Meeting of the
Global Commission on Internet Governance

July 25, 2014

A meeting of the Global Commission on Internet Governance (GCIG) took place on July 25th 2014 via video conference. The call was held under the Chatham House Rule, which precludes attribution of any specific points to any specific person. The following summarizes the topics that were discussed during the call.

1/ Discussion of the ICANN-Organized Process on IANA and the WEF-Organized Process on the Future of Internet Governance

IANA Stewardship Transition Group

- ICANN launched a multistakeholder process to gather community views on the IANA transition.
- The IANA Stewardship Transition Group is comprised of individuals representing the Internet governance community.
- Questions around accountability and stakeholder membership are important.
- The Stewardship Group is aiming to deliver proposals early next year.

The GCIG has commissioned a working paper on the IANA transition to get a better understanding of the issues and implications of various scenarios to Internet governance.

France's World Internet Council

- The French Senate has drafted a proposal that suggests ICANN be developed into a World ICANN (WICANN) that would oversee the Domain Name System.

World Economic Forum's work on the Future of Internet Governance

- There have been ongoing discussions about continuing the NETmundial conversation about the future of multistakeholder Internet governance.
- The World Economic Forum's work might inform these discussions and pick up where NETmundial left off.
- A more detailed discussion of the World Economic Forum's work plan will be announced at the end of August.

Partners:

- The GCIG should be engaged with the work coming out of the WEF's work on the future of Internet Governance

NOTE: Subsequent To the Meeting

The WEF/ICANN NETmundial initiative meeting was announced to take place August 28 in Geneva, Switzerland. A number of GCIG commissioners will be in attendance.

2/ Update on the Research Advisory Network Meeting June 27 in Paris at the OECD

The Research Advisory Network (RAN) had their first meeting on June 27th 2014. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) generously hosted this meeting, which was attended by seventeen Internet governance scholars, members of the GCIG Secretariat, and OECD researchers.

The meeting's agenda was designed out of the conversations at the first Commission meeting, and focused on the economic and social costs of a fragmented Internet. Participants began by conceptualizing fragmentation and discussing different degrees of interoperability. Participants also discussed how different kinds of fragmentation can occur at the technical and content layers of the Internet, and addressed the question of how to build a research agenda for examining fragmentation empirically.

3/ Discussion of plans for Fragmentation Research

Based on discussions at the GCIG Stockholm meeting and at the RAN Paris meeting, the Commission Secretariat has commissioned 5 papers on the technical, legal and social aspects of fragmentation as follows:

- *A Model for Understanding and Assessing Types of Internet Fragmentation;*
- *Implications of the Resurgence of Proprietary Technical Protocols;*
- *The Economic Costs of Data Localization Policies: A Case Study of the Financial Sector;*
- *The Economic Costs of Global Internet Fragmentation*;
- *Legal Interoperability as a Fragmentation Combating Tool.*

It was noted that in the policymaker's mind, the term "fragmentation" can carry negative connotations. To help policymakers maximize interoperability and universality, it was suggested that a paper on interconnection and access be commissioned, to complement the fragmentation papers.

It was also suggested that another paper be commissioned on the technical nature of the Internet. Before addressing fragmentation, the Commission needs to create a deeper understanding of the very nature of

the technology: understanding what makes the Internet the Internet, and asking what would cause it to lose basic characteristics of universality and interoperability?

4/ Discussion of Global Commission on Internet Governance Research Volume Design

The GCIG Companion Research Volume is starting to take shape. While it will continue to evolve as the Commission does its work, we are starting to get a sense of the topics and papers that could potentially be contributed to the Research Volume.

It is currently envisioned that the fragmentation research will comprise the first section of the Research Volume. Additional sections for consideration are: (1) human rights online; (2) the high politics of interconnection and access; (3) international cyber-security cooperation; (4) Internet governance, trade, and economic development; and (5) the evolution of multistakeholder Internet governance.

Research papers on fragmentation will be presented in draft form at the GCIG meeting in Seoul. The GCIG Secretariat will ask authors to prepare an outline of their research for presentation at future meetings. These outlines will help guide the Commission's deliberations.

5/ Discussion of Public Consultation Strategy

It is important that the Commission engage effectively with the broader Internet governance community. Commissioned research papers will be disseminated to the wider community through the RAN members and Commissioners and their respective networks. Other mechanisms to help the Commission reach the broader community are also being explored and implemented.

The Commission will engage with various stakeholders at important Internet governance events. The Internet Governance Forum in Istanbul, Turkey is the next important venue where many Commissioners, RAN Members and GCIG Secretariat will be present. The Secretariat of the Commission has successfully submitted two panels at the Internet Governance Forum: (1) Digital Trust in the Post-Snowden Era; and (2) the Costs of Internet Fragmentation. The panel on fragmentation will present some of the Commission's early ideas.

The Commission will publish papers that will be shared throughout the community and with governments and policymakers. This research will inform debates and help shape future policies. The Commission must devise strategies to alert government officials to its published work.

Minutes, without attribution, for both GCIG Commission meetings and RAN meetings will be made publicly available on the ourinternet.org website.

The Secretariat will explore other modes of engagement, in addition to Basecamp, to facilitate and streamline commissioner interaction.