

IGF 2018 Messages – Technical and Operational Topics

Overarching messages

Technical and Operational Topics deal with the infrastructure, routing and protocols of the Internet. These provide the underlying base that the application layer of the Internet sits upon. Internationalized domain names help in increasing meaningful access to people whose language is not written in the Latin script. Legislative actions with good intentions, such as the blocking of illegal sites, may have severe unintended consequences on this underlying infrastructure.

Domain Name Systems Internet Routing & Protocols

- Non-conversion of IPv4 addresses to IPv6 addresses causes the degradation of network traffic.

Content Blocking and Filtering

- Understanding the architecture of the Internet and how it works, and the relevance of adhering to standards and appropriate use of Internet protocols is a cornerstone of any discussion around the stability and growth of the Internet.
- Rapid or hasty approaches to deal with harmful/unwanted content on the Internet can have unintended consequences and negative impacts on its operations. The best ways forward to tackle the challenges posed by harmful/unwanted content require dialogue, collaboration and due process.
- A multistakeholder approach to Internet regulation that involves legislatures, law enforcement, experts from the technical community and users is critical for maintaining a stable and secure Internet.
- Should applications be built in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) and the Global Network Initiative (GNI) Principles, in order to limit the potential human rights impacts of the disruption of networks?
- Should multistakeholder communities, such as those at IGF, help set and promote norms around preventing Internet disruptions?

Net Neutrality

- Net neutrality is regarded by many as a set of fundamental principles guaranteeing access to a non-discriminatory Internet. However, others hold the view that it is an unnecessary form of regulation, noting that open and unfiltered Internet access currently exists in a number of countries without specific net neutrality requirements.
- Supporters of net neutrality regulation noted that:
 - Monitoring, measuring, collecting data, enforcing rules and coordinating at local, regional or global levels is required.

- National frameworks on net neutrality (notably on traffic management practices and differential pricing practices) vary, but all reinforce the idea that networks should be conceived and deployed as open.
- Assessing how net neutrality applies to 5G in some concrete use cases is a way of ensuring the sound development of this new technology. This debate should be the starting point of an ongoing dialogue between operators, regulators, civil society and academia.

**For any questions or comments regarding the IGF 2018 Messages, please write to igf@un.org.*