

# YOUTH & INTERNET GOVERNANCE

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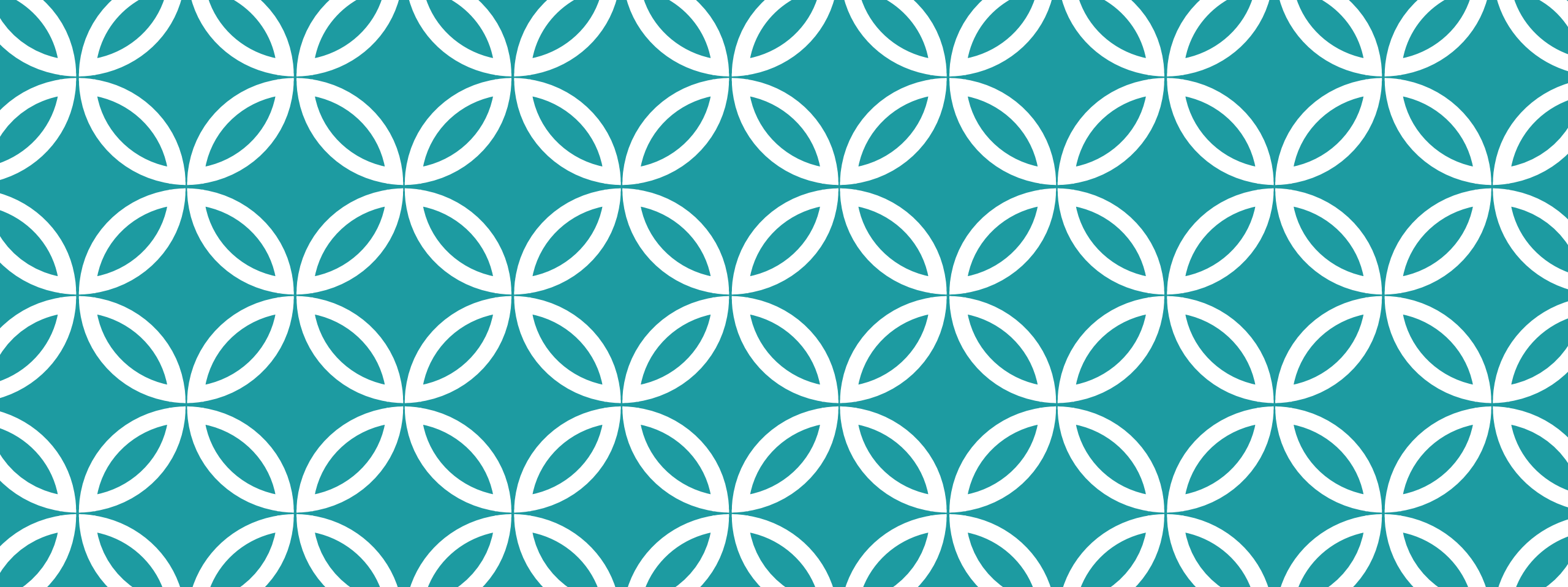
# DOES THE WORLD BELONG TO THE YOUNG?

“The future belongs to young people with an education and the imagination to create. That is the source of power in this century.” - Barack Obama at the New Economic School in Russia on July 7, 2009.



DO THEY REALLY ALLOW US TO HAVE A SAY IN THE  
FORMATION OF THE FUTURE IN WHICH WE WILL LIVE?





# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES BRINGING YOUTH TO THE IG DISCUSSIONS

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# CHALLENGES

*“We have experienced that the main problem to active participation in young people are the **language limitations** and the **economic element**.”* - Excerpt from the Youth Declaration written in 2015 by participants of the Youth@IGF programme.



# **THE ECONOMIC ELEMENT**

**HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR MORE SPONSORSHIP  
AND CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVES?**



# **CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES**

# ICANN

GOVERNANCE  
PRIMER: São Paulo

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ISOC

**Youth @IGF Programme**

If we're going to build a better Internet, we're going to need young people.



# INTERNET GOVERNANCE SCHOOLS



**SSIG**  
South School on  
internet Governance



**Euro-SSIG**  
Summer School on Internet Governance



**CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES**

**BUT WOULD THOSE ACTIONS BE SUFFICIENT?**



# THE ECONOMIC ELEMENT

WHAT INFLUENCE DO FUNDERS PLAY?

# THE ECONOMIC ELEMENT

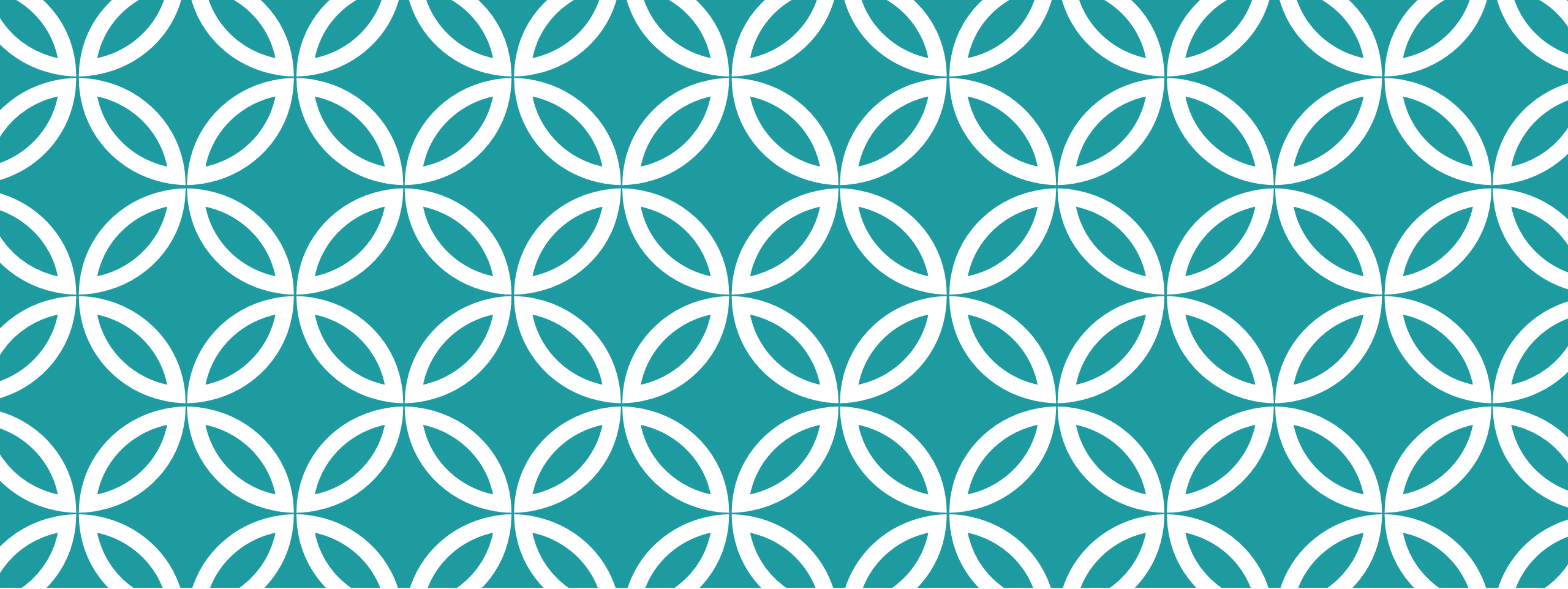
*“(...)it should be considered that stakeholder participation to policy-development processes might be motivated by the perspective of achieving an outcome that may maximise its own utility, i.e. by self-interest, or by the intention to lobby for an outcome that may maximise its funder’s interest.”*

Belli, L. (2015). A heterostakeholder cooperation for sustainable internet policymaking. *Internet Policy Review*, 4(2). DOI: 10.14763/2015.2.364

# THE ECONOMIC ELEMENT

HOW MUCH YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED IN THE IG ARE ATTENTIVE TO THE INTERESTS OF THEIR FUNDERS?

WHAT INTERESTS ARE AT STAKE IN PROMOTING GREATER PARTICIPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE?



# REPRESENTATIVENESS AND LEGITIMACY

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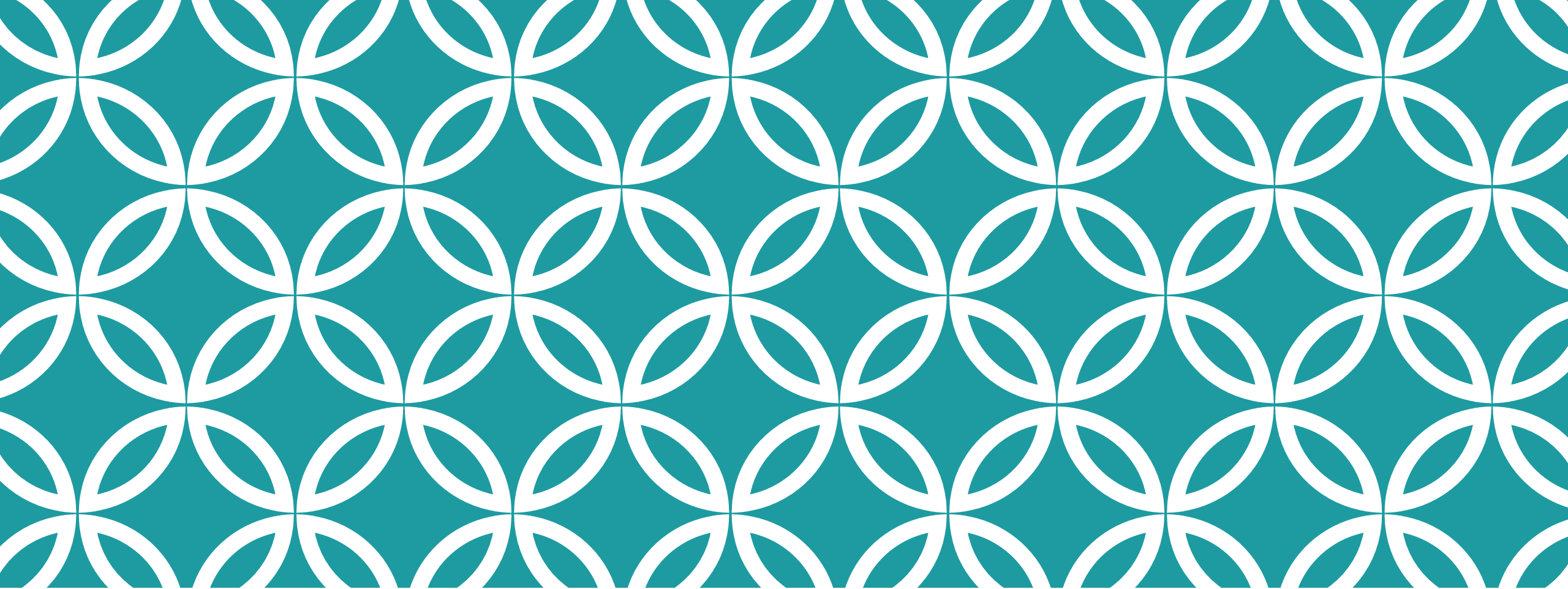
# REPRESENTATIVENESS

- Most multistakeholder processes are based on voluntary participation instead of representation
  - Informal symbolical representation
- Only a few members of a particular stakeholder have the resources to participate in an Internet Governance event.
  - Global Internet Governance elite (without grassroots tech groups, social movements, civil society groups, and citizen initiatives that are less structured)




# LEGITIMACY

- Do the youth of these programmes really represent the connected youth?
- What about young people who are not yet connected, there is legitimacy to speak on their behalf?



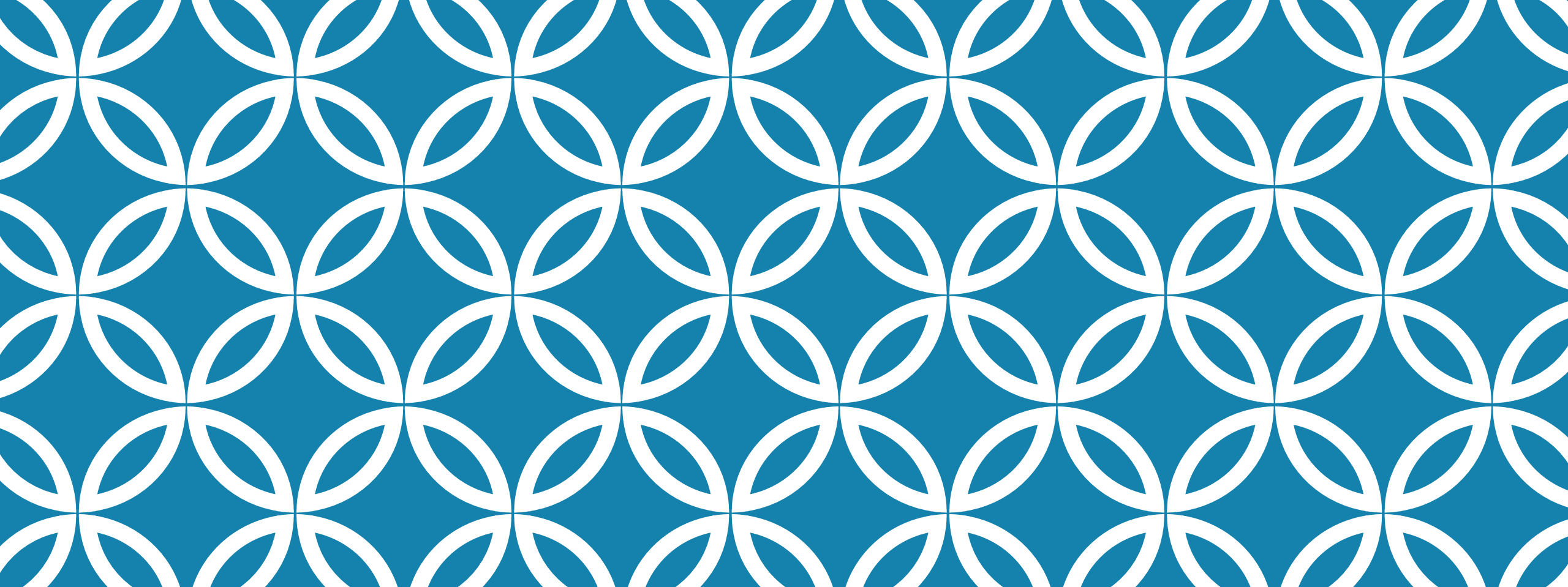
# WHAT ABOUT NOW?

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# WE WANT TO BE HEARD! OKAY, BUT, NOW WHAT?

- Even more space in the debates
- Diversification in the repertoire of youth
- Quality rather than quantity



**THANK YOU!**

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