
NETmundial – Opening Ceremony
Wednesday, April 23, 2014 – 10:00 to 11:30
NETmundial – São Paulo, Brazil

[Video playing]

>> Ladies and gentlemen, the President of Brazil, Her Excellency Dilma Rousseff; the Minister of Communications, Paulo Bernardo; and the chairman of NETmundial, Virgilio Almeida; and the mayor of Sao Paulo, Fernando Haddad; the CEO of ICANN, Fadi Chehade; and the representative of the technical sector and creator of the Web, Tim Berners-Lee; representative of the private sector and vice president of Google, Vint Cerf; and the representative of civil society, cofounder, Nnenna Nwakanma.

[Applause]

>> We are starting off this effort and we are going to listen to the National Anthem of Brazil.

[Playing of National Anthem]

[Applause]

Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.

>> We are going to listen to the words of the Minister of Communications, Paulo Bernardo.

PAULO BERNARDO SILVA: Good morning, Her Excellency Dilma Rousseff, members here and Participants of this meeting.

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Brazil and to NETmundial. We are very proud and feel very responsible for receiving you in Sao Paulo.

All of you who care about Internet in the future have reasons for being pleased with what we are going to do today.

This meeting is the concretization of all our wishes. We needed an adequate environment for this to be voiced. We believe that NETmundial is this environment we need. Free, participative, and plural, as well as the Internet we believe in.

And this is so because the concern that gets us together is greater than the concerns of each party. We are, however, discussing this Internet around this table or otherwise we will have no future for the Internet.

From the very first moment, the different stakeholders got involved in the organization of this event and the proof of this environment is here in the great diversity of contributions received.

We also have here many authorities and participants. We'd like to thank each one of you and congratulate each one of you from different countries. We're all protagonists of an historical moment, and today

what we have before us is a challenge to make the most for all the different opinions in favor of a unique path.

This path has a very straight sense of orientation, a free and unfragmented Internet. That's the best that we can have, the capacity to connect, to mobilize, to innovate, to create richness of culture or whatever, and respect the links, so Internet being ruled by more people could reach more people in the world.

So I wish that when we leave Sao Paulo, we can celebrate a new and promissory beginning. This is our responsibility here, and thank you very much, and have a good meeting. Thank you.

[Applause]

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Now, Mr. Hongbo, Secretary-General of the United Nations for Business Matters will deliver his message from the Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon.

WU HONGBO:

Your Excellency, President Rousseff, distinguished ministers, excellencies, distinguished delegates, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

I'm honored to be here with you for this important event. It is my great pleasure to deliver a message on behalf of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon.

Here I quote:

"I thank the Government of Brazil for hosting the NETmundial meeting, and I commend this global multistakeholder nature.

"Only through inclusive and bottom-up participation we be able to foster an accessible, open, secure, and trustworthy Internet.

"The Internet is transforming societies in all regions. It is the backbone of our global economy and an essential vehicle for disseminating information and ideas.

"One-third of the people now have access to the Internet and the knowledge and the tools it provides. An increasing number of people now have a platform to voice their opinions and participate in society from commerce to democratic decision-making.

"That is why it is essential that Internet governance policies continue to foster freedom of expression and the free flow of information.

"The Internet and the Information Society hold tremendous promise for the post-2015 development agenda. The Internet can strengthen efforts to eradicate poverty, address inequality, and protect and renew the planet's resources.

"But realizing the promise means expanding Internet access to nearly 1.3 billion people who currently lack it. Most are in developing countries and there are significant gender gaps.

"Internet governance must, therefore, work to bridge the digital divide through inclusive rights-based policies. Internet governance should aim for universal access to an interoperable, globally connected, and safe online space.

"To this end, the principles of the World Summit on the Information Society remain relevant.

"The United Nations invites all stakeholders to join in the ongoing summit review process.

"Confidence in the Internet and its governance is vital if it is to effectively contribute to the sustainable development.

"In this connection, I wish to inform the meeting I intend to appoint Ambassador Janis Karklins of Latvia as the chair of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group of the Internet Governance Forum."

[Applause]

WU HONGBO:

"I count on Mr. Karklins to promote a strengthened Internet governance through broader participation, not only by governments but also the private sector and civil society, including the academic and the technical communities.

"Building consensus on the roadmap for the future of Internet governance is crucial. This NETmundial is an important milestone. I wish you a productive meeting." Unquote.

Thank you very much on behalf of United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDESA.

I would like to thank Brazil and the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee for not only hosting this important meeting, but also for

being consistent supporters of Internet government forum. The IGF community looks forward to returning to Brazil for the second time for the 10th IGF in 2015.

Thank you very much.

[Applause]

>>

Now, we are going to listen to Ms. Nnenna Nwakanma, a representative of civil society and contributor of the Open Source Foundation of Africa.

[Applause]

NNENNA NWAKANMA:

Ooh-la-la. Your Excellencies, colleagues, present and remote ladies and gentlemen, (non-English word or phrase).

My name is Nnenna and I come from the Internet. I also come from diverse civil society teams and networks, one of which is the team that works with the World Wide Web Foundation.

At the Web Foundation, we are engaged in the alliance for affordable Internet. We're engaged in the Web We Want Company, the Web Index and Open Data initiatives.

One thing I do for a living is to establish the open Web as a global public good and a basic right, ensuring that everyone can access and use it freely. That's what I do.

I also belong to the Best Bits civil society platform, the Internet Governance Caucus for the past 12 years, and the Africa Internet Governance Forum.

So for me, NETmundial, in convening us to take a critical look at the principles and roadmap for the future of Internet governance avails me with an opportunity to raise three key issues.

The first issue is access.

As much as two-thirds of the world's population is not yet connected to the Internet. The penetration rates in developed countries average around 31%, but in Africa where I come from, we are about 16%.

In the world's 49 least developed countries, over 90% of the population are still not online.

We have 1 billion people living with disability, and 80% of these live in the developing countries. Each one of these deserve access.

Access to information, access to libraries, access to knowledge, and access to affordable Internet.

My second issue is social and economic justice.

The Internet is fast becoming the dominant means of wealth creation, so the rights to development, I think, should include social justice.

For me, it is not enough to do a superficial capacity-building just for a few persons. I'm looking for what is the mechanism that allows the highest number of persons to be included, the largest number of voices

to be heard, the widest extent of access to innovation, and the deepest creativity for the human mind to flourish.

For this, I think we need to start considering the Internet as public comments.

My third issue is human rights and freedom.

Now I will invite you to listen through my voice to someone that I greatly respect.

This person is a "she." She was speaking at the United Nations General Assembly in New York on the 25th of September last year. Do you want to hear what she said?

>>

Yes!

NNENNA NWAKANMA:

She said, "I cannot but defend in an uncompromising fashion the right to privacy of individuals. In the absence of the right to privacy, there can be no true freedom of expression and opinion and there is no effective democracy."

And that was Dilma Rouseff.

[Cheers and applause]

NNENNA NWAKANMA:

Okay. Thank you. Right.

Ladies and gentlemen, in looking forward towards the roadmap, I also need to raise three key issues.

My first issue is participation. When we started, we kicked off with the basic understanding that all stakeholders have a place, a role, a contribution.

But as we've moved further down the line, the idea of multistakeholder engagement is getting muddled and it's losing a bit of its meaning, so I would request that we go back to the drawing board and we revisit it, and if it needs to upgrade, please let's do that.

Because we need to engage all stakeholders at global, regional, and national levels.

We need to establish respect and value for all contributions coming from all stakeholders, and we need meaningful participation from individuals coming from developing countries and underrepresented groups.

My second issue is resources.

How do we ensure that resources are mobilized and maintained for a viable Internet governance mechanism?

The question is not just at the global level. It's at continental, regional, and even national levels. Whose resources are we going to commit?

My first thought is that the Internet should be able to provide resources for its own governance. Maybe part of the domain name fees should be reinvested in this area.

[Applause]

NNENNA NWAKANMA:

Now, my third issue is change.

NETmundial is offering us a great opportunity for change. Change from one stakeholder hijacking the process to an open and inclusive process. Change from one official issuing orders to collaboration. Change from just reports to real transparency.

Change from power to accountability. Change from monologues to dialogues and debates. Change from the rhetoric of cyber-war to the notion of Internet for peace. Change from cyber-threats to digital solidarity.

And I do believe that all of these principles will also guide us in the IANA transition.

Ladies and gentlemen, if there is one message I must leave with you today, it is the message of trust.

We're in Brazil because we trust the person of Dilma Rousseff. We are here because we trust the NETmundial process. We trust the multistakeholder approach of Brazil in its own IGF, and we have followed the story of Marco Civil and I want to say congratulations to all Brazilians on this.

[Cheers and applause]

NNENNA NWAKANMA: Hang on. Hang on. Hang on.

The trust that we have in Brazil is needed at all levels, but this trust has been destroyed by the collection, processing, and interception of our communications.

[Applause]

Yes. Surveillance undermines Internet security and our trust in all personal, business, and diplomatic communications. That's why we say "no."

The Web we can trust, that is the Web we want. The Web that contributes to peace, that is the Web we want. The Web that is open and inclusive, that is the Web we want. The Web of opportunities and social justice, that is why I am here.

Ladies and gentlemen, NETmundial, I think, is the World Cup of Internet governance.

We need a robust stadium that can hold us. That is infrastructure.

We need to enjoy the game. That is participation.

We should not discriminate. That is net neutrality. Everybody's free to support their team. I support Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria. That is freedom.

I support Brazil as long as they are not playing against Africa, anyway.

[Laughter]

We need to be able to wear our costumes as fans and that is diversity. And most importantly, we need to know the rules of the game and play by it. That, for me, is transparency.

So it's not going to be about power and control for governments. It's not going to be just interest for the industry. It's not going to be names and numbers for the technical community. It's not going to be for or against for the civil society.

I think that we need humility. The humility to listen to diverse voices is essential for an authentic dialogue. Let us talk to each other and not at each other. Because sometimes we can be so drowned in our own voices that we do not hear the other stakeholders.

Just before I sit down, ladies and gentlemen, tomorrow is girls in ICT day, so I'm going to speak to ladies.

Girls, it is up to us to seize the opportunity that the Internet has given us. Let's seize it and let's rock the world! Let us get women online. Let us get us online.

And this, I want to say a special tribute to all the girls in my world foundation team. Alexandra (saying name) is here, Renata Avila, Sonia

George, Angela (saying name). And not just NETmundial but girls across the world work on the Internet every day. Deborah Brown is in the U.S. Marion Franklin is in Europe. Anna Kovacs is in India, (saying name) is in Latin America here, (saying name) is in Africa, Joy Liddicoat is in New Zealand, and Salanieta is somewhere in the islands of Fiji. Great women who do this work.

And even here in Brazil, we have great ladies. One is (saying name), and the other is (saying name), but come on, it's not just about women. There are guys, men, who work every day, who put in their energy, who put in their life, who put in all they have, put in their expertise, so that we can have a global, true, open and resilient Internet. And to all of us who work, to all of us who love the Internet, to all of us who are here for it, and to someone called Edward, Edward Snowden, thank you.

[Cheers and applause]

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VINT CERF:

President Dilma Rousseff, excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor and a privilege to participate in NETmundial. This dialogue is timely and much needed as the Internet celebrates the 40th year of its public unveiling and the 31st year of its operation. In May 1974, the design of the Internet was published in the IEEE transactions on communications. Robert Kahn and I felt strongly that

the design and the protocols of the Internet needed to be freely and openly available to any interested parties and without any barriers to adoption and use.

Over four decades by working together and including the experiences gathered from other global network exercises, an informal coalition has built from the bottom up the successful, free, and open Internet and the popular World Wide Web.

Some 3 billion people already are online working together towards continued growth of a powerful economic engine and positive social force.

This Internet governance meeting comes at a time when the Internet and its use reflects the full range of interests of a global and increasingly online society.

In addition to appreciating the enormous benefits already obtained through the cooperative creation, discovering and sharing of information on the Internet, it is also apparent that users and governments are becoming concerned about potential harms that may be encountered in this digital world.

A small fraction of the Internet's users deliberately seek to benefit themselves at the expense of others or just seek to do damage through a kind of digital vandalism, as also happens offline.

Moreover, it is apparent that the rich social networking applications that are rapidly proliferating also have a political potential that may be alarming to some regimes.

Governments understandably seek ways to defend the general public and private sectors against harm, such as fraud, malware, identity theft and bullying. Others violate human rights by using the Internet to censor, misinform, conduct surveillance, and restrict speech or use it as a means to identify and incarcerate those who speak truth to power.

The openness of the Internet has been the key to its growth and value. Permissionless innovation is the mainspring of Internet's economic power. We must find ways to protect the values that the Internet brings, including the rights of its users while also protecting them from harm.

These principles, together with growing access to the Internet, will prove to be of lasting value to the developing world that can take advantage of the positive benefits of an expanding information economy.

Our work is not nearly done until the Internet is accessible to everyone and IPv6 is accessible everywhere.

Brazil has set a positive example in NETmundial. In a multiparty initiative led by Congressman Alessandro Malone, the country has just legislated the Marco Civil, which offers important safeguards to protect Web platforms and other intermediary Internet providers and protect user rights.

Its Internet steering committee, cgi.br, is a model of national multistakeholder governance. This meeting, among many others, represents an important opportunity to examine a multistakeholder model for Internet governance based on the participation of all

stakeholders, including roles for government, academics, civil society, private businesses and the technical community.

This conference has brought together a rich and varied group of interested parties to explore principles and guidelines for future Internet governance as it reaches the other 4 billion still unconnected people in the world.

The Internet has been built on the basis of collaboration among a diverse and constantly evolving set of interested parties. And this is a foundational idea that must be preserved. New institutions and operational players have been formed at need, such as the Internet Architecture Board, the Internet Engineering Task Force, The Internet Society, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, the regional Internet registries and the Number Resource Organization, other regional TLD organizations such as CENTR and LacTLD, the root server operators, regional network operations groups, the computer emergency response teams, Internet exchange points, the top-level domain registries and registrars and the network information centers such as the Brazilian NIC.

Out of the World Summit on the Information Society has come the annual Internet Governance Forum and its regional and national analogs. We create institutions at need.

As we gather here for the next two days, we have two specific challenges to consider. The larger one is the general design of a global multistakeholder Internet governance framework that preserves the

free and open Internet and provides transnational protections for the rights of users.

The framework has to enable the evolution of the Internet and be able to adapt to it. The more focused challenge is to devise a response to the U.S. invitation to assure that when the U.S. government and its contractual relationship with ICANN, the multistakeholder framework for ICANN's management of unique identifiers and parameters will adhere to the principles that have made the Internet a remarkable, global, and beneficial infrastructure.

I believe that the challenge before us, assuring ICANN's adherence to Internet principles, can be accomplished by reinforcing its existing accountability and transparency and adaptability mechanisms. The larger challenge, protecting the rights of users while assuring their safety, will require layered local, national, and transnational enabling mechanisms. We cannot pretend to know the solution to all the challenges and opportunities that the Internet poses. We can, however, create structures that will allow multistakeholder collaborations to discover and evaluate possible answers.

Among the mechanisms that should be reinforced and supported, I would single out the Internet Governance Forum. It needs financial support and a properly staffed secretariat. It has illuminated our understanding of the prospects and problems arising from the global growth of the Internet.

Mobile technology rapidly dropping costs for Internet-enabling equipment and communications and boundless development of new

applications have created a rich palette from which to paint a beneficial digital future. The global IGF and its regional and national counterparts can become an even more helpful mechanism for highlighting issues by tracking their solutions in a variety of forums and enabling the emergence of new approaches when these seem necessary.

We would have to be a pretty silly species not to take advantage of the gift that the technology has given us. Those of us participating in the NETmundial -- Well, I have a very interesting problem here, my speech ends because the rest of it wasn't printed out.

[Laughter]

So I will end by thanking you very much for the time on this stage.

[Applause]

>>

TIM BERNERS-LEE:

So no technology is perfect, Vint.

45 years ago, Vint Cerf and Bob Kahn put together the idea of the Internet, designed that, and made that open.

25 years ago, so that's a long time later, the Internet was running. There was remote roll com. There was email running over the Internet. There was Internet use, but there was no Web. There were no Web sites, no Web pages, no links.

I felt it was really important that there should be so I invented the Web. And as the World Wide Web project grew, I needed collaborators. I invented HTML and HTTP and URLs, but the development of those specifications had to be done by a large technical community. I went to that technical community in the Internet Engineering Task Force. But also I founded the World Wide Web Consortium, a multistakeholder technical standards group that assess the standards for the Web. And its motto is to lead the Web to its full potential.

So the collaboration between these multistakeholder groups like IETF and W3C and all the peers that they work with like ECMA, TC39 for ECMAScript, that has been really crucial and it really has been how this has all worked.

I hope you will agree that people working together have done a reasonable job. And looking back at the 25 years of the Web, it has been -- it has been an incredible ride and we realize now that rather than being a fun project like all these things started off with, it now becomes something we have to regard as, after server stamping, crucial.

Some of these organizations which believe in open standards in this particular sort of multistakeholder open on the Web sort of meaning of the word, devised the term "open stand." You can go to openstand.org to express innovation about the way these should be developed, an open discussion with the documents being freely available on the Web. And in W3C specifically, companies commit that when they start and work towards these standards, that when the standards come out, that they will not charge royalties to anybody who wants to implement it. So

keeping it open in the sense of royalty-free has also been really important.

The Web grew as something which did not involve borders because it grew on the Internet and the Internet, when you connect -- when I wrote a program to connect from one computer to the other, neither program had an awareness, needed to know, or necessarily found it easy to find out which country those two computers were in. But Internet was technically -- is a nationless thing. So in a non-national environment, the Web growing up, it has been a non-national society which has grown up around it.

Yes, there has been -- formally, there have been a connection between the U.S. government and the way Internet numbers and names have been assigned. And I'm very glad that the U.S. government has accepted to release that oversight. I think that is very overdue and a very important step.

It is an important step because ICANN should service -- it services the global public Internet, and, therefore, it should be a global public body. So for me, what does that mean? It is easy to say in the public interest. For me, for ICANN, that means that decisions that it makes about top-level domains, about whatever, about how to spend its funding, they should be made by stepping back and thinking, well, nevermind the people we know intimately who are involved in that decision but let's think about the planet as a whole. What is best for humanity as a whole? That should guide every decision that ICANN makes.

Obviously, one of the things that ICANN does is it has funds to spend. And so partly it can further the world by spending those in a beneficial way such as supporting -- well, supporting standardization, supporting hardening Internet/Web technology, supporting pieces of technology like that. The internationalization of the technology, keeping it so it works with every culture and language, accessibility for people with disabilities and, of course, closing the digital divide, these are really important agendas which ICANN can think about supporting.

The Internet has thrived from the excellent empowerment of capable and public-spirited people. Initially, they were from the technical community and academia but more recently the whole private sector, civil society, and governments. We need Internet governments which allows each community to bring its particular strengths to the common table but allows none of them to elevate its own interest above the public good.

Five years ago, relatively recently in Internet time, some of us realize that all the technical work we were doing was wonderful but it was -- every single thing did was increasing the digital divide, increasing the gap between the power of the people who had the Web and did not have it.

So at that point, we started the World Wide Web Foundation about which you already heard, some -- to make sure that the Web -- well, yes, that it gets to, for example, the 60% of the people who in the world who don't have it at all but also for the people who have it, that it really is the Web that we would want. The Web has now become an essential public utility so we have to regard it as such.

Much of our traditional thinking about human rights applies directly to everything on the Internet such as free expression. But new things become important in the network context. "Net neutrality" means keeping the net free from discrimination, be it commercial or political.

The innovative explosion which happened across the net over the last 25 years has happened only because that net has been neutral. The social ground-breaking sense of possibility that we can understand each other and possibly live in peace relies on an open net.

Oh, and thanks to everybody who has ever held up a banner in any forum about pushing for the open net and pushing against laws which restrict the open net.

So that sense of excitement which we all have gives us also a responsibility that we must keep the net neutral -- the net as a neutral platform in the future.

Freedom of expression is a crucial right, but it has to be coupled on the network with a complimentary right to privacy as, Madam President, you have pointed out before and have already been quoted today.

So I won't quote you again, but I would, yes, agree that there are a lot of people who are very concerned about surveillance and feel it is perhaps the most immediate threat. It certainly feels the most immediate threat to the Internet and in some ways, the threats of all on the Internet, it is one of the more insidious ones because you don't see it happening unlike censorship.

It is great to be back in Brazil today, not just because Brazil is a wonderful country and one which has had a really vibrant sense of what -- opportunity on the net but, of course, especially today is a special day. Yesterday was a very special day. Marco Civil going through is wonderful, a fantastic example of how governments compare a positive role in advancing Web rights and keeping the Web open.

Yes, Europeans also celebrated. The European Parliament passing legislation protecting rights of users on the net. (indiscernible). Well done.

So two data points that suggest we are making progress. That is great. But, boy, we have got a huge way to go. The principles of human rights on the net are new, and they are not universally accepted.

The Web becomes ever more exciting with every advancing technology like mobile Web and so on, but 60% of the Web -- of the population can't use the Web at all.

As the Web gives people greater and greater power individually and collectively, so many forces are abusing or threaten to abuse the net and its citizens.

The Web that we will have in another 25 years' time is, by no means, clear. But it is completely up to us to decide what we want to make that Web, what we want to make that world.

That's why I'm asking Web users around the world, not just people here in this conference room and the other conference rooms where this is being relayed, not just people in this conference but people all over the

world, to go and think about what you want and to find some sort of global Magna Carta for the Internet. That is why --

[Applause]

TIM BERNERS-LEE:

That is why I'm asking countries everywhere to follow Brazil's example and Europe's example and develop positive laws that protect and expand the rights of users in an open, free, and universal Web.

[Applause]

TIM BERNERS-LEE:

(Speak in a non-English language.) Thank you.

[Applause]

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Ladies and gentlemen, the president of the republic has approved a law that guarantees the rights and duties for the use of Internet in the world.

[Cheers and applause]

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]