



Supporting Multi-stakeholderism in Internet Governance

The Multi-stakeholder Model has been recognized at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) as the global model for Internet governance; [WSIS outcome documents](#) (2005) provided a set of framework principles for the multistakeholder model.

“A working definition” of Internet governance was developed by the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) and later adopted by the Summit and included in para. 34 of the *Tunis Agenda*, which states that 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”.

The roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder group are further specified in para. 35 of the *Tunis Agenda*, which states that:

“The management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations. In this respect, it is recognized that:

- i. Policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues is the sovereign right of States. They have rights and responsibilities for international Internet-related public policy issues.*
- ii. The private sector has had, and should continue to have, an important role in the development of the Internet, both in the technical and economic fields.*
- iii. Civil society has also played an important role on Internet matters, especially at community level, and should continue to play such a role.*



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- iv. *Intergovernmental organizations have had, and should continue to have, a facilitating role in the coordination of Internet-related public policy issues.*
- v. *International organizations have also had and should continue to have an important role in the development of Internet-related technical standards and relevant policies”.*

Under the broad framework of the multistakeholder governance model, *the Tunis Agenda* provides *guiding principles* for various aspects of the management of the Internet, including the relevant outcomes (§§ 29-82 of *the Tunis Agenda*), concerning Internet governance.

Through its Plenipotentiary Resolutions, the ITU membership recognizes the multi-stakeholder governance model based on WSIS principles as the framework for global Internet governance

The recognition of WSIS principles, of the multistakeholder model of Internet governance and of the important role and responsibilities of each stakeholder group is advanced in the various ITU Plenipotentiary Resolutions, especially in Resolutions 101, 102 and 133 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010).

Discussions at WTPF-13 are along the same lines. [Opinion 5](#) on *Supporting multi-stakeholderism in Internet Governance* invites governments and others to explore ways and means for greater collaboration and coordination between governments; the private sector, international and intergovernmental organizations, and civil society, as well as greater participation in multistakeholder processes, with a view to ensure that the governance of the Internet is a multi-stakeholder process that enables all parties to continue to benefit from the Internet; and to focus in particular on how to improve the participation of developing country stakeholders in the initiatives, entities, and institutions involved in various aspects of Internet Governance.

ITU's multistakeholder [membership](#) includes governments, regulators, industry, international organizations (intergovernmental and non-governmental), financial institutions and civil society. ITU's membership ranges from mobile and fixed phone operators to satellite companies, from equipment vendors to broadcasters and Internet Service Providers (ISPs). It also includes organizations focusing on access for people with disabilities, for example, or on emergency 

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communications. ITU members also include various Internet-related organizations and academic institutions, including universities and research institutes focusing on ICTs. Indeed, non-profit institutions having an international character can request exemption from membership fees.

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