

11 January 2015

Thomas Schneider  
Chair, ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee

Re: NETmundial Initiative Update

Dear Mr. Schneider:

On behalf of the Secretariat, thank you for your interest and request for an update on the latest developments and next steps for the NETmundial Initiative.

Since the official launch on 6 November 2014, the Initiative has been constantly evolving and consolidating its design based on input received from many different stakeholder groups.

The series of open dialogues and consultations have helped inform and shape its way forward as an open online platform that makes it easier for multiple stakeholders, experts and resource providers to collaborate on analytical, capacity building, resource mobilization and other projects that advance the practice of distributed Internet governance, in line with the NETmundial principles.

On 24 December 2014, the NETmundial Initiative [announced](#) the formation of its Inaugural Coordination Council and the launch of a broad global community consultation phase.

The open call for nominations for the Inaugural Coordination Council<sup>1</sup> was answered with strong voluntary community participation. A total of 46 high quality nomination submissions<sup>2</sup> were made for the 20 seats available, reflecting a broad, balanced, and diverse representation of stakeholders from all sectors and geographies. The final selection was made based on the criteria developed in consultation with respective stakeholder groups, in full transparency.

Three additional seats (one each) have been assigned to representatives from the organizing partners – ICANN, the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee, and the World Economic Forum – who also formed the Initiative’s Transitional Committee (now dissolved) that helped facilitate the formation of Coordination Council and lead community-wide engagement efforts.

Further, two additional liaison seats (one each) have been left open for the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the technical Internet community (I\* group), which they are welcome to fill at any time. The NETmundial Initiative must and will actively work to strengthen the IGF and extend its valuable work at the global, regional, and national levels.

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<sup>1</sup> The open call for nominations was made on 6 November 2014, with the initial deadline set for 6 December 2014. Following requests from the community, the deadline was extended to 15 December 2014.

<sup>2</sup> The full list can be viewed here: <https://www.netmundial.org/nominations-coordination-council>

In addition, Professor Wolfgang Kleinwächter from the University of Aarhus has been appointed as Special Ambassador of the NETmundial Initiative to increase collaboration and dialogue with the global Internet community.

It is important to note that the responsibilities of the Inaugural Coordination Council will be limited to facilitating global support for the Initiative, which include promoting the distributed Internet governance model, and attracting ideas, individuals, organizations, and funding in order to enable interested parties to take voluntary actions on the platform. The Coordination Council will have no mandate to intervene on any initiatives advanced through the platform.

The Inaugural Coordination Council will be in place for a period of 18 months to ensure the development of the Initiative during its startup phase. During this time, the Coordination Council is expected to establish modalities for the selection of future members by consensus. From its second term on, every member will go through a selection and validation process by the global multistakeholder community.

Further, the Initiative welcomed the recent suggestions made in the [joint ISOC/ICANN statement](#) to engage the community in developing the Initiative's Terms of Reference (ToR), and to explore with the community what they need on the NETmundial platform to advance their Internet governance activities.

In response to these suggestions, the Initiative's secretariat will work closely with members of the Inaugural Coordination Council and/or their staff to coordinate the global bottom-up consultation to finalize the Initiative's ToR and to develop a framework for the NETmundial solutions platform – prior to the Council's first meeting on 31 March 2014 (location to be finalized).

The NETmundial Initiative remains an iterative process that can only evolve through the broad-based involvement of stakeholders from across the world.

I look forward to speaking and respond to any further questions from you and other GAC leaders on 20 January 2014.

Sincerely,

Nora Abusitta  
Secretariat, NETmundial Initiative