RIPE NCC Intervention in the Global Digital Compact 'Thematic Deep-Dive - Internet governance'

13 April 2023

The second Global Digital Compact (GDC) "Thematic Deep-Dive" was held on 13 April 2023, with interventions sought in response to three guiding questions:

- *Over the last twenty years the share of [the] world's population connected to the internet has more than quadrupled. New internet-based tools – from the smartphone to social media – have emerged and we are moving into an Internet of Things. How can we continue to ensure the unfragmented safe, global, secure, and inclusive internet?*

- *The 2005 Tunis Agenda endorsed a multi-stakeholder approach to the governance of the internet. How have we succeeded in realizing [this] vision? How do the roles and functions of various multi-stakeholder forums such as ICANN, IETF and the IGF come together to support internet governance? And how can they be strengthened?*

- *How can governments, technical standard bodies, civil society, industry and all stakeholders work together for an open, indivisible, free, interoperable, global, secure, inclusive Internet?*

The following is the text of the RIPE NCC's full intervention (the intervention was too short to read out the full text):

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Desiree Miloshevic and I speak on behalf of the RIPE NCC – the Regional Internet Registry for Europe, the Middle East and parts of Central Asia.

In response to the first guiding question:

For the GDC, it is important to note that an open and inclusive governance approach has facilitated the Internet's remarkable growth, and the value it provides to users and societies.

But such success comes with new challenges that require evolving governance approaches due to the complexity, diversity and depth of Internet coordination and governance.

The technical community has played and continues to play a vital coordinating role in facilitating further development across many diverse domains. In our case, one example is the maintenance of a neutral registry infrastructure, which is crucial to Internet's interoperability, global reach, security and inclusivity. RIPE has worked hard to create inclusive spaces and modalities for working with governments and other stakeholder groups, and facilitates open, transparent and inclusive policy development processes.

Collaboration within the technical communities has led to the development and deployment of technologies such as DNSSEC and routing security protocols and frameworks such as RPKI and BGPsec that make the Internet safer for everyone, thus contributing to a more resilient

global Internet.

As the Internet continues to evolve, it is essential that all stakeholders take **an active role** in Internet governance and work together to understand the complex technological, economic and social factors.

With regards to questions two and three:

The Tunis Agenda endorsed the **multistakeholder approach,** which is a core governance principle. It requires active and informed participation from all stakeholder groups in these processes. It is essential to ensure that every stakeholder group with a 'stake' in the outcome of governance discussions has an equal opportunity **to voice their opinions and have a meaningful role** in reaching outcomes.

The RIRs, ICANN and the IETF work well in bringing different stakeholders to address specific issues at hand and build consensus, yet the IGF is a key enabler in identifying wider governance issues and building relationships and trust across stakeholder groups**.**

As we look to what the UN can achieve, we should aim to build on the last two decades' achievements, especially the national and youth IGFs. This includes building on, using and strengthening the structures and processes, such as the IGF, that the UN has created, which has evolved **and should further evolve** to meet new roles, such as follow-up on the GDC. Different parallel discussion and decision-making structures risks fragmenting the current and evolving coordination and cooperation necessary for managing a global Internet.

UN Member States have a huge responsibility to ensure that their citizens can access the Internet and use it safely. Public policy can help contribute to that, but it can also hamper access, development and innovation. Policy must be developed and implemented with an understanding of how the Internet works and by upholding core Internet values and protecting the core of the globally interoperable Internet.

Working together with the technical community and other stakeholder groups in venues like RIPE or the IGF, we can ensure a clear, common understanding vital for effective public policy.

We look forward to working with all stakeholders in the GDC process.

This intervention was delivered as part of the Global Digital Compact Intergovernmental Process led by the Co-facilitators Rwanda and Sweden. More information is available <u>here</u>.