



1net.org – a summary

This document provides an overview of the elements and discussions that have led to the initiative called 1net.org (<http://www.1net.org>) and it situates this initiative in the broader context of the global Internet Governance discussions.

1. During a meeting with CENTR CEO's and CENTR Board on October 1st, Fadi Chehade, CEO of ICANN, raised concerns over the current state of the Internet Governance debate.

His observations included:

- the loss of the moral high ground by the US government in the aftermath of the Snowden revelations
- the speech by the Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff
- growing pressure from governments (Turkey was named) on ICANN to do something about the orphan issues. These orphan issues are those that are currently not taken care of by anyone in the internet ecosystem (e.g. spam).

The key concern is that some of the 'middle states' (those governments that were undecided at WCIT) would support a transfer of these orphan issues under the scope of the ITU at the plenipot meeting in 2014.

Fadi called upon the ccTLD community to be ready to join a global initiative and help address the lack of progress that has been made since WCIT in Dubai.

2. Later that week in early October, the I* (IStar group which includes ICANN, RIRs, IETF, W3C, ISOC and IAB) met in Montevideo and published a [statement](#) on the future of Internet Cooperation.

Despite its very high level and common sense approach, this statement is slightly controversial.

First there is the paragraph on the internationalization of IANA. The list of practical questions on how this would happen is quite long and there is doubt that is a realistic demand at this stage. As long as there is no clarity on the details, wild scenarios – such as the one where the ITU overlooks the ccTLD delegation procedures and policies, ICANN overlooks the gTLD function and the RIRs get the numbering function – will keep on circulating.

Secondly, there is the matter of process: in what capacity did ICANN sign this? Has this been supported by the ICANN Board? Especially the business constituency expressed concerns about the fact that ICANN is about to lose its community support if there is no structured communication –based on a transparent process - before this type of critical engagement is made.

3. At the IGF in Bali, ICANN arranged three meetings to share the message from Montevideo with the broader Internet community and to explicitly ask other parties to take this objective over from ICANN as it did no longer want to be seen as the only actor.

The new element in the Bali discussions was that the Brazilian president decided that a meeting (or summit) should be held in Brazil at the end of April or early May 2014. The discussions in Bali centered on the question how to get organized to be able (together with the Brazilian Government) to organize this meeting and avoid that it becomes a multilateral (i.e. governments only) summit. While there is still discrepancy between the messages shared in Bali by ICANN and those delivered by the Brazilian Minister of Telecommunications, ICANN's CEO gave some assurance that there is a common understanding and goal between the Brazilians and IStar. ([Recording from a conference call with the gNSO](#)) The meeting in Brazil will discuss two things: an institutional framework and the high level principles on how this framework would work based on multistakeholder mechanisms. This meeting will not be making any proposals or decisions on specific internet policy issues.

4. At the third meeting in Bali, it was decided to start with a mailing list including those that were present, but limited to 4(-ish) participants from each stakeholder group. This list (the i-coordination list) has grown in the meantime to 72 people and did two things:
 1. Agree on a name of the new initiative (1net.org)
 2. Start the discussions on the goal and scope of the group.

The discussions on the core elements of the initiative be summarized as follows:

1. Goal: to catalyse a multi-stakeholder forces to develop, through open processes, a framework for evolving, broadening and strengthening Internet Governance/Cooperation arrangements, and to advocate for its adoption.
2. Scope: Is this group's ultimate goal to prepare for the meeting in Brazil or does it reach beyond Q2 2014 to make sure that all the post-WCIT meetings support the continued importance of the IGF and the need for multi-stakeholder participation and enhanced cooperation?
3. Relation with the IGF: It has been raised that this could turn into an IGF+ but it remains doubtful that the decision making part could be fitted into a UN organized forum. In any case, any proposal that will come out of this group will acknowledge the IGF as an essential element in the IG institutional framework.
4. Timing and membership: Is it better to have a small group that moves fast or a large and open group that might not be able to make the very tight deadlines as the details of the Brazil meeting will be announced in a week? At the moment it seems that the decision has been made to make it somewhat broader (from 23 participants to 72).
5. Process: who decides who gets involved and why are the discussions not public (with no writing access but only reading access like the ATRT2 group)?

The next steps are for the 1net.org group to form a steering committee that will contribute to the preparations for the Brazil meeting as a multi-stakeholder event discussing the evolution and improvement of the Internet Governance framework, although no specific areas of the IG were identified yet. In order to be successful it will need to beat that very tight deadline.

5. During a conference call last Monday the CENTR Board has tasked the Secretariat to remain involved in the 1net.org initiative and report both to the CENTR community and the other ROs. Communication should be bi-directional: through CENTR's participation in 1net.org, our members and ROs can feed opinions into the process as well.

It should be noted that this is just one of the most recent developments. At the same time India is reviving their [idea for United Nations Committee for Internet-Related Policies \(CIRP\)](#) and Brazil calling for a mapping of existing initiatives during a meeting of the Working Group on enhanced cooperation (A group established by the Chair of the UNCSTD consisting of Govs, civil society, private sector and technical and academic representatives).

For those planning ahead: IGF 2014 will take place on the first week of September in Istanbul. IGF 2015 (the last one under the current mandate) will take place in Brazil. If the mandate is extended, Mexico will host IGF 2016.