

Notable Achievements of the Multistakeholder Model of Internet Governance

The Multistakeholder Model: A Pillar of Internet Stability

The success of the Internet is a powerful illustration of its technical design and the efficacy of the multistakeholder model (MSM) of Internet governance. Almost five decades since its creation, the Internet remains open, secure, and interoperable. This success is partially credited to a community-based, consensus-driven, policymaking approach, where various stakeholders, including the private sector, civil society, governments, and technical experts, all collaborate and have equal say.

Internet Stability Ensures Seamless Internet Access

- **Public Interest and Accountability:** The MSM has helped to ensure that ICANN and other Internet organizations, such as the Internet Engineering Task Force, the Internet Society, and the Regional Internet Registries, remain accountable to the global public and act in the interests of all Internet users. This model makes certain that the Internet remains a shared resource for everyone, without being controlled by any single stakeholder or entity.
- **Growth and Adaptability During the COVID-19 Pandemic:** The Covid-19 pandemic accelerated digital developments and significantly increased Internet demands. As more applications and activities shifted online due to restrictions on in-person interactions, the Internet and Domain Name System (DNS) successfully absorbed the dramatic surge in traffic without disruption. Various stakeholders, including Internet Service Providers and Internet Exchange Points, collaborated to ensure service continuity.
- **Supporting Developing Countries:** The MSM fosters diversity in solutions, particularly benefiting developing countries and those in remote and rural areas. It enables the creation of tailored connectivity solutions that meet their needs. The MSM encourages partnerships, investments, and capacity development support from the private sector to help address the digital divide. One example is the Coalition for Digital Africa, which brings together stakeholders to expand the Internet in Africa, promote innovation, and strengthen Internet infrastructure to support the development of Africa's digital economy.
- **Growth of Internet Users — Universal Acceptance and Internationalized Domain Names:** Internet access has become faster and more affordable since 2003. According to the International Telecommunication Union Broadband Commission's [State of Broadband report](#), 114 out of 188 economies met the 2023 target of offering data-only mobile-broadband for less than 2% of monthly Gross National Income per capita; while 71 out of 178 economies met the target for fixed broadband.

Internet Stability Ensures Seamless Internet Access CONT'D.

Efforts to connect the unconnected continue. To ensure these efforts provide a more meaningful Internet experience, users can now access the Internet in their own languages and scripts. This addresses the fact that more than half of online content is still only available in English.

- **Human Rights:** The Internet is an open communications platform that is available to everyone. The MSM has provided a platform for highlighting human rights considerations that should be incorporated into Internet policies. For example, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), has facilitated open dialogue on a range of human rights issues since its inception in 2006. This dialogue among governments, civil society, academia, the technical community, and the private sector, influences the development of policies and regulatory frameworks worldwide.
- **Collaboration and Consensus-Building: IANA Stewardship Transition:** The Internet Assigned Number Authority (IANA) stewardship transition is widely regarded as a key success of the MSM of Internet governance, demonstrating the global community's ability to make collaborative decisions regarding management of critical Internet resources. The process of transferring oversight of the IANA functions to ICANN involved extensive consultations with stakeholders worldwide, including governments, the private sector, civil society, and technical experts. The successful transition exemplified the ability of the MSM to leverage a non-centralized process to address complex issues by fostering transparency, inclusivity, and accountability, thus ensuring the Internet remains open and accessible to all.

ICANN's Multistakeholder Model of Governance

ICANN is a pioneer in applying a multistakeholder approach by integrating it deeply into its operations and decision-making processes. ICANN's multistakeholder model ensures that as the Internet grows, it remains safe, stable, and resilient, with [policies and processes](#) developed through broad consensus. Key aspects include:

- **Community-Based Policy Development:** ICANN facilitates a bottom-up, consensus-driven process where stakeholders collaboratively develop policies related to the Internet's naming and numbering systems.
- **Diverse Participation:** The model ensures participation from a global community that includes individual users, private sector stakeholders, and government representatives, each bringing unique perspectives to Internet governance.

A few ICANN Multistakeholder model achievements: [Internationalized Domain Names](#), [DNS Abuse](#), [Coalition for Digital Africa](#), [IANA stewardship transition](#)

ICANN's multistakeholder model has evolved over the years and is now part of the [ICANN Strategic Outlook trends identification process](#).