



EURALO NEWSLETTER

Special NetMundial+10 edition
May 2024

written by Sebastien Bachollet, EURALO Chair



Global challenges
for the governance
of the digital world

NETmundial+10

São Paulo, Brazil | April 29-30, 2024

netmundial.br





23 April 2024 from 14:00-16:00 UTC



Cross RALO Roundtable on NetMundial: The same day, 10 years later

Moderator:
Sébastien Bachollet
&
Harold Arcos
Olivier Crépin-Leblond
Amrita Choudhury

Guest Speakers:
Fadi Chehadé,
Sally Costerton,
Ergys Ramaj,
Marília Maciel,
Grace Abuhamad,
Wolfgang Kleinwächter,
Demi Getschko,
Renata Mielli



Interpretation: English, Français, Русский, Español, Português, Arabic, Chinese

To celebrate the 10th Anniversary of NetMundial:
Meet with the people who participated in the organization, the
event, and the follow-up of NetMundial 2014!

The 23rd (and 24th) of April 2024 was the 10th Anniversary of
NetMundial 2014. This Cross RALO Round Table was a
celebration of the exact anniversary to the day! This is a
summary of the online conference where we heard the various
speakers explaining how NetMundial was organized, was
realized, and its outcome.

<https://community.icann.org/display/EURALO/2024-04-23+CROSS+RALO+Round+Table+on+Net+Mundial+2014++the+same+day%2C+10+years+later>



Sébastien Bachollet introduced the Cross Regional At-Large Organization RoundTable.

It is our second gathering after the one on 18 September 2023 to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of ICANN.

This RoundTable saw the intervention of the speakers around the impact of NetMundial on Internet governance, reflecting on the lessons learned 10 years ago and the future of multi-stakeholder governance - emphasizing the importance of global cooperation in Internet governance. We hoped it would also allow for the enhancement of end-users' Rights through multi-stakeholder dialogue.

The origins and significance of NetMundial

The roundtable provided insights into the origins of the NetMundial event in 2014, which was born out of a serendipitous meeting between Fadi Chehade (then ICANN CEO) and the then President of Brazil, Dilma Rousseff. The event aimed to restore trust in the global Internet governance system and promote the multi-stakeholder approach, in response to concerns about mass surveillance and proposals for a more government-centric model. The NetMundial event in 2014 was a pivotal moment in restoring trust and promoting the multi-stakeholder model in Internet governance.

"It was exactly 10 years plus, a few months ago, in November 2013 that this idea was born. And it was born, frankly, out of serendipity," explained Fadi Chehade.



The multi-stakeholder model and its evolution

A central theme throughout the interventions was the importance of the multi-stakeholder model in Internet governance and the need to strengthen and improve it. Participants discussed the challenges faced in implementing this model, the need for transparency and accountability, and the potential for fragmentation due to competing interests and processes.

The multi-stakeholder model needs to evolve and adapt to address current challenges and emerging technologies.

"What we are missing in our Internet governance ecosystem are certain procedures, how to practicize what we have preached, the mighty stakeholder model.", explained Wolfgang Kleinwächter.

There is a "need for explicit representation of different groups", added Grace Abuhamad.

"I need to emphasize the importance of collaboration between all stakeholders", said Maria Maciel.

NetMundial and ICANN evolution

After a short video from Sally Costerton, Ergys Ramaj reflected on ICANN's 10-year journey, highlighting initiatives that promoted inclusivity and diversity. ICANN's success in delivering its core mission was recognized at NetMundial, highlighting the importance of collaboration in Internet governance decision-making. NetMundial showcased the power of the global community to coalesce stakeholders and solve problems, an example of the lasting impact and relevance of the event even a decade later.

Internet governance, multi-stakeholder approach, and trust repair

Marília Maciel shared insights on NetMundial's executive multi-stakeholder committee's mission 10 years ago. She discussed the vision and principles of NetMundial, aiming to restore trust and counterbalance government-centric approaches in Internet governance.

The organizers of NetMundial in 2014, used multi-stakeholder committees to oversee dialogue and ensure equal footing participation. The objective was to propose a way forward for Internet governance, respecting democracy and multi-stakeholder approach.



The evolution of the Internet governance model and its challenges

Grace Abuhamad shared her experiences during and since NetMundial, reflecting on her 10-year career in Internet governance, highlighting her work at ICANN and discussing the multi-stakeholder model's ongoing challenges - including the persistence of global fractures in Internet governance despite efforts to address them, and the need for continued evolution and attention.

It was important to show solutions on a fast timescale to protect the multi-stakeholder system. The NetMundial conference demonstrated the strength of the multi-stakeholder model in supporting a global transition of the IANA stewardship functions. This transition wouldn't have happened without Larry Strickling and Fadi Chehade.

Internet governance principles and implementation challenges

Wolfgang Kleinwächter discussed the evolution of Internet governance, from private sector leadership to governmental involvement. The progress in Internet governance has slowed due to political conflicts between big powers. There is a need for clearer procedures for implementing multi-stakeholder models in Internet governance.

Steve Crocker shared memories from NetMundial and stressed the need for education and a forward-thinking vision.

As then Chair of the ICANN Board, he reflected on Fadi's leadership and vision for the future of the Internet.

Looking ahead: NetMundial+10

At the same time of NetMundial in 2014 Brazil passed an important and significant law on Internet governance: Marco Civil. Even if the call was initially to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of NetMundial, the exchanges also focused on the upcoming NetMundial+10 event, which aimed to revisit the principles and roadmap established in 2014, and address current challenges such as the impact of emerging technologies, geopolitical tensions, and the risk of fragmentation in digital governance spaces.

The NetMundial+10 event aims to bring the global community together to strengthen and improve the multi-stakeholder model.



"This is our objective to offer to international organizations and to countries a strong message around the need to strengthening and improving multi-stakeholder in its relationship with multilateral processes and to collaboratively build the digital environment that focus on reducing inequalities, respect for human rights privacy and ethical values.", explained Renata Mielli.

Conclusion

The Cross RALO RoundTable provided valuable insights into the origins and significance of the NetMundial event in 2014, as well as the ongoing efforts to strengthen and evolve the multi-stakeholder model in Internet governance. The participants, who are experienced members of the Internet governance community, highlighted the challenges faced, such as the risk of fragmentation, the need for transparency and accountability, and the impact of emerging technologies and geopolitical tensions. Speakers also discussed ways to enhance multi-stakeholderism, including representation, diversity and inclusivity. The upcoming NetMundial+10 event was seen as an opportunity to revisit the principles and roadmap established in 2014, and to bring the global community together to address current challenges and strengthen the multi-stakeholder model. The event aims to foster collaboration and inclusivity, while respecting human rights, privacy, and ethical values. Overall, the Cross RALO RoundTable speakers underscored the importance of the multi-stakeholder model in Internet governance and the need for continuous adaptation and improvement to ensure its effectiveness and relevance in the rapidly evolving digital landscape.





I participated in NETmundial+10 as representative of Internet Society France (and also as Chair of EURALO). I was part of the Civil Society group. It was a two day event taking place, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in São Paulo, on the 29th and 30th of April 2024.

There were five different groups to represent the various stakeholders:

- Academy
- Civil society
- Government, Intergovernmental Organizations
- Private sector
- Technical community

The [High-Level Executive Committee \(HLEC\)](#) was overseeing the organization of the event, shaping details such as the program, modes of participation, and expected outcomes. The Civil Society Group of the HLEC was composed of the following people:

- Anita Gurumurthy (IT4Change)
- Bia Barbosa (RSF)
- Bruna Santos (Digital Action)
- Grace Githaiga (KictaNet)
- Jason Pielemeier (GNI)
- Valéria Betancourt (APC) was Civil Society stakeholder representative in the Co-Chairs group of the HLEC





A strong coordination was organized between the Civil Society stakeholder representative of the HLEC and the on-site participants and allowed different interventions complementing each other. I also appreciated the intervention of my colleagues from At-Large who were online, and we tried to support each other.

I was able to take the floor to speak about various topics important both for Internet Society France and EURALO.

- The importance of the voice of the End users in each of the Internet Governance and digital dialogue.
- The IGF must be enhanced and confirmed for the next five or ten years.
 - The financial resources needed to support participation of all stakeholders who are not able to self-finance must be available.
 - The need, to improve the dialogue and continuity between different processes that deal with the Internet and digital technologies governance as a means to report the developments of such processes, like Global Digital Compact and other UN processes, OECD, The G20 Digital Economy Working Group, I* community and others.
- The improvement on the dialogue between Global, Regional and National IGFs is also needed, in a way that the discussions and agendas can feed back such processes, aiming at establishing a continuity between them, from a local to a global perspective.





The final document is the non-binding outcome of a bottom-up, open, and participatory process involving people from governments, private sector, civil society, technical community, and academia from around the world. It aspires to strengthen Internet governance and digital policy processes; “NETmundial+10 Multistakeholder Statement: Strengthening Internet governance and digital policy processes”.

Summary of the São Paulo declaration (NETmundial+10)

Challenges to Internet Governance and Digital Policy Processes:

The rapid digital transformation and the emergence of technologies like Artificial Intelligence present both opportunities and challenges. Effective Internet governance requires coordinated efforts among stakeholders to manage these developments responsibly, ensuring they benefit everyone and mitigate risks such as inequalities, uncertainty and power asymmetries.

Reaffirmation of 2014 Principles:

The statement reaffirms the relevance to the principles established in the 2014 NETmundial meeting, emphasizing transparency, accountability, and inclusive participation. It calls for these principles to guide ongoing and future Internet governance and digital policy processes. It stressed the need to ensure the multistakeholder process principles are fully implemented by all stakeholders and the necessity for coordination of governance spaces.

Key Recommendations:

- Reaffirmation of the Internet as a global resource to be managed in the public interest.
 - Emphasis on transparency and accountability in Internet governance.
 - Application of the 2014 principles to current and emerging challenges.
 - Provision of operational guidelines to implement these principles.
- Encouragement for stakeholders to adopt the recommended principles and guidelines at all levels.



Principles for Internet Governance and Digital Policy Processes:

The Principles set in 2014, such as being multistakeholder, open, participative, consensus-driven, transparent, accountable, inclusive, equitable, distributed, collaborative, and enabling meaningful participation, remain relevant. These Principles guide the maintenance of an open and interoperable Internet.

Multistakeholder Process Implementation:

The statement stresses the need for all stakeholders to fully implement the multistakeholder approach, ensuring inclusive and meaningful participation in decision-making processes. This includes addressing power imbalances and enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to participate effectively.

Coordination and Avoiding Fragmentation:

To prevent duplication and fragmentation in Internet governance, better coordination among various initiatives is necessary. The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is identified as a key platform for enhancing coordination and information sharing.

Improving Multilateral Processes:

There is a need for improving multistakeholder participation in multilateral processes and for effective multistakeholder collaboration, consensus-building, aimed at improving transparency, accountability, and participation across all stages of policy processes.

Evolving the multilateral processes to make them more inclusive empowering meaningful participation of all stakeholders and adopting robust accountability mechanisms are some of the suggestions made.

São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines:

A set of guidelines and process steps for multistakeholder collaboration are recommended. These guidelines emphasize transparency, deliberative discussion, fairness, respect for human rights, linguistic diversity, and capacity-building. They are intended to evolve and be adapted over time, with the IGF acting as the caretaker of these guidelines.

Conclusion:

The NETmundial+10 statement is a comprehensive effort to reinforce multistakeholder Internet governance. It builds on past principles, addresses current challenges, and sets forth practical guidelines to ensure inclusive, transparent, and effective digital policy processes.