RIPE NCC Intervention in the Global Digital Compact 'Thematic Deep-Dive - Digital inclusion and connectivity'

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Thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Chris Buckridge and I represent the RIPE NCC, the Regional Internet Registry for Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia.

Ensuring that everyone can access a global Internet is one of the key goals of digital governance and policy-making, and is essential to meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Meeting this challenge requires planning and resources, but above all, it requires cooperation. Meaningful access to the Internet and all the value that it provides is the outcome of multiple stakeholders working together - no single actor, or even stakeholder group, can achieve it alone. It was upon this understanding that WSIS and the Tunis Agenda's endorsement of a multistakeholder approach were built.

That cooperative, bottom-up approach has achieved much in the last two decades and has connected billions of people. There is still a long way to go, and it is our shared responsibility to ensure that we maintain a global, interoperable and unfragmented Internet, both for those already online, and those still to be connected. That responsibility manifests differently for different stakeholders: for the RIPE NCC, it means working towards the global adoption of IPv6 and an Internet that can scale to accommodate all of our needs. It means working with our communities to better secure the networks that make up the Internet, via the implementation of technologies like RPKI - resource public key infrastructure.

But it also means ensuring that the governance processes we build and maintain are suited to a global network of autonomous networks - governance processes that reflect the multistakeholder nature of the Internet itself by ensuring that all stakeholders have a meaningful role to play in its governance.

Recent years have demonstrated the Internet's remarkable ability to meet the needs of whole societies moving their lives online in a time of crisis; at the same time, it challenged us with the recognition of how many still lack sufficient access to take full advantage of that. As we consider what frameworks or policies have worked, we must acknowledge that it was the cooperative, bottom-up approach that created this dynamic, resilient Internet, and that this same cooperative approach provides us with the tools to extend Internet access to all people. By working together, we can achieve that goal.

But an open, bottom-up approach is only as effective as it is inclusive. It is essential that we bring more people into active, informed engagement with decision-making about how the Internet and digital technologies affect our lives. At the RIPE NCC, we are focused on bringing new people into the RIPE community's open technical policymaking process, while at the same time working to educate a wide range of stakeholders on IP addressing issues, networking technology, and security.

We look forward to working with all of the stakeholders to make the idea of full and meaningful digital cooperation a reality.

Thank you.