The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

THE NEW INTERNET NATION STATE

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Chairman, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is an honor to address you today.

Thanks to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and to Under Secretary General Sha for hosting this multi-stakeholder consultation on enhanced cooperation.

Forty years ago, a small group of scientists gave birth to a new technology to share computer resources. Their creation, the Internet, now envelops the earth.

Its new realities shatter previous patterns of thinking. They upend traditional power structures. From commerce and communications to education, politics and governance, the Internet touches our lives.

With it, friends long apart are reunited. Families separated are brought together. Entire peoples distributed globally but united by common culture can speak as one, and knowledge spreads like fire.

The Internet unites us.

Many nation states sense this epic shift.

Centuries ago, much of the world operated in feudal states. Then thirty years of war devastated Europe, leading to the modern nation state. It evolved through the French and American revolutions, granting new individual rights. But the terrible world wars that followed made clear the need for nations to come together in peace, leading to this institution - the United Nations.

Today, we again confront a great transformation. The Internet's pace of change accelerates daily. Its power is awesome. It cannot be ignored; it should be channeled for maximum benefit.

Once again we must reinvent the nation state. It is now time to design the New Internet Nation State.

What will it look like?

It must be built on openness, transparency and trust, with greater collaboration. Not theoretical collaboration, but the real kind that connects people.

Among Internet governance and operational bodies, these principles are woven into real multi-stakeholder processes. The entire ecosystem collaborates: ICANN, Internet service providers, domain name businesses, ISOC, IETF, governments, regional Internet registries, individual Internet users, non-profits and businesses around the world.

And it works. The multi-stakeholder model is not the problem. It's the solution.

It can shape more effective public/private partnerships in the New Internet Nation State.

ICANN is founded on consensus-based, bottom-up, policy development processes. No single group holds undue influence. Since 2008, we have updated the Secretary General on our enhanced cooperation; our 15 November letter highlights our ongoing accomplishments.

The introduction of internationalized domain names, or IDNs, resulted from such collaboration, producing one of the greatest changes in Internet history.

ICANN has already received 35 IDN requests. Twenty-two countries and territories have completed evaluation and twelve now have IDNs in the Internet root. They include Arabic, Chinese and Cyrillic scripts, used by over 1.5 billion people.

Excellent cooperation already exists. Our ecosystem demonstrates it.

Much has been achieved with intergovernmental organizations too. Through better communication, meetings and agreements, we work even more effectively together.

For instance, ICANN has long engaged with the International Telecommunications Union. The recent ITU Plenipotentiary resolutions recognizing ICANN and multi-stakeholder partners are an important step forward.

We signed a Cooperation Agreement with UNESCO to leverage linguistic expertise on IDNs and delegated the UPU's .post into the Internet root.

Still, there is always room for improvement. The Internet Nation State needs more bridges for communication, not fewer.

The multi-stakeholder model works. The Internet works. Let's keep it that way.

This week at ICANN's Public Meeting in Cartagena, Colombia, I had the pleasure of meeting five young ICANN Fellows from Latin America. They had a powerful suggestion for the future of Internet governance: follow the youth. They are already collaborating - online, every day, every month, every year. As we design the New Internet Nation State, we should listen, and follow.

Thank you.

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