interests and governments on an equal level, allowing for community-based policymaking. Multistakeholder governance mechanisms recognize that all stakeholders have a

valuable contribution to make internet governance discussions and decisions. Crucially, it prevents any group, including states, from exerting undue influence over the internet by allowing for community-based decision-making on technical management of the internet and a forum when no stakeholder group has a stronger voice than any other.

The multistakeholder approach reflects the internet's collaborative origins, as we've heard from many panel members, and means that all stakeholders are able to contribute to the technical management of the policy of the internet. It ensures development of the global internet is shaped by stakeholders from the private sector, academia, the technical community, governments and civil society.

This is a proven model for responding to complex challenges that the internet has presented. The multistakeholder approach is an important and effective tool to address online harms, protect the rights of users, and harness the social and economic benefits of the global internet brings. Because an amazing amount of financial and intellectual value has been created through the tireless work of the groups that govern the technical layers of the internet and keep it running, whether that be ICANN ensuring that the domain name system is well managed and operated, or the high-quality standards of the Internet Engineering Task Force that underpin the core services we rely on every day.

We want to see bodies like ICANN and the IGF continue to achieve positive outcomes which demonstrate the value of the multistakeholder model. We also want and need to consider how the multistakeholder model can be improved to meet new challenges.

Demonstrating that multistakeholderism has the capacity to develop over time is critical to promote its approach to the national and international level. To that end, Australia welcomes the Net Mundial 10 output statement and thanks all organizers and Brazil for the hosting of this important dialogue in Sao Paulo. We were encouraged by over 700 participants that engaged in that process.

The discussion showed that the continuing importance of the Internet Governance Forum, the value of distributed conversations and the importance of open and inclusive multistakeholder processes. There are obviously problems that need to be solved, like DNS Abuse. There is harm occurring to real people who lose their life savings or business reputations to phishing enabled by lookalike domains, and that's just one example. But no group acting alone can solve the problems. We all need to work together to achieve a workable consensus. The governments here are part of the process and we want to be partner in solutions. We might not always understand the technology to the same depth as other groups and sometimes we do have to accept that regulation can be part of the solution. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you. Thank you, Australia, for those comments. I next would like to invite Bangladesh for their remarks. I'm sorry, I don't see Bangladesh. Okay, I would like to invite the European Commission to give their remarks.

PEARSE O'DONOHUE:

Thank you. Good morning. On behalf of the European Commission, I would like to express our gratitude to the government of Rwanda for hosting such an important event. Today's discussion around the multistakeholder model is very timely in view of the forthcoming key milestones for internet governance. Now, the starting point of the European Union is unflinching support for the multistakeholder model. This is the only way to keep the internet as we want it. Open, free, global, interoperable, reliable, and secure.

These principles are at the core of the declaration on the future of the internet, which has been signed by many countries in this room. They're also the basis for the European Union's own declaration on digital rights and principles, which are the rules that we apply to ourselves, which present the European Union's commitment to a secure, safe, and sustainable digital transformation. Just like the DNS is at the core of the internet, ICANN is at the core of the multistakeholder internet governance. And as an authoritative internet governance institution, ICANN has been able to support internet expansion and to maintain the stability and resilience of the internet, even when unprecedented challenges have arisen.

Now, this would not have been possible without the strong mobilization of the stakeholder community, who actively engage, discuss, and seek consensus within the structures of ICANN. However, we must recognize that the adaptability and resilience of ICANN and of its community will continue to be tested in the coming period. From a policy perspective, the current discussions of the Global Digital Compact and the upcoming

WSIS+20 discussions, while not focused on ICANN specifically, do require strong advocacy of the multistakeholder model.

And from a more technical perspective, new technologies, and especially those paving the way for the Web 4.0, such as virtual realities, artificial intelligence, blockchain, and quantum, all require ICANN to be able to evolve in its thinking as well as in its functioning, so that the organization can be able to respond to new internet requirements. Now, it is reasonable to assume, based on previous experience, that ICANN will be able to play a fundamental role in the development of the next generation of the internet.

The current protocols and standards, which have served us very well thus far, will continue to be the basis for further internet evolutions, with the support particularly of the technical community. So, we are confident that ICANN and the multistakeholder community have the potential to surf the wave of these new challenges and to deliver what is needed by all of us. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Thank you, European Commission. I would like to invite next interventions by the United Kingdom.

PAUL GASKELL: Thank you. My name is Paul Gaskell from the UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology. We very much welcome this high-level government meeting, the first since the pandemic, and it's especially great as well that it's held in Africa, in Rwanda, and our

gratitude to the Rwandan government as well as ICANN and the GAC for organizing. I think it's very symbolic that it is here on the continent of Africa.

This meeting brings together and provides an opportunity for governments to engage and reflect on ICANN's role in keeping the domain name system stable and secure, which is so important for ensuring that the global communication trade and digital inclusion that depends on internet governance is maintained. The multistakeholder model, the multistakeholder system, I think we can all agree is absolutely crucial to the global framework for internet governance.

It ensures that everybody has a voice. This is important both for inclusivity, but also to ensure that we have expertise as well. We all benefit hugely from the expertise in the technical community. This has helped the domain name system to operate smoothly and securely, including, for example, during the pandemic, which I referenced earlier.

ICANN itself has worked quickly to address instances of domain name system abuse during the pandemic, working at pace to take down malicious domain names intended to trick users, and we're very grateful for ICANN's role in this area. However, there is still work to do, I think, for ICANN and this wider community in this space. Looking particularly ahead as well, we have the WSIS+20 process and this presents an opportunity for all of us, ICANN included, to work more strategically with governments and other internet governance bodies to promote the multistakeholder model, celebrating its successes as well. And we need to be realistic as well.

There are voices in the world who do not share our principles in support for free, open, secure internet based on multistakeholderism and industry-led, and we need to be aware of that. But examples of success include, for example, the successful IANA transition and also continuing work to counter abuse online. It's also important, as I said, to ensure that we work together to promote further global inclusion in ICANN meetings.

And as I said, it's great that we're here in Rwanda today. And it is crucial that we bring the developing world into this process and give them a clear stake in the global internet governance framework. We therefore welcome programs such as ICANN's applicant support program, as well as work on universal acceptance and international domain names, which go a long way to address these issues. Thank you very much.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you very much, United Kingdom. I would like next to call upon Switzerland.

JORGE CANCIO:

Thank you, Christine, and good morning, everyone. Jorge Gancio, Swiss government. So, I'm very pleased to be here. And first, and very importantly, thanks and congratulations to our Rwandan colleagues for this excellent meeting and for their hospitality. So, in order to not repeating what others have said, I could endorse much of what previous speakers have said. Let me zoom out a little bit from the more internet domain administration we are discussing here in ICANN and look at the

larger ecosystem of digital governance, because it's really an ecosystem grown over the years with very delicate balance of different elements, different players, different processes, where ICANN plays a very important role at the very center of the functioning of the internet and, of course, of the digital system.

At the same time, we have organizations, processes that tend more to the multistakeholder approach side of the spectrum, while other processes which have important roles to play tend more to the multilateral side of the process. So we had last month, for instance, the Net Mondial discussions very on the multistakeholder side, but we also had the WSIS+20 high level event in Geneva, more tending to the multilateral side, coming from different traditions, but being complementary to each other, with very important functions that what is at stake really with the GDC and the WSIS+20 review is to get them on track in a coordinated, in a consistent direction to address the challenges we have before us.

We have been talking about meaningful connectivity, which is much more than infrastructure. It's about skills. It's about relevant content. It's about so many things. We are talking about data governance. What's the best approach to data governance, to data flows, to artificial intelligence? And there's so much to learn from the multistakeholder approach from the experiences we have been having.

And for instance, from the Sao Paulo multistakeholder guidelines we adopted in Sao Paulo just some weeks ago. But at the same time, we have to leverage the WSIS architecture we have been building for the

last 20 years, which is so important for our colleagues, especially from the global South. So, I think it's important to work together in this evolution, continue establishing an innovative, friendly, and enabling environment. And ICANN has an important role to play there. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Thank you, Switzerland. I next have Canada.

DAVID BEDARD: Good morning, fellow delegates and honorable ministers. Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you. My name is David Bedard. I'm from Innovation Science and Economic Development, Canada. I would like to thank the Government of Rwanda and our Chair, Honorable Paula Ingabire, for hosting the fifth high-level meeting in your beautiful country, in your beautiful city of Kigali. As many of you know, Canada had the honor of having served as the inaugural host of the HLG in Toronto in 2012, and we are pleased to continue supporting government engagement at ICANN.

We consider these meetings crucial to building a shared understanding of the technical issues at ICANN and the different public policy considerations related to internet governance. It is only with this common understanding that we can ensure we are working together to keep the internet open, secure, and interoperable. We would like to congratulate the GAC for 25 years of its establishment, a true testament to the strength and importance of this advisory committee.

A well-functioning and agile GAC driven by consensus decision-making is a crucial element of ICANN's multistakeholder system. Canada believes the principles of diversity, inclusion, and consensus-based decision-making are at the heart of the multistakeholder approach and enable us to move beyond individual interest to see the collective opportunity. Canada is grateful to gather here with distinguished colleagues from around the world at a pivotal time for the future of internet governance. The online landscape has evolved rapidly and the internet has become a critical tool for daily life across the globe.

Internet governance processes and the organizations responsible for them need to continue to adapt, to improve, and reform to ensure that they remain fit for the future. Canada firmly believes that effective internet governance requires input from diverse stakeholders. Governments, the technical community, civil society, and the private sector each bring valuable perspectives to the table. This is true at ICANN, but it's also true as we turn our attention to key events such as the WSIS+20 Review the Global Digital Compact and, of course, ongoing at the Internet Governance Forum.

These processes and forums offer unique opportunity for us to reaffirm our commitment to the multistakeholder approach while recognizing areas where we can strengthen internet governance well into the future. Now more than ever, it is crucial that ICANN remains strong, relevant, and inclusive. As internet governance discussions ramp up, ICANN's role as a steward of secure, stable, and unified global internet over the next 25 years has become paramount. ICANN's decision-making processes not only fosters transparency and accountability, but

also enhances the resilience and adaptability of internet governance frameworks.

We must continue to work within ICANN community to achieve milestones such as the next round of domain names, which will expand the global domain name system and foster a new wave of innovation online. We also support ICANN's commitment to internationalize domain names and applicant support programs to enable diversity, inclusion from across the world in the next round of top-level domain names. It is critical to leverage the multistakeholder approach to meaningfully engage and increase representation of different stakeholders across the globe, allowing for more nuanced and comprehensive form of collaboration. Thank you again.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you very much, Canada. I next have India. Thank you.

SUSHIL PAL:

I'm Sushil, GAC representative from India. Let me congratulate Rwanda for hosting this event and thank them for their amazing hospitality. India acknowledges the importance of a multistakeholder model, the commitment of diverse stakeholders in ensuring that the internet remains open, accessible, safe, secure, resilient, trusted and accountable. Throughout the morning discussions, we have only heard open, secure, and resilient part of the internet governance. However, keeping in view the user harm and the threat to the citizens from the

emerging technologies and the fact that the internet is the medium for such misinformation, disinformation, defects, etcetera.

We also need to work towards making internet more trusted and accountable. And that's the new challenge with the multistakeholder model has to address, making it more trusted and making it more accountable. We also recognize and share the concern that addressing similar thematic issues in siloed deliberations leads to the fragmented result. We strongly believe that it's important to coordinate better between different processes which address similar issues and thereby minimizing duplication of efforts and ensuring that the outcomes in various forums are aligned and complementary.

And I would also like to point out that the need to make the multistakeholder process more efficient so as to fast track the decision-making process which can keep pace with evolving technologies and also respond to the requirement of the law enforcement agencies of various governments. Mitigating challenges such as DNS Abuse requires verifications and validations of the internet domain registration data. Given the emanating threats from the emerging technologies, ICANN consider mandating accuracy and completeness of WHOIS data and thereby promoting accountability among registrars through the RA and RRAs and also put into place the process for a faster response time for the information sought by various law enforcement agencies.

ICANN also consider simplifying and streamlining the process, making it more adaptable and flexible, deploying emerging technologies to

handle challenges and also consider broadening the representation by encouraging more diversity in the leadership positions in the supporting organizations and advisory bodies. We commend ICANN for the wonderful work done they have done till now and we are confident that they would evolve to meet the challenges. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you very much, India. I have France. France, please.

PIERRE BONIS:

First of all, I would like to thank our guest, the government of Rwanda, for their extraordinary welcome here, in this magnificent city of Kigali. The energy, the modernity, the hospitality of all the Rwandans and Rwandese that we have seen since our arrival is an inspiration. I would also like to thank ICANN and its teams for setting up this very important meeting, where it is from here, in the heart of the African continent, that we discuss the challenges that concern the whole world.

France supports the multi-actor model at the heart of the Internet governance, even the multi-actor system, as Mr. Secretary-General of Commerce of the United States of America has named it. In the context of the discussions around the World Summit over the next 20 years and the World Digital Pact, and as the Minister of Transport of the Federal Republic of Germany has said, governments have an essential role. Governments are influenced by regulations on the evolution of the governance of a global common good, the Internet, which itself influences innumerable aspects of the lives of citizens. But to make the

right decisions, France thinks, as Mr. Deputy Minister of Technology of the Republic of Paraguay, that governments must not only participate, but also rely on this multi-actor model.

The principles of openness, transparency, inclusion, respect for human rights at work within a multi-actor governance seem to us to be essential to the success of the Internet. In this governance, each participant has a recognized role, depending on their ability and influence on the Internet, but also depending on what the Internet can have as a positive or negative consequence on their own social, cultural, political or economic life. ICANN, in this context, is a great illustration of the decline of the model or the multi-actor system, which must be able to inspire all current initiatives, notably at the level of the United Nations.

For France, if the undeniable successes of the Internet are clearly attributable to the common efforts of all the actors involved in its development, the challenges still to be met, such as the reduction of the digital divide, the fight against abuses, the taking into account of emerging technologies, can only be achieved by increasingly relying on this approach. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you again, of course. Before I turn back to our panel to give us their final short remarks, I would like to see if there are any other delegates that would like to seek the floor. Please state your country and your name.

NOMURA EIGO:

Okay, thank you, Chair. I'm Nomura Eigo, Deputy Director-General of MIC from Japan. Firstly, I'd like to thank the Rwandan government for this kind hospitality. Regarding this session, this has been such informative, and Japan appreciates all the effort done by panelists and distinguished colleagues from all over the world. Taking this opportunity, Japan would like to make a very quick intervention. It is about the challenges and the possible improvement of ICANN, which was pointed out by Mr. Davidson from NTIA.

Japan would like to echo to what is being said. We all share, I believe, that ICANN has been doing great, but we have to keep moving to make it better. We have to work together. Japan is expecting and happy to be engaged to contribute to the further discussion on the ICANN's improvement. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you very much, Japan. I believe there is room maybe for one more intervention. Should there be any? Yes, please.

MARINA FLEGO EIRAS:

Good morning, Your Excellency and Chair and distinguished delegates. I am Marina Flego Eiras, from the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the GAC Alternate Representative for Argentina. It is an honor to address this esteemed audience. On behalf of the Argentine Republic, I would like to thank and congratulate both the ICANN and the Rwandan government for organizing such a notable event.

Our delegation recognizes the pivotal role that ICANN plays in ensuring and keeping a secure, stable, and interoperable Internet. It also celebrates its multistakeholder structure, since we believe that it results in not only responding to the different problems that the Internet community faces, but also developing policies that reflect the interests of all the actors involved in that model. Argentina has had an active and vigorous engagement in the processes developed within ICANN.

In this regard, our delegation has energetically and uninterruptedly participated in the meetings and discussions of the Governmental Advisory Committee from the very beginning of its inception, apart from the fact of having hosted two ICANN public meetings. And if we have to refer to the subject matter, it is worth mentioning that the Argentine contribution to ICANN is not limited to the work carried out within the framework of the GAC. On the contrary, many other actors, such as the NIC.R, the Argentine Chamber of Internet, as well as the non-governmental organizations from civil society, partake in the ICANN's unique multistakeholder model. Thank you very much.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Thank you very much, Argentina.

KAZI MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN: Okay, this is Brigadier General Mustafizur from Bangladesh. Sorry, the Honorable Minister, he has left, and he had one topic to discuss. As he left, the Bangladesh part was silent. So, on behalf of him, I'd like to

thank all of you, everyone, for arranging this wonderful session. I'd like to say the one comment that the father of the nation of Bangladesh, Sheikh Muzibur Rahman, made. I quote, we can look forward to a world where human creativity and the great achievement of our age in science and technology will be able to shape a better future based upon sharing of technology and resources on a global scale so that people everywhere can enjoy the minimum condition of a decent life. I unquote.

So, he dreamed 50 years back, and today Bangladesh is implementing his dream. So, we can say that with the help of the international community, Bangladesh is growing, making one of the largest telecom industries Bangladesh. With that, I thank all of you. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you very much, Bangladesh. And as a wrap up, I will kindly ask each panelist to give us a very short takeaway from the session and from all the interventions that we have heard. And I would like to start in the order from my right. So, Paul, please.

PAUL WILSON:

Thanks very much. I think one of the things that has been said by the technical community in particular over the years is that we have, we support the multistakeholder system as participants in that system. We're open to its evolution. And that's very important. And I think if it's to be meaningful, it has to be a genuine openness to evolution. It's quite inconsistent with the suggestion that the system is perfect.

So, I think that that admission is not a, is not as some people might feel a sort of chink in our armor. I think it's actually a strength, our openness, our continual openness that has been demonstrated to the evolution of the system. So, I think there have been some recent challenging proposals, one that APNIC joined with ICANN and Aaron in responding to, for instance, in the proposal for a tripartite approach to the multistakeholder system in which the technical community would be kind of absorbed. And we object quite strongly to that. The technical community has got a very different view and conception and role in the internet than either, than any of the other three stakeholder groups. But it's not to say that we could not be open to evolution.

The technical community is different in nature. We do not represent any vast community of internet stakeholders. We actually represent a set of expertise and activities, which are as important to civil society as to business, as to government. And I really hope that under any future evolution of the multistakeholder model driven by any, or preferably driven by the consensus of all, that the recognition of the technical community as such would be maintained. I think it's very important, but we need to be open to seeing that, seeing an evolution, whatever evolution comes along, we need to be open to that because to continually resist it is really quite inconsistent. So, I think that's an important point I'd like to make. Thanks.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you, Paul. Juan?

JUAN ARDISSONE:

Thank you. The one theme that I've heard a lot of today is there needs to be a stronger interaction between technologists and policy makers. I've had a lot dialogue over the past year, especially about my concerns with when technologists and policymakers don't communicate, things go wrong. As an example, if policymakers speak to technologists and the technologists don't listen as possible that technologies will be developed that can't be deployed because they violate policy.

The inverse of that is that if policymakers don't listen to the technologists, they end up to creating policies that can't be implemented. And so, we need to greatly enhance the communication between both the technology sector and the policy sector and the government sectors in order to sort of fix this, this problem. And so, I encourage everybody to reach out to the opposite side the conversations are not easy, because we speak different languages. I sort of dabble in both and it's, it's hard, but it's a barrier that must be overcome for the multistakeholder model to continue being as excellent as it is. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you, actually. Dawit?

DAWIT BEKELE:

Thank you. Well, I'm encouraged by what I heard here that every stakeholder seems to agree that the multistakeholder model has served well, and it should continue. And I think we all agree that there might be things that needs to be improved. And maybe to continue with

what Wes said, there might be some issues sometimes we don't communicate well enough, and it is normal because we have different backgrounds, different understandings. And the Internet Society is trying to help in that and has been trying to help with that. For example, we have the IETF Fellowship Program, which brings policymakers to IETF in a special setting because these are completely different people.

And to show them why IETF is so important, what they do, because sometimes, IETF was so much focused on what it does. It is difficult for others to understand it. And we do that for people from, for example, for the developing world to understand processes can be technical, and it can be policy processes around the world, because if we don't understand each other, then we cannot continue to build a greater and even better Internet. So, let's work on that. Let's work as creating bridges so that the next 20 years of Internet governance become even a better time than the 20 years that we had before. Thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Juan, one final takeaway in less than a minute.

JUAN ARDISSONE: Well, to make a summary of what we are talking about, I cannot agree more with everything that these distinguished panelists have commented. I am without roaming here. And from the hotel to get here, the desperation to look for Wi-Fi is impressive. Nowadays, connectivity is something that absolutely unites us all. There are no different languages, there are no languages. So, what I see right here is

the government's work, the collaborative work with civil society, with civil society organizations, with the academy, to increasingly train more people and take this model and explain this model to try to make us more and more able to participate and deal with these issues.

So, this is very important for me and for the country I represent. Thank you very much to this beautiful country that allowed us to be gathered here today to be able to talk about this.

CHRISTINE ARIDA: Thank you, Juan. Alan?

ALAN DAVIDSON: Thank you, Christine, and thank you for your moderation today. I will just say I think we heard very clearly about the power of the multistakeholder system and model, its power for inclusion, potential for inclusion, its agility, its ability to include this conversation between governments and technologists, and the broader stakeholders too, the civil society, academics, others with expertise, and I think that's very important.

I think we did hear clearly about some of the challenges, particularly needing to be more responsive to face the moment in front of us, but I think we have a great degree of faith in this model as a way of addressing those big challenges. ICANN, of course, as was noted, is not the first multistakeholder body. It is one that is a great proof point of the potential of this model and the success of this model and system and the challenges in front of us. So, we have to be clear-eyed about

the fact that we do need to continue to deliver solutions at pace to meet this moment. The U. S. government strongly endorses this approach, this system, both at ICANN and more broadly.

The multistakeholder systems are a powerful tool to be inclusive and to meet the big challenges facing us and produce ultimately a free and open, safe and secure and private, trusted and accountable internet that we all seek together. So, thank you.

CHRISTINE ARIDA:

Thank you very much. And as I hand back to Baher, I please ask you to join me in thanking our distinguished panelists. Thank you very much.

BAHER ESMAT:

Thank you, Christine, and thank you to our panelists and participants for a very interesting discussion. We will now take a short coffee break. You will use this door on your right side to exit the room. Asher will help you find the way to the coffee break. Please be back in the room at 11:15 sharp to start session two on cooperation and governance. Thank you.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]