THE EVOLUTION OF THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE ECOSYSTEM

FRAMING THE (RESEARCH) CHALLENGE: IN SEARCH OF A CONCEPT FOR DISTRIBUTED AND COLLABORATIVE INTERNET GOVERNANCE

NoC Events Series, Nexa Center for Internet & Society, Politecnico di Torino

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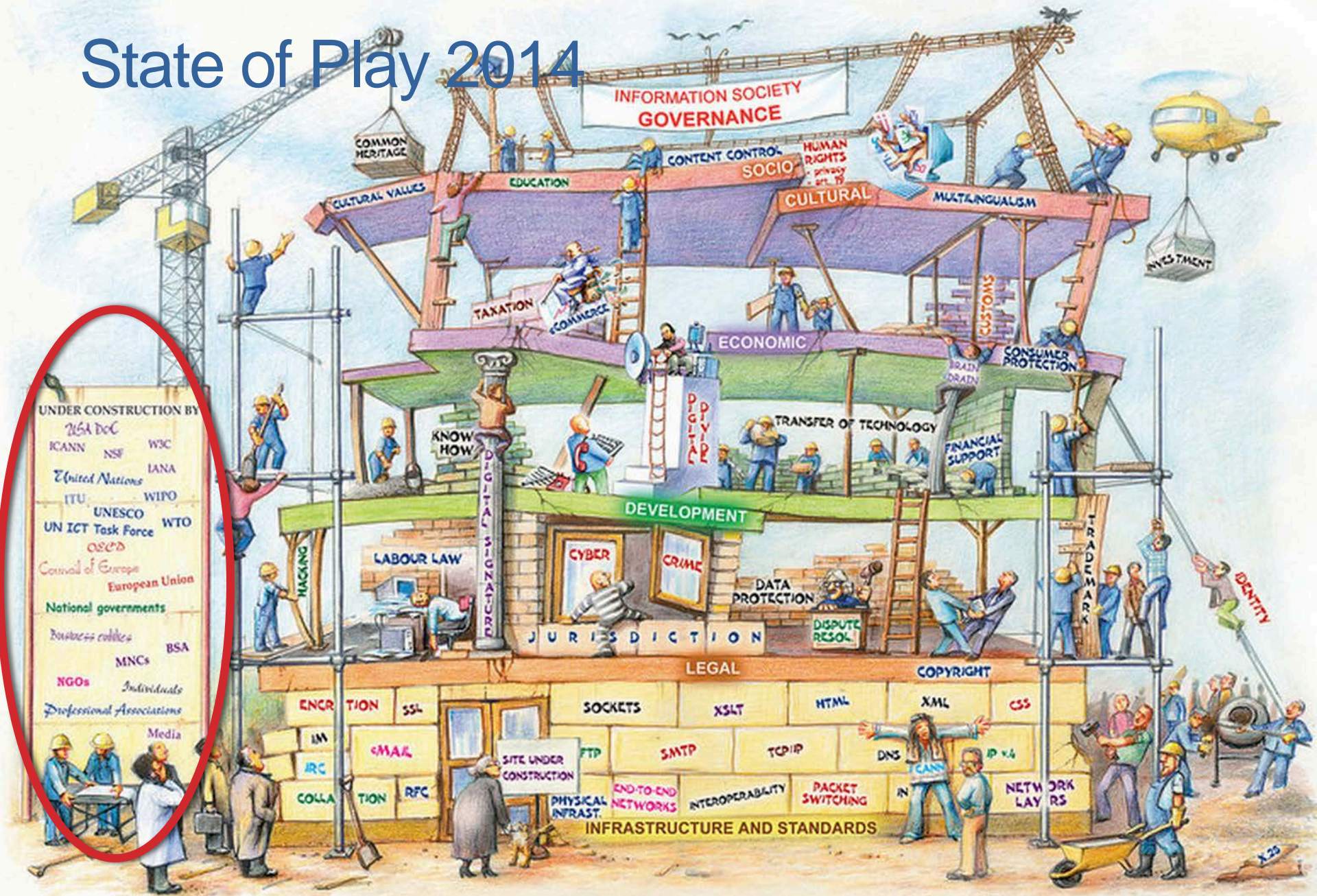
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INTERNET GOVERNANCE

What is Internet Governance?

- **Early stages** of Internet governance, e.g.
  - 1986 – Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF): rough consensus decision-making, open to the public
  - 1998 – Establishment of ICANN

- 2005: Working Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) **definition**:

  "Internet governance is the development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet."

- But, **different interpretations,** for instance:
  - Narrow vs. broad
  - Technical vs. non-technical
  - Decentralized vs. centralized

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State of Play 2014

EVOLUTION

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Power Struggles

- Current decentralized Internet governance "ecosystem" reflects **values** based on which Internet was built: resilience, openness, interoperability
  - Values in tension or **conflict** with alternative views and **governmental interests**, for instance;
    - Domestic issues (e.g. economic interests, freedom of expression, national security interests)
    - International issues (e.g. notions of state sovereignty)
  - Geo-political power struggle about **control over information**
    - Forthcoming, must-read: Shawn Powers, The Real CyberWar: The Political Economy of the Internet
- Symbolized by clash between proponents of **multistakeholder vs. multilateral approach** to Internet governance
  - Surfaced since 2003/05 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
  - Escalated at 2012 World Conference on International Telecommunications (WCIT)

Actors and Fora

Legend:
- ICANN
- UN
- ITU
- WSIS Review
- Non-institutional Forums
- IGF

February

UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC) 22ND SESSION
25 Feb–25 Mar
Geneva, Switzerland

March

CYBER-DIALOGUE 2013
17–18 Mar
Toronto, Canada

April

ICANN 46
7–11 Apr
Beijing, People's Republic of China

May

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION/ICT POLICY FORUM (WTPF)
13–16 May
Geneva, Switzerland

WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS) FORUM
13–17 May
Geneva, Switzerland

TRANS–PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP) NEGOTIATIONS
15–24 May
Lima, Peru

IGF OPEN CONSULTATIONS AND MAG MEETINGS
21–23 May
Geneva, Switzerland

STOCKHOLM INTERNET FORUM
22-23 May
Stockholm, Sweden

June

UN COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD) 16TH SESSION
3–7 Jun
Geneva, Switzerland

FREEDOM ONLINE COALITION CONFERENCE 2013
16–18 Jun
Tunis, Tunisia

July

ICANN 47
14–18 Jul
Durban, South Africa

Nothing scheduled for August 2013

* The categorisation is arbitrary – some of the categories may overlap.

September

HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE (RIGHTSCON)
24–26 Sep
San Francisco, USA

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA) 68TH SESSION
TBD Sep
New York, USA

October

3RD CYBERSPACE CONFERENCE
When: TBD,
Where: TBD, Korea

INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (IGF) 2013
21–25 October
Bali, Indonesia

November

ICANN 48
17–21 Nov
Buenos Aires, Argentina

December

GLOBAL CONGRESS ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND THE PUBLIC INTEREST
9–13 Dec
Cape Town, South Africa

2014

ICANN 49
23–27 Mar
Singapore, Singapore

WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE (WTDC)
31 Mar–11 Apr
Sharm el–Sheikh, Egypt

HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON THE OVERALL REVIEW (WSIS+10)
14–18 Apr
Sharm el–Sheikh, Egypt

WSIS FORUM 2014
14–18 Apr
Geneva, Switzerland

UN COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD) 17TH SESSION
When: TBD,
Geneva, Switzerland

ICANN 50
22–26 Jun
London, UK

ICANN 51
12–16 Oct
TBD

ITU PLENIPOTENTIARY CONFERENCE
20 Oct–7 Nov
Seoul, Korea

INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (IGF) 2014
When: TBD
Where: TBD

Spotlight 1: NETmundial

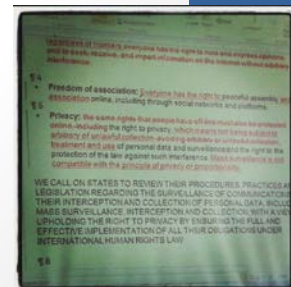- Apr. 2014: NETmundial - **Global Multistakeholder Meeting** on the Future of Internet Governance held in São Paulo
  - Backlash Snowden revelations – Sep. 2013: President Dilma Rousseff's speech at United Nations

- **Main Objectives** of NETmundial:
  - Formulate a set of Internet governance principles
  - Set roadmap for future evolution of Internet governance ecosystem
  - Achieve legitimacy through multistakeholder "rough consensus"

- **Bottom-up processes**, incl. work of committees, reference document preparation, participation in and transparency of the meeting, global remote participation.

NETmundial Outcomes

Principles

- Human rights and shared values
- Protection of intermediaries
- Culture and linguistic diversity
- Unified and unfragmented space
- Security, stability, and resilience of the Internet
- Open and distributed architecture
- Enabling environment for sustainable innovation and creativity
- Open standards

http://netmundial.br

Roadmap

- Issues that deserve attention of all stakeholders in the Internet governance future evolution:
  - Multistakeholder environment
  - Enhanced cooperation, capacity building
  - Inclusive policies, people-centered initiatives, better communication
- Issues dealing with institutional improvements

- Issues dealing with specific Internet governance topics
  - Security and stability, cyber-security initiatives
  - Mass surveillance
  - Capacity building and financing

Spotlight 2: President Ilves Panel

Panel On Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms

- Diverse **group of global stakeholders** from government, civil society, private sector, technical community and international organizations, focused on **evolving and globalizing the current Internet governance framework**

- Convened in Nov. 2013 by ICANN and WEF, chaired by Estonian President Toomas Ilves and vice-chaired by Vint Cerf

- **Chart a roadmap for the future evolution of global Internet cooperation and the governance ecosystem**; final report released in Apr. 2014http://internetgovernancepanel.org/panel-report

- **Findings**: Series of topline recommendations to inform both the global community's actions, and the evolution of a collaborative, decentralized Internet governance system.
  - Developing new and strengthening existing Internet **governance mechanisms**, as well as coalescing and supporting broad multistakeholder **alliances**

President Ilves Panel Outcome

THE COLLABORATIVE, DECENTRALIZED INTERNET GOVERNANCE ECOSYSTEM

The Collaborative, Decentralized Internet Governance Ecosystem is comprised of **Distributed Governance Groups**, sustained by **Enablers**, and guided by **Principles**.

This Ecosystem enables stakeholders to map issues to the appropriate **Distributed Governance Groups**. When there is consensus that a new issue needs to be addressed but no Distributed Governance Group exists, the community effectively identifies and engages the relevant institutions, groups, and/or experts then coalesces them to establish a new Distributed Governance Group.

DISTRIBUTED GOVERNANCE GROUPS

ISSUES

Issues and their resolutions may have technical and/or non-technical components.
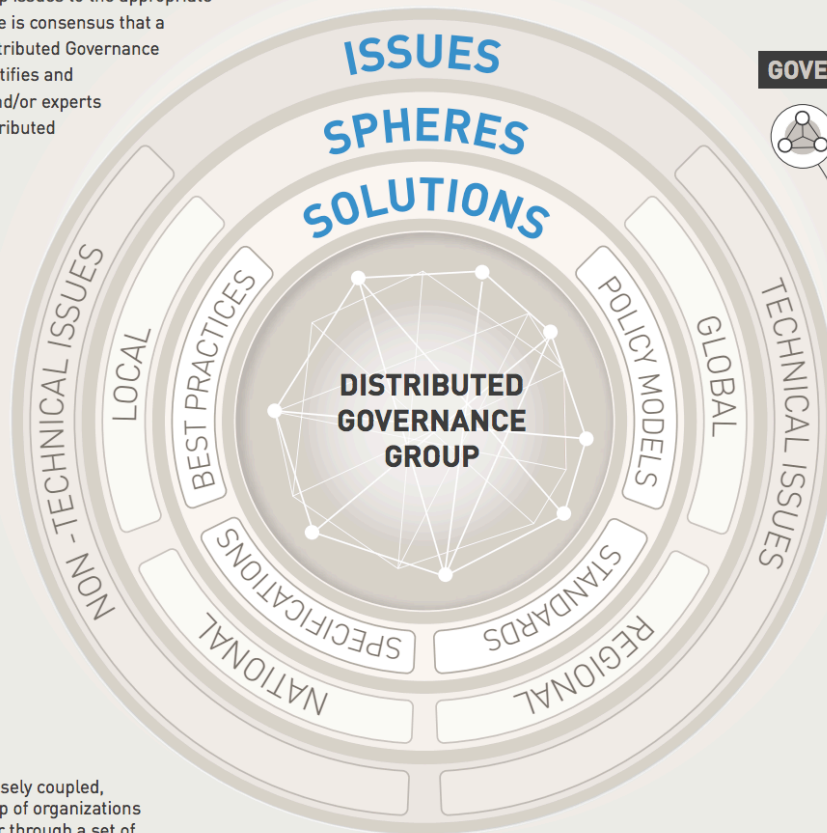
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SPHERES

The four **spheres** in which to devolve an **issue** and coalesce a **Distributed Governance Group** are local, national, regional, and/or global.

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SOLUTIONS

Solutions can take the form of policy models, standards, specifications, and/or best practices. **Solutions** may be adopted voluntarily, or when necessary, formalized through other means such as social conventions, regulations, directives, treaties, contracts, and/or other agreements.

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DISTRIBUTED GOVERNANCE GROUP

Each **Distributed Governance Group** is a loosely coupled, collaborative, and mutually-dependent group of organizations and/or individual experts that come together through a set of mutual commitments to address a specific issue.

ISSUES / SPHERES / SOLUTIONS

DISTRIBUTED GOVERNANCE GROUP

NON-TECHNICAL ISSUES · LOCAL · BEST PRACTICES · POLICY MODELS · GLOBAL · TECHNICAL ISSUES · REGIONAL · STANDARDS · SPECIFICATIONS · NATIONAL

GOVERNANCE ENABLERS

FORUMS & DIALOGUES

Enabling online and offline interaction through multiple channels, between stakeholders from business, technology, government, civil society, and academic environments on a broad range of technical and non-technical issues.

EXPERT COMMUNITIES

Enabling open and collaborative communities of experts in research and practice to inform and support the Internet governance systems through knowledge-sharing and expertise.
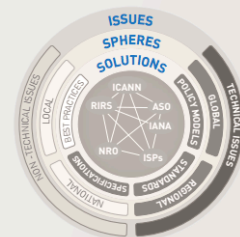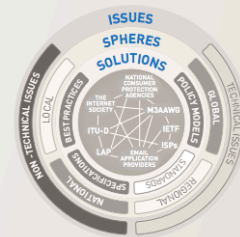
CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT AND TOOLKITS

Enabling and strengthening stakeholders that form **Distributed Governance Groups**, through development programs and toolkits delivered through multiple channels, to build their capacity to contribute to and actively participate in their **Distributed Governance Groups**.

3 SAMPLE DISTRIBUTED GOVERNANCE GROUPS

Sample 1. Public Internet Protocol (IP) Numbers

ICANN · RIRS · ASO · IANA · NRO · ISPs

Sample 2. Addressing the issue of Spam

NATIONAL CONSUMER PROTECTION AGENCIES · INTERNET SOCIETY · M3AAWG · ITU-D · IETF · LAP · ISPs · EMAIL APPLICATION PROVIDERS

Sample 3. Conficker Virus

ANTIVIRUS SOFTWARE DEVELOPERS · OS DEVELOPERS · THE CONFICKER WORKING GROUP · RESEARCHERS · LAW ENFORCEMENT · TECHNICAL ORGANIZATIONS

GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

These NETmundial Principles are essential for the operationalization of the Collaborative, Decentralized Internet Governance Ecosystem.

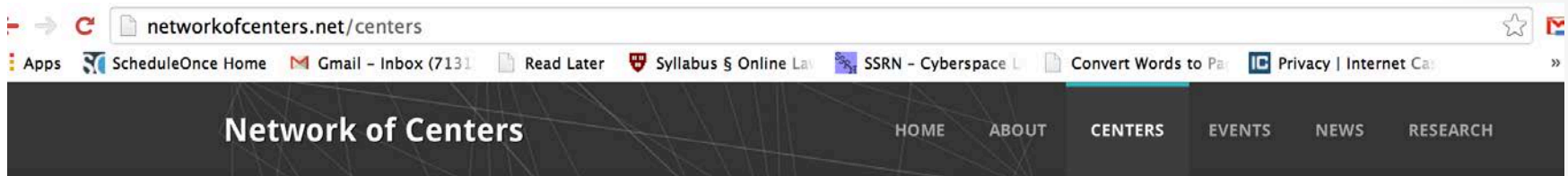| UNIFIED AND UNFRAGMENTED SPACE	HUMAN RIGHTS AND SHARED VALUES	SECURITY, STABILITY AND RESILIENCE OF THE INTERNET	ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE INNOVATION AND CREATIVITY	CULTURE AND LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY	PROCESS PRINCIPLES	PROTECTION OF INTERMEDIARIES	OPEN AND DISTRIBUTED ARCHITECTURE	OPEN STANDARDS

NOC RESEARCH PILOT

Global Network of Internet & Society Centers (NoC)

http://networkofcenters.net/

Context & Task

- Berkman Center, with Global Network of Internet & Society Centers (NoC), committed to contribute **systematically** and from **diverse perspectives** to the current policy debate about the future of Internet governance.

- **Initial research** – "proof of concept" – **focused** on better understanding of "**Distributed Governance (DG) Groups**"
  - Panel on Global Internet Cooperation and Governance Mechanisms describes DG groups as: "loosely coupled, collaborative, and mutually-dependent group of organizations and/or individual experts that come together through a set of mutual commitments to address a specific issue."

- Exploring their **formation, operation, and effectiveness** through a geographically **diverse series of 12+ case studies** from in and out of the sphere of Internet governance, with focus on **lessons learned** and **(contextual) good/best practices**

Initial Case Studies

- **First round** (national DG groups and information-based enablers):
  - Marco Civil (ITSrio, Brazil)
  - CGI.br (ITSrio, Brazil)
  - Turkish Internet Improvement Board (Bilgi Univ., Turkey)
  - German Enquete Commission (HIIG, Germany)
  - Swiss ComCom FTTH Roundtables (Berkman, US)
  - Israel National Cyber Bureau (HCLT, Israel)

- **Second round:**
  - Aviation Slotting Guidelines (EUI, Italy)
  - Internet Exchange Points (EUI, Italy)
  - NETMundial (CTS/FGV, Brazil)
  - Creative Commons (Nexa, Italy)
  - Water Resource Management in Ghana's White Volta River Basin (Berkman, US)
  - Bitcoin and Autonomous Systems (Hans-Bredow, Germany)
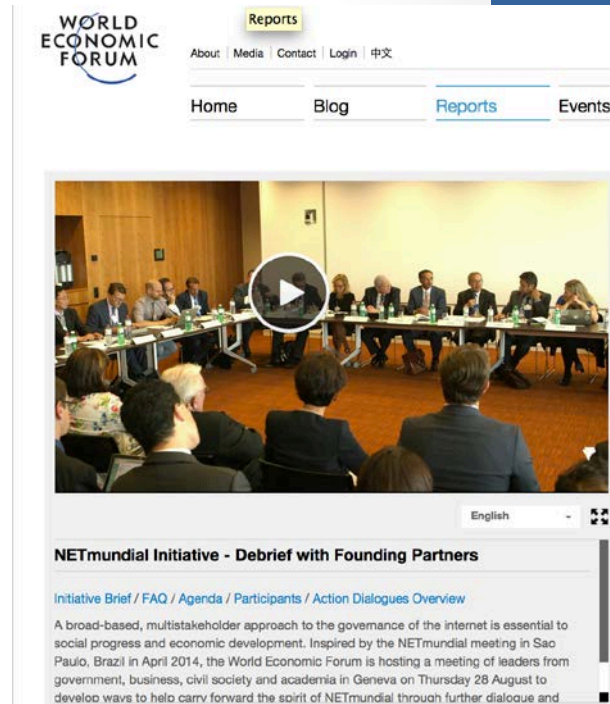
Deliverables & Next Steps

- **Findings** from **draft case studies** discussed on Oct 1, 2014 in Turin at NoC Working Meeting; see also "Bottom-Up" Panel on Oct 2 (Public Conference)
  - http://networkofcenters.net/event/evolution-internet-governance-ecosystem

- **Synthesis paper** (~Dec 2014) identifies models, characteristics, contextual impact, mechanisms, critical factors for effectiveness, and other lessons learned related to formation and operation of DG groups

- Collaboratively define **future broader research agenda** for Internet governance, both in terms of refining our understanding of the ecosystem and specific governance issues

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NETmundial Initiative

Basic idea (caveat: evolving):

- Create bottom-up, open, and **generative platform** for global community to operationalize distributed Internet governance and cooperation models and mechanisms

- Based on **NETmundial Principles** and Roadmap, fleshing out Ilves panel report; complementary (and supportive of) **IGF**, where issues are identified and discussed

- Focus on innovative and distributed Internet governance **enablers and solutions**. Pilot projects include:
  - Issues-to-Solution Mapping Tool (GovLab)
  - Support tools for Distributed Governance (ICANN)
  - National Multistakeholder Models (cgi.br)
  - Distributed Governance Models and Good Practices (Berkman/NoC)

Further **details** to be announced soon

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NETmundial Initiative - Debrief with Founding Partners

Initiative Brief / FAQ / Agenda / Participants / Action Dialogues Overview

A broad-based, multistakeholder approach to the governance of the internet is essential to social progress and economic development. Inspired by the NETmundial meeting in Sao Paulo, Brazil in April 2014, the World Economic Forum is hosting a meeting of leaders from government, business, civil society and academia in Geneva on Thursday 28 August to develop ways to help carry forward the spirit of NETmundial through further dialogue and

ENHANCED ROLE OF "ACADEMIA"

Proposal for Discussion

- Dominant **framing of academia as a "stakeholder"** in Internet governance debates is **too narrow** and only one mode of engagement

- **Need** – and opportunity – for an **enhanced role of "academia"**
  - Generalized vision and strategy regarding the role of academic **research, education, and facilitation** in the Internet age
  - Emphasis on interdependence, rigor, openness, and global participation
  - Addressing three core challenges: (1) analytical challenge, (2) normative challenge, (3) design challenge

- Serves **all stakeholders and initiatives** by offering high-quality, real-time **expertise**, **know-how, and capacity**, for example:
  - Novel approaches to key factual and normative questions, incl. participation, transparency, accountability, and legitimacy
  - Evidence-based assessment of existing and proposed models, policies, etc.
  - Assisting in identifying and responding to emergent issues
  - Helping to build capacity and foster dialogue

Envisioned Areas of Core Activity

Research, incl. Data Gathering and Analysis	Experimentation ("Pilots")
Facilitation and Convening	**Education and Communication**