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# The Role of End Users in Shaping the Internet for Development

Introduction to Internet Governance



Liberia Chapter

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# Internet Society Next Generation Leaders (NGL) Programme

- ❖ The Internet Society's Next Generation Leaders (NGL) programme helps young people develop their leadership potential where technology, business, policy, and education intersect
- ❖ NGL participants gain a unique opportunity to advance their professional growth and build the experience and confidence they need to drive development in their own local communities and the larger Internet ecosystem.



# Training Modules

- ❖ Background to Internet Governance
- ❖ Introduction to Internet Governance
- ❖ Definitions of Internet Governance
- ❖ Classification of Internet Governance issues
- ❖ Methodology for Analyzing Internet Issues



# BACKGROUND OF INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Internet governance started initially at the technical and standards level through standards bodies and the creation of ICANN.

The Internet has become a key resource for commercial, political and social interaction around the globe. Therefore, decisions about its basic architecture and management have serious consequences for many aspects of ordinary life.

iCANN was established in 1998 to coordinate the stable operation of the Internet in four key areas: the Domain Name System (DNS); the allocation of IP address space; the management of the root server system; and the coordination of protocol number assignment.



# BACKGROUND TO INTERNET GOVERNANCE

## SUMMARY

- ❖ Underrepresentation of any stakeholder in Internet Governance will adversely affect the Internet's smooth operation.
- ❖ End users' freedom to innovate is at the core of the Internet's success.
- ❖ At-Large Community members are very actively in various Internet Governance fora at national, regional, and global levels.
- ❖ End users' participation ensures that the Internet Governance ecosystem is not dominated by vested interests. Within ICANN, members of the At-Large community advocate for the best interests of end users.
- ❖ End user involvement contributes important skills and expertise to the Internet policy making process, as well as establishes a means to rapidly analyze the implementation of Internet governance policy and the impact on end users.
- ❖ Given the geographical diversity of the At-Large community, the diverse interests among users worldwide are represented in ALAC policy advice.



# Introduction to Internet Governance



The shades that surround the definition of 'Internet Governance' are an excellent starting point for forming your understanding of this relatively new and fascinating area.

In this Module, we begin with a discussion about **defining Internet Governance**, which should help you build a solid foundation for the rest of this course.

The Module then explores the different ways in which institutions have attempted to create **taxonomies** - or **classification systems** - of Internet Governance issues

Because of the extensiveness of Internet Governance issues, taxonomies can serve as helpful conceptual tools, allowing one to have a 'bird's eye view' of the various issues involved in Internet Governance and how they relate to each other. This makes it easier to conduct Internet policy analysis, which the Module briefly addresses at the end.

Before going any further, it is worth noting that there is no universally-agreed definition of 'Internet Governance,' no 'right' or 'wrong' taxonomy of Internet Governance issues, and no prescribed way to going about analyzing an issue.

Given the global dimension of Internet Governance, it helps to think more in terms of 'shared understandings' of what phrases mean than of 'authoritative definitions.'

***Different actors working together towards common goals in Internet Governance must be able to understand each other, across multiple languages and across different cultural and political perspectives. These conditions make any definition of Internet Governance worthy of careful attention.***

# Definitions of Internet Governance

Definitions in policy processes are not just a matter of linguistic pedantry or academic deliberation; they are important tools. The way a policy issue is defined impacts the way policy is shaped and implemented. Many discussions about Internet Governance begin with an attempt to define it.

• How would you define the phrase Internet Governance?

PLEASE TYPE YOUR DEFINITION IN THE CHAT SECTION OF THE WEBINAR

# Definitions of Internet Governance

## INTERNET

Some are of the opinion that the word 'Internet' refers simply to the network, and is not broad enough to cover the **Digital Revolution**, during which digital computing and communication technology brought about sweeping changes to society. Two other terms: '**Information Society**' and '**Information and Communications Technology (ICT)**' are usually put forward as being more comprehensive. At the same time, however, these terms also extend to areas that are beyond the Internet domain - the telephony system, for example.

One of the most compelling arguments for using the term 'Internet' is the growing use of the Internet Protocol. We continue to bear witness to the rapid transition of global communications towards the use of **TCP/IP** as the main technical standard. As we will see in subsequent modules (The History of the Internet, and Internet Infrastructure, Protocols, Standards and Systems), TCP/IP is the Internet's own language

## GOVERNANCE

The second part of the term - the word 'governance' - has been the subject for controversy in policy-related debates, especially during the two-phase United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which was held in Geneva, in 2003, and then in Tunis, in 2005.[1]

One reason for the controversy was an initial misconception by some government stakeholders that the word 'governance' always implies the involvement of governments.

Once the term Internet Governance was introduced in the WSIS process, many countries accordingly linked it to the concept of government. One of the consequences of such an approach was the belief that Internet Governance issues should be addressed at the inter-governmental level with only limited participation of other, mainly non-state, actors{2}.

### 2.Reference

The term 'governance' received a higher visibility in international relations through the work of the Commission on Global Governance, which published the report Our Global Neighborhood (Oxford University Press, 1995).



# Definitions of Internet Governance

## Linguistic Differences

What were the main reasons for this semantic confusion? The words sound the same, but they are also understood to have different meanings. With that said, defining what 'governance' means is further complicated when the word is used in other languages than English.

In Spanish, it is usually translated as *governanza*, in order to differentiate it from *gobierno* which relates to governmental functions.

### French

The reference to government/public activities is also noticeable in French (*gestion des affaires publiques, efficacité de l'administration, qualité de l'administration* and *mode de gouvernement*).

### Portugal

Portuguese follows a similar pattern by referring to the public sector and government (*gestão pública* and *administração pública*).

As can be observed, there is a discrepancy between the mainly Anglo-Saxon understanding of the term governance and the way in which it is understood and used in other languages and cultures.



Such linguistic considerations can help to explain why many delegations at WSIS linked the question of 'Internet Governance' to the 'public sector' and centered their deliberations, at least initially, on the need for government intervention.

# Definitions of Internet Governance

## Differences in Scope

While definitions of Internet governance can vary greatly, they typically comprise, to a lesser or greater degree, two elements

- ❖ the running of the technical infrastructure of the Internet, including Internet Protocol numbers, domain names, Internet protocols and root servers; and
- ❖ the impact of the Internet on society, usually described as 'public policy issues', including content control, cybercrime and intellectual property.

examples of definitions that focus largely on the technical infrastructure element:

“[Governance of the Internet] refers, essentially, to shared protocol development, agreements on standards, and assignments of Internet names and addresses”.{4}

*“[W]hen people speak of Internet governance, they are referring fundamentally to the administration and management of domain names, Internet addresses (IP numbers and autonomous numbers), the coordination of technical aspects and the definition of the technical parameters for the operation of the domain name system, and root servers”.*

*“The term ‘Internet governance’, while undefined, rather vague and partly confusing, stands mainly for the global technical management of the core resources of the Internet: Domain Names, IP addresses, Internet Protocols and the Root Server System”.[6]*





# Definitions of Internet Governance

## Differences in Scope

### Enhanced Cooperation

Some actors understand **Enhanced Cooperation** as implying the establishment of **new control mechanisms or an additional international body** to address Internet policy issues.

Others oppose this view, arguing that **Enhanced Cooperation** can happen - and is happening - in the existing settings and between existing actors of the Internet ecosystem.

Like 'Internet Governance', the term '**Enhanced Cooperation**' continues to be explored, debated and otherwise discussed by Internet Governance participants.

In 2013, the Chair of the United Nations Committee on Science and Technology for Development (**CSTD**) announced the establishment of the Working Group on **Enhanced Cooperation** (**WGEC**).



The purpose of the WGEC is to examine the mandate of the **World Summit on the Information Society regarding enhanced cooperation** as contained in the Tunis Agenda, through seeking, compiling and reviewing inputs from all Member States and all other stakeholders, and to make recommendations on how to fully implement this mandate{8}.

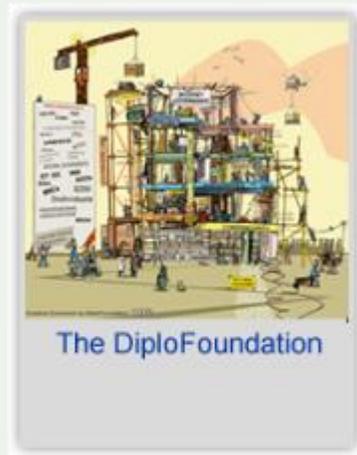
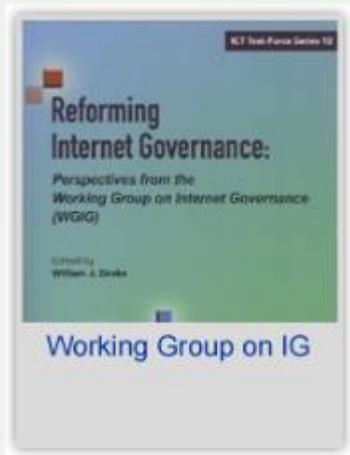
Following on the work of the WGEC, the CSTD later conducted a 'mapping' of Internet Governance issues, which is discussed in the next section.

# Classification of Internet Governance Issues

Internet Governance is a relatively new and complex field.

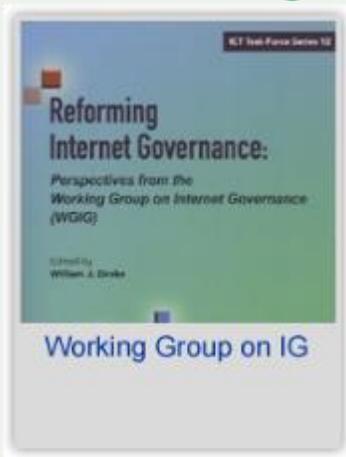
The complexity of Internet Governance is related to its multidisciplinary nature: it encompasses a variety of aspects, including **technology**, **socio-economics**, **development**, **law**, and **politics**.

To chart this new field, various groups have done work on the mapping and classification of Internet Governance issues.



# Classification of Internet Governance Issue

## Working Group on Internet Governance



The practical need for classification of Internet-related issues was clearly demonstrated during the WSIS process. The Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG), which met during 2004 and 2005, identified the following 'four key public policy areas':

### 1. Infrastructure and Management

Issues relating to infrastructure and the management of critical Internet resources, including administration of the Domain Name System and Internet protocol addresses (IP addresses), administration of the root server system, technical standards, peering and interconnection, telecommunications infrastructure, including innovative and convergent technologies, as well as multilingualization

### 2. The use of the Internet

Issues relating to the use of the Internet, including spam, network security, and cybercrime.

### 3. Issues relevant to the Internet

Issues that are relevant to the Internet, but which have a much wider impact than just the Internet, and for which existing organizations are responsible, such as intellectual property rights (IPRs) or international trade.

### 4. Developmental Aspects

Issues relating to the developmental aspects of Internet Governance, in particular capacity building in developing countries.

# Classification of Internet Governance Issues

## The DiploFoundation

The DiploFoundation has mapped Internet Governance issues into five areas, or 'baskets', which also reflect the four Internet Governance issue areas identified in the WGIG Report.[10]

Some issues such as network neutrality can be found in all the baskets.

Infrastructure and Standards;

Legal;

Development;

Economic; and

Socio-cultural.

This illustration also shows the various actors involved in Internet Governance.



They will be discussed in more detail in the Internet Actors and Stakeholder Groups module.



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USA DOC	IGF
ICANN	IANA
UNITED NATIONS	
WIPO	ITU
<b>UNESCO</b>	WTO
OECD	EUROPEAN UNION
COUNCIL OF EUROPE	
NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS	
IETF ISOC	WWW
BSA	NGOs
MNCs	INTERNET INDUSTRY
<b>Individuals</b>	
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS	
<b>MEDIA</b>	

**NETMUNDIAL INITIATIVE**

**2014**

**NET NEUTRALITY**

**INTERNET GOVERNANCE**

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

**SOCIO-CULTURAL**

**ECONOMIC**

**DEVELOPMENT**

**LEGAL**

**CYBERSECURITY**

**INFRASTRUCTURE AND STANDARDISATION**

COMMON HERITAGE

Freedom of expression

CULTURAL VALUES

MULTILINGUALISM

INVESTMENT

TAXATION

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HACKING

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JAVA				
TELECOMMUNICATION INFRASTRUCTURE				
WAP				

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# Classification of Internet Governance Issues

## Internet Governance Forum



Diplo's classification also reflects the general approach taken by the Multistakeholder Advisory Group ([MAG](#)) in organizing the thematic material of the Internet Governance Forum programme.

The establishment of the Internet Governance Forum ([IGF](#)) was the most successful outcome of the WSIS process.

The IGF is a global platform for dialogue on Internet Governance issues. At the IGF event, which has occurred annually since 2006, various stakeholder groups, including governments, the private sector, technical experts, academic researchers, and civil society, gather as equals to discuss public policy issues related to Internet Governance.



The IGF is open. Anyone from any part of the world can join the discussion at any time and as per documents from

The agenda for the first IGF, held in Athens in 2006, was built around four thematic areas:

- ❖ Access;
- ❖ Security;
- ❖ Openness; and
- ❖ Diversity.

At the second IGF in Rio de Janeiro (2007), a fifth thematic area, **Critical Internet Resources**, was added to the agenda



# Classification of Internet Governance Issues

## Commission on Science and Technology for Development

In 2014, the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) published The Mapping of International Internet Policy Issues, a comprehensive report which organizes 'international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet' into the following seven 'clusters':



Legal



Security



Sociocultural



Development



Economic



Human Rights



Infrastructure and Standardization



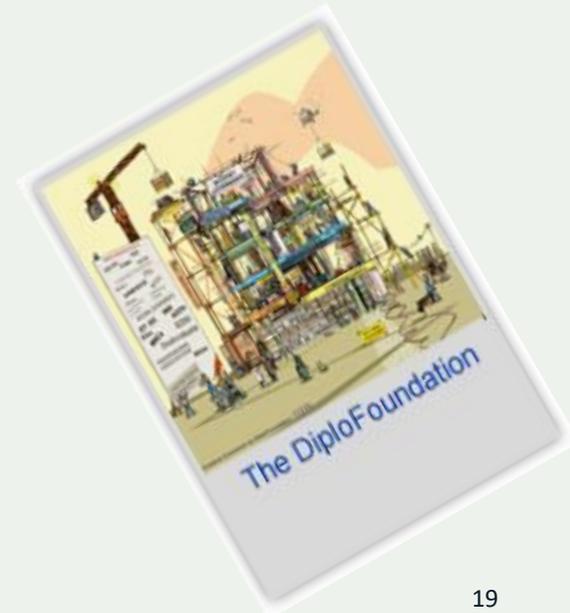
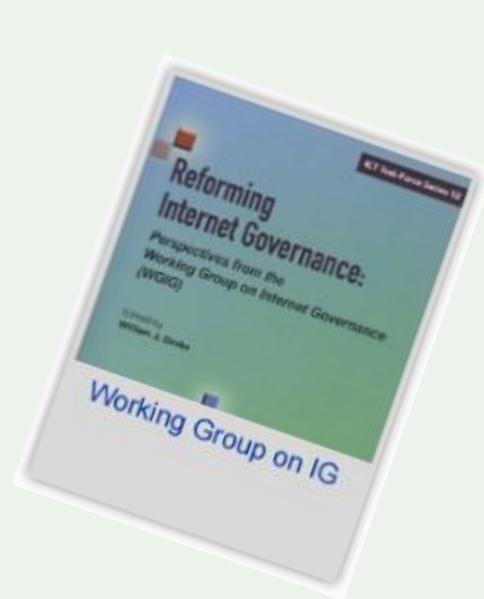
# Classification of Internet Governance Issues

As the previous examples go to suggest, groups have taken varied approaches in creating Internet Governance issue taxonomies. There is no universally-recognized classification of Internet Governance issues.

Further, depending on the policy question at hand, these issue areas can overlap or otherwise interrelate. The illustration by Diplo, for example, shows that the issue of network neutrality cuts across all Internet Governance 'issue baskets'.

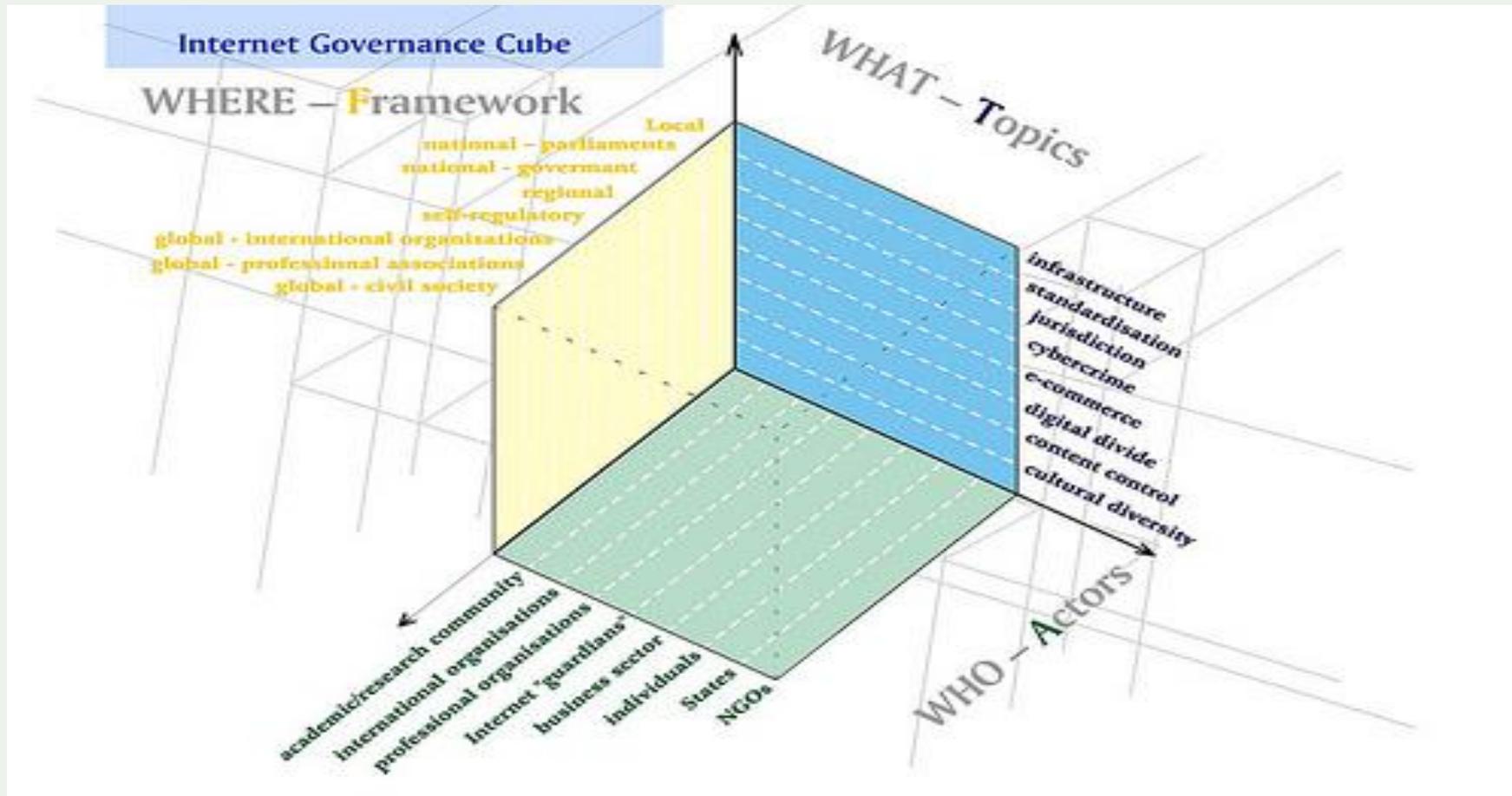
The CSTD notes in its mapping report that most Internet policy issues are "*intersectoral, and consequently, they could also be classified in other clusters, depending on the context.*"

The importance of various issues will rise and fall over time, according to global events and the policy priorities of various stakeholders, which is reflected in shifting classifications (the changing IGF subthemes, for example).



Owing to the dynamic and ever evolving nature of the

# Methodology for Analyzing Internet Issues



How to go about analyzing an Internet Governance or Internet policy issue.

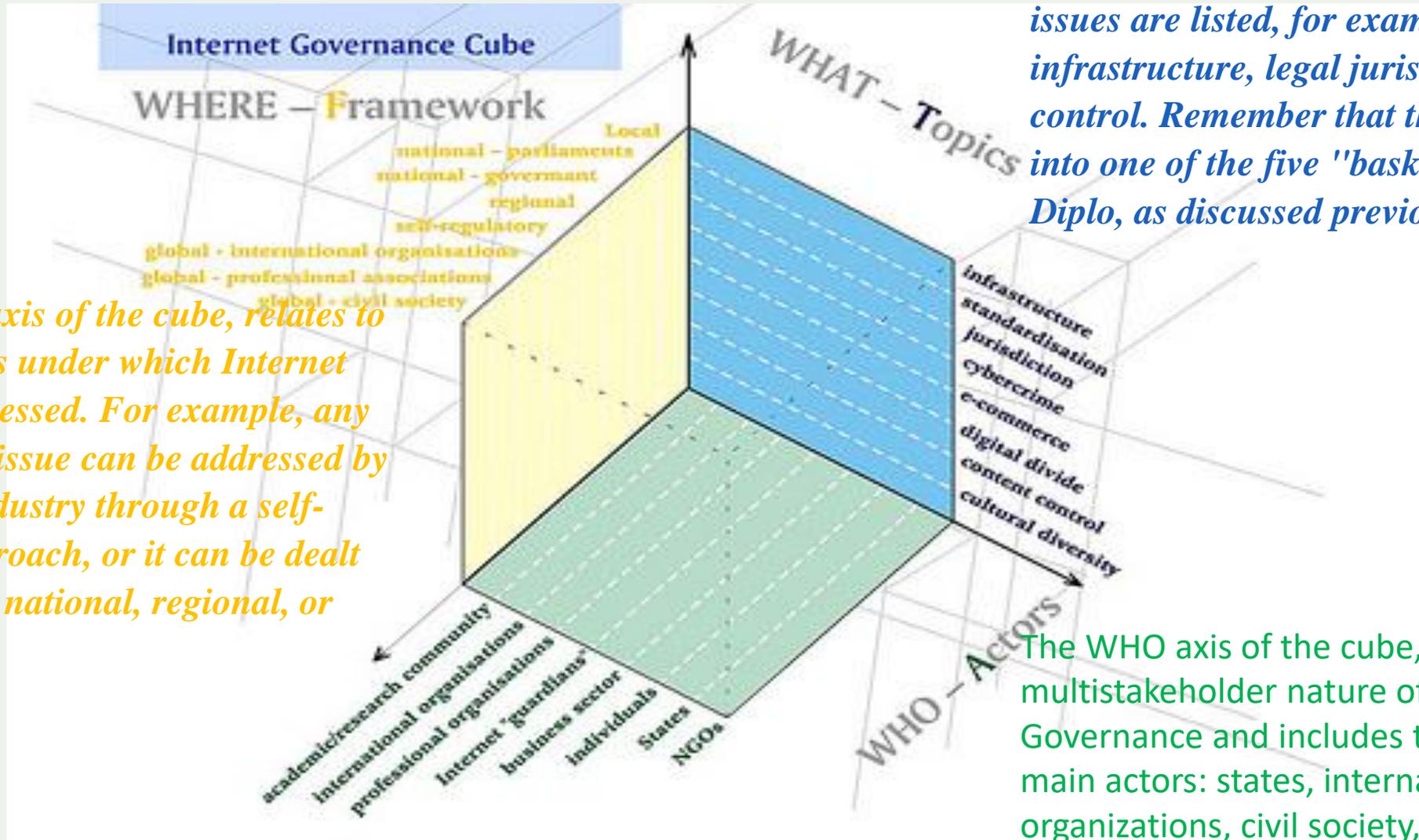
Just as there is no hard and fast definition of Internet Governance, nor an authoritative taxonomy of Internet Governance issues, there is no universal formula for Internet Governance and policy issue analysis. Different institutions take different approaches.



# Methodology for Analyzing Internet Issues

Let look at **Where**, **What**, **Who** and **How** for more information about the Diplo methodology.

*On the WHAT axis, , Internet Governance issues are listed, for example Internet infrastructure, legal jurisdiction, or content control. Remember that these issues will fall into one of the five "baskets" identified by Diplo, as discussed previously.*

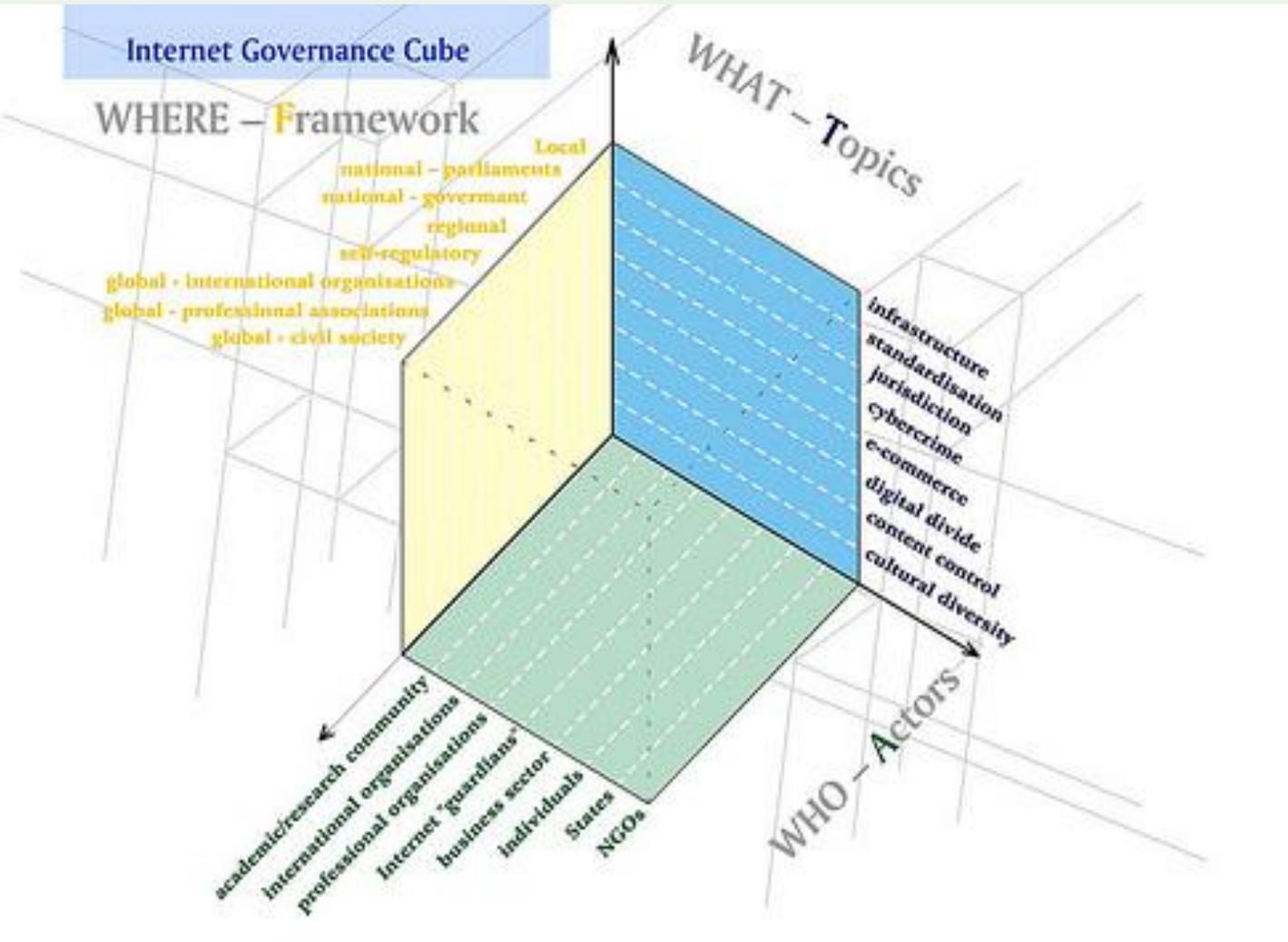


*The WHERE axis of the cube, relates to the frameworks under which Internet issues are addressed. For example, any given Internet issue can be addressed by the relevant industry through a self-regulatory approach, or it can be dealt with at a local, national, regional, or global level.*

The WHO axis of the cube, reflects the multistakeholder nature of Internet Governance and includes the following main actors: states, international organizations, civil society, the technical community and the private sector.



# Methodology for Analyzing Internet Issues



The intersections between the **What**, **Who** and **Where** creates the **HOW** - in other words how particular **issues** should be addressed, both in terms of creating understanding, for example by using cognitive techniques (e.g. analogies), and in terms of instruments (e.g. soft law, treaties, and declarations). For example, one specific intersection could help us to see HOW privacy issues (what) should be addressed by civil society (who) on the national level (where).

# The Challenge for End Users

The matter of how the Internet is governed is a critical one.

How we manage this precious, global resource directly impacts our economic and social opportunities far into the future.

As policy makers and technical experts work to connect the remaining two-thirds of the world's nations, the WAY in which the Internet is governed will likely have an impact on how we use it and how it evolves.



# Internet Users in Liberia

LR - 5,057,681 population (2020) - Country Area: 99,065 sq km

Capital City: Monrovia - population 1,264,264 (2015)

GNI (per capita): \$677 (2018) per World Bank.

**624,610 Internet users in Dec/2019, 12.3% of the population, per IWS.**

**537,000 Facebook subscribers in Dec/2019, 10.6% penetration rate.**



# The Opportunity

**Users:** Nearly three billion Internet users are both creators of information as well as consumers. Websites, blogs, videos, tweets, can all be broadcast and accessed in the largest mass medium imaginable. Audio and video calls and conferences can be set up and received without regard to distance or cost.

**Business:** The Internet allows for what we call “permissionless innovation”, where anyone can create and offer a service. This helped Jeff Bezos to start Amazon.com in his garage with just his savings, and expand rapidly into one of the largest global retailers. Likewise, Google and Facebook were started by students, alongside thousands of other entrepreneurs around the world who have pursued their dreams online.

**Governments:** Governments can use the Internet to deliver services and levy taxes and, in turn, can choose to enable citizens to elect, petition, and oversee their governments online.

 People’s ability to build Internet as a uniquely universal platform that uses the same standards in every country so everyone can interact with everyone else is one of the most spectacular, and most hopeful, success stories of our time.

# Conclusion

The term 'Internet governance' refers to the processes that impact how the Internet is managed.

The historic and future success of the Internet as an open and trusted platform for innovation and empowerment depends on a decentralized, collaborative, and multistakeholder approach to Internet governance.

We must continue to work to clear away complications and open doors for everyone to have their voices heard when it comes to how Internet policies are developed.



# Thank you.

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# Get involved.

- ❖ > Internet Society Internet governance issue page, <http://www.internetsociety.org/igissue>.
- ❖ > Internet Society Internet Governance Timeline, <http://www.internetsociety.org/igtimeline>.
- ❖ > ISOC Internet Governance Event Toolkit, <http://www.internetsociety.org/igeventtoolkit-bringing-discussions-people>.
- ❖ The History of Internet Governance, <http://www.internetsociety.org/history-of-internet-governance>.
- ❖ > Internet Development and Internet Governance in Africa, <http://www.internetsociety.org/igifa>.

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