

NETmundial Initiative

Answers in Response to the ICC BASIS Letter Received on 6 February 2015

2 March 2015

Dear Joe,

On behalf of the NETmundial Initiative ("Initiative") and its Secretariat, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued interest in the Initiative and willingness to engage in consultations to help inform and shape its work moving forward.

It is important to establish from the onset that the Initiative, in line with the recommendation from the São Paulo Roadmap ([section III, paragraph c](#)), will complement and add (not duplicate) to the work of existing Internet governance dialogue and normative processes and institutions, such as the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), or the technical Internet community (I* group).

IGF's role to serve as a focal point for the global Internet community in terms of the tasks set by the Tunis Agenda must be preserved. With regard to its relationship with the IGF, the Initiative intends to operate simply as a "bridge" or "facilitator" by focusing resources to help stakeholders formulate solutions to operationalize ideas and proposals identified through dialogues. In other words, it aims to enable interested parties who have concrete proposals and ideas, as well as others who are willing to contribute with expertise, funding or other forms of contribution, to achieve those proposals and ideas. The Initiative, by allowing the work in multistakeholder format on specific issues and in line with the discussions in the IGF, seeks to strengthen the IGF by providing continuity and practicality to the discussions in the IGF realm. The Initiative must and will actively work to strengthen the IGF and extend its valuable work at the global, regional, and national levels.

With regard to the scope and purpose, the Initiative aims at aligning the original intent of the project with the expectations and aspirations of the community to better serve the future of Internet governance according to the NETmundial Statement. As you have noted, a public consultation period is currently underway to develop the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Initiative. This process, which mirrors the one leading up to the São Paulo event in April 2014, is being carried out in an inclusive, bottom-up, and consultative manner, and is open to the global community. All contributions received will inform the draft ToR, which will then be put out for further community discussion using the same open and transparent platform used to collect community contributions for the São Paulo event.

Other important points raised in your letter include those of curation, moderation, and validation of the solutions and proposals received through the platform, as well as those that deal with how the Initiative will be governed. Though many possibilities exist, including the ones you suggest, it is important to allow for the consultation process on the ToR to conclude before any commitments are made on the functions of the platform, and the specific roles and responsibilities of the Inaugural Coordination Council. As an iterative process, the Initiative will continue to evolve through the broad-based involvement of stakeholders from across the world.

Over the coming days and weeks, the Initiative's website will be updated to ensure that this information is easily accessible in order to ensure that all of the information available reflects discussions and consultations with the community to date.

We remain committed to continuing this important conversation and furthering the dialogue in the weeks and months ahead. In this context, we would also welcome the opportunity to hold a public consultation session with the ICC BASIS during the month of March.

Kindly please let us know should you agree to holding this consultation and we will be sure to help make the proper arrangements.

Best regards,

Nora Abusitta

Secretariat, NETmundial Initiative