Diplomacy and Multi-stakeholder approaches to internet governance at the international /regional levels Achievement and challenges

Diplomacy is becoming an activity concerned with the creation of networks embracing a range of state and non-state actors focusing on the management of issues demanding the application of resources in which no single participant possesses a monopoly.

Multistakeholder approach to Internet governance addresses the different interests represented by stakeholders in every layer of the scheme needed to make the internet operational.

INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND DIPLOMACY

Developments in modern international relations have shown that **traditional diplomacy** is not capable of sufficiently addressing complex new issues, for example, the environment, health protection, and trade.

Governance of the Information Society and the Internet is probably one of the most complex international issues facing diplomacy today.

Issues surrounding the Information Society require a multi-disciplinary approach (the various concerns include **technology, economy, impact on society, regulatory and legal issues, governance and more**); A multi-stakeholder approach (various actors are involved, including states, international organizations, civil society, private sector, and others) and a multi-level approach (decision-making must take place on different levels: local, national, regional and global). Diplo has developed a research methodology which takes all of these approaches into account.

The methodology is visually represented by the **"Internet Governance Cube".**

INTERNET GOVERNANCE involves the <u>administration, **support,** and promotion of technical knowledge, and substantive policy development to keep the Internet operational</u>.3 It can be been thought as a multi-layered administrative scheme, capable of administering every aspect necessary to preserve the Internet's functions.

This includes the physical layer (hardware and network infrastructure), and the logical layer (protocols and software), and the content layer (texts, files and other materials).

Internet Governance involves a wide variety of actors:

- Governments
  - Policy authority for Internet-related public policy issues (including international aspects

- The Business Sector (Private Sector)
  - The development of the Internet, both in the technical and economic fields

- Civil Society
  - Have an important role on Internet matters, especially at the community level ⬜ Technical Community and Academia

- International Internet Organizations
  - The development of Internet-related technical standards and relevant policies Examples include ICANN, ISOC, IETF, IAB… etc.

- Inter-Governmental Organizations
  - The coordination of Internet-related public policy issues - Examples include ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD… etc.
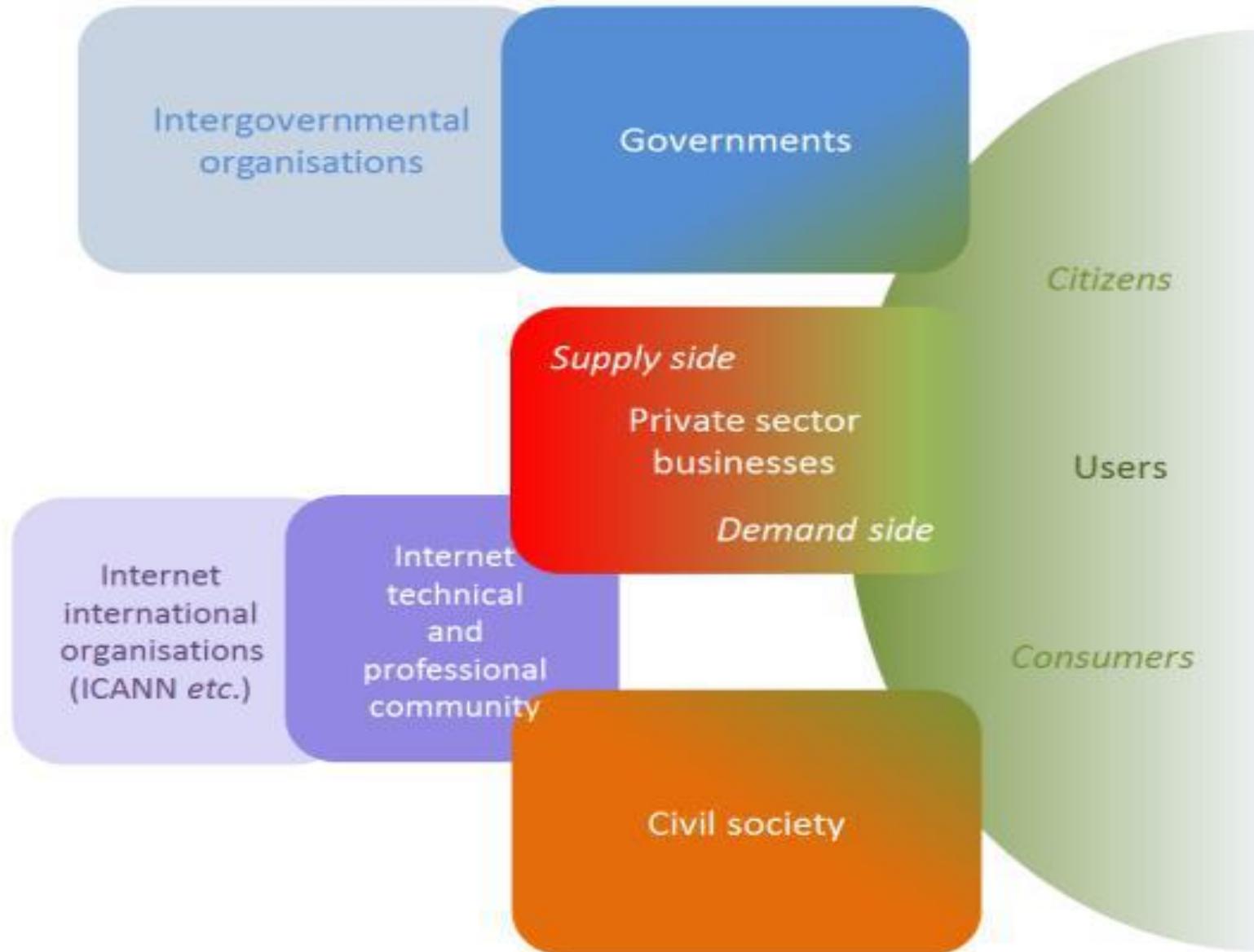
Mapping stakeholder communities: making things complex
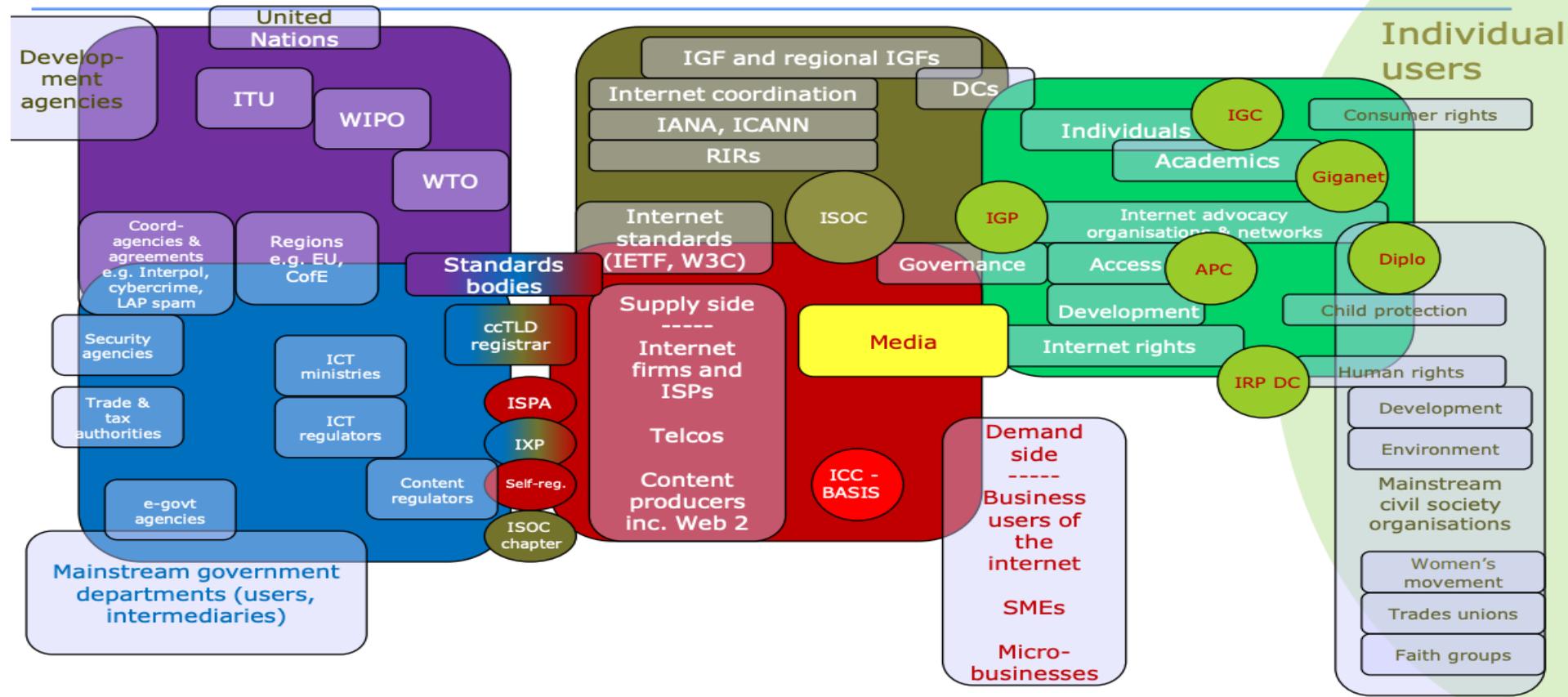
David Souter – Networking Networks in Internet Public Policy
APC Symposium, Ancona, July 2010

- Two models
  - Multi-stakeholder - open dialog between governments, private sector organizations, civil society, and the technical community to shape the growth of the Internet and the policies that support and protect it
  - Multilateralism - discussion or agreements between multiple governments.

- A multi-stakeholder process is democratically legitimate to the extent that it incorporates the viewpoints of all affected stakeholders into the development of policies in a balanced way
  - Multi-stakeholder is desired because,
    - Most (not all) Internet regulation and behavior has border-crossing impacts
    - This often (not always) requires a globally coordinated approach

Civil Society

- Has been the most vocal and active promoter of a multi-stakeholder approach to Internet governance

- Civil society is also the most diverse stakeholder group in Internet governance processes.

- Civil society groups focus on different Internet-related issues, including infrastructure development, economic models, freedom of expression and privacy - with many of them being strong advocates of the protection of human rights on the Internet,

- Many organizations employ experts and academics with solid knowledge and understanding of Internet specificities, and provide valuable contributions to the decision-shaping process.

- One of the main challenges for civil society organisations is the sustainability of their activities.

Technical community

- The technical community includes institutions and individuals who have been involved in the development of the Internet and/or are managing Internet technical resources.

- The technical community has also created the initial spirit of the Internet, based on the principles of sharing resources, open access, and opposition to government involvement in Internet regulation.

- From the beginning, its members have protected the initial concept of the Internet from intensive commercialisation and extensive government influence.

International Organizations

- The ITU was the central international organisation in the WSIS process. ITU involvement in the WSIS process was part of its ongoing attempt to define and consolidate its new position in the fast-changing global telecommunications arena, increasingly shaped by the Internet. '

- The ITU's role has been challenged in various ways. For example, it has been losing its traditional policy domain due to the WTO-led liberalisation of the global telecommunications market. The trend of moving telephone traffic from traditional telecommunications to the Internet (through VoIP) further reduced the ITU's regulatory footprint on the field of global telecommunications.

- Another issue concerned the anchoring of the multidisciplinary WSIS agenda within the family of UN specialised agencies. Non-technical aspects of communications and Internet technology, such as social, economic, and cultural features, are part of the mandate of other UN organisations.

- The most prominent player in this context is UNESCO, which addresses issues such as multilingualism, cultural diversity, knowledge society, and information sharing. WIPO is also active in Internet governance debates, on issues related to the protection of IPR in digital space.
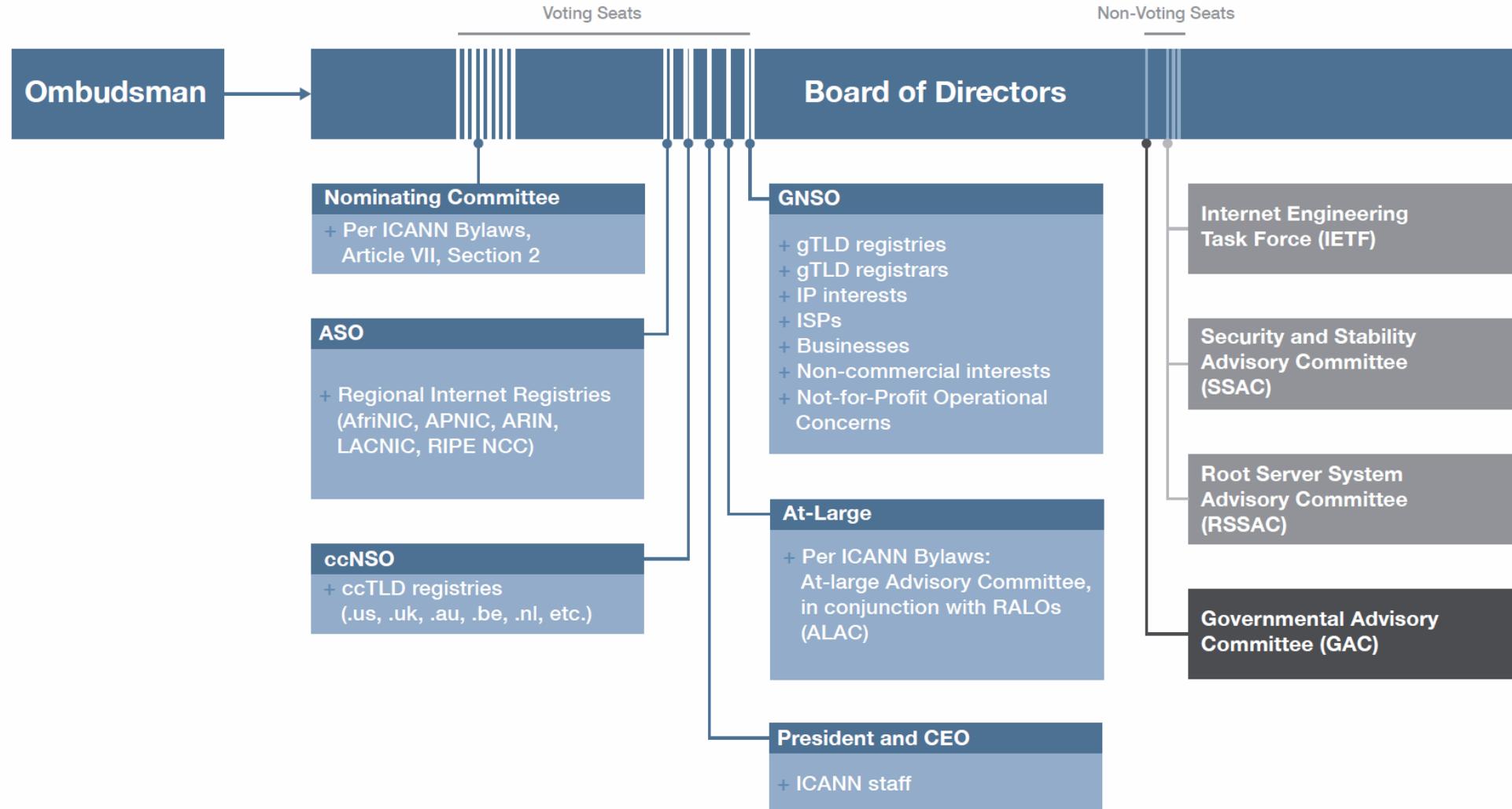
Internet Society (ISOC)

- Engages in a wide spectrum of Internet issues, including policy, governance, technology, and development

- Have chapters all around the world

- Provide online training as well as physical training

- Develop lots of content and materials

- More at http://www.internetsociety.org/

ICANN

- Coordinates the Critical Internet Resources (CIR); domain names and IP addresses
- Maintains one of the root-servers (L-root)
- Holds 3 annual meetings around the globe ☐ Develops Internet related policies in a bottom-up, consensus-driven, multi-stakeholder model
- ICANN is a multistakeholder institution involving a wide variety of actors in different capacities and roles. They fall into three main groups.
  - The technical and business communities, whose role within the ICANN system is to develop recommendations for the ICANN Board on policies covering areas related to the organisation's mission (e.g. gTLDs, security and stability of the DNS).
  - National governments, whose increasing interest in having a more important role in ICANN started with the WSIS process. In the framework of ICANN's policy development process, governments have an advisory role: they provide advice to the ICANN Board, particularly on matters that may affect public policy issues.
  - Internet users (the community at large), whose contribution to the policy development process is also of an advisory nature.
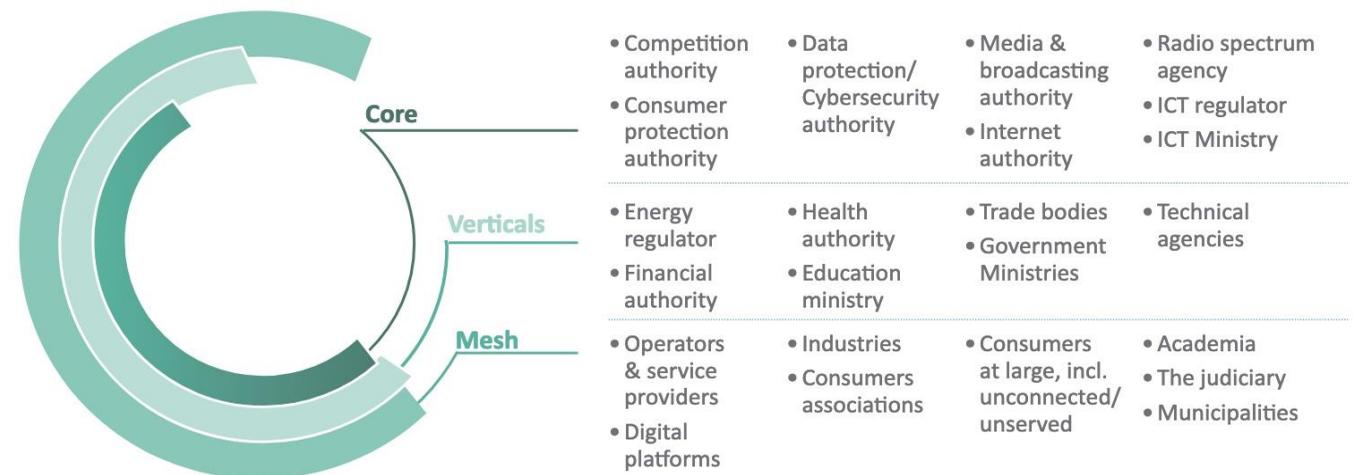
ICANN Structure

Voting Seats   Non-Voting Seats

Ombudsman

Board of Directors

Nominating Committee

+ Per ICANN Bylaws,
  Article VII, Section 2

ASO

+ Regional Internet Registries
  (AfriNIC, APNIC, ARIN,
  LACNIC, RIPE NCC)

ccNSO

+ ccTLD registries
  (.us, .uk, .au, .be, .nl, etc.)

GNSO

+ gTLD registries
+ gTLD registrars
+ IP interests
+ ISPs
+ Businesses
+ Non-commercial interests
+ Not-for-Profit Operational
  Concerns

At-Large

+ Per ICANN Bylaws:
  At-large Advisory Committee,
  in conjunction with RALOs
  (ALAC)

President and CEO

+ ICANN staff

**Internet Engineering
Task Force (IETF)**

**Security and Stability
Advisory Committee
(SSAC)**

**Root Server System
Advisory Committee
(RSSAC)**

**Governmental Advisory
Committee (GAC)**

Engage | Learn | Develop

One of the core issues of Internet governance is management of domain names and root servers. This critical task, performed by ICANN, facilitates the overall functionality the Internet.

While ICANN governs one important aspect of the Internet infrastructure it is only one segment of the overall Internet Governance.
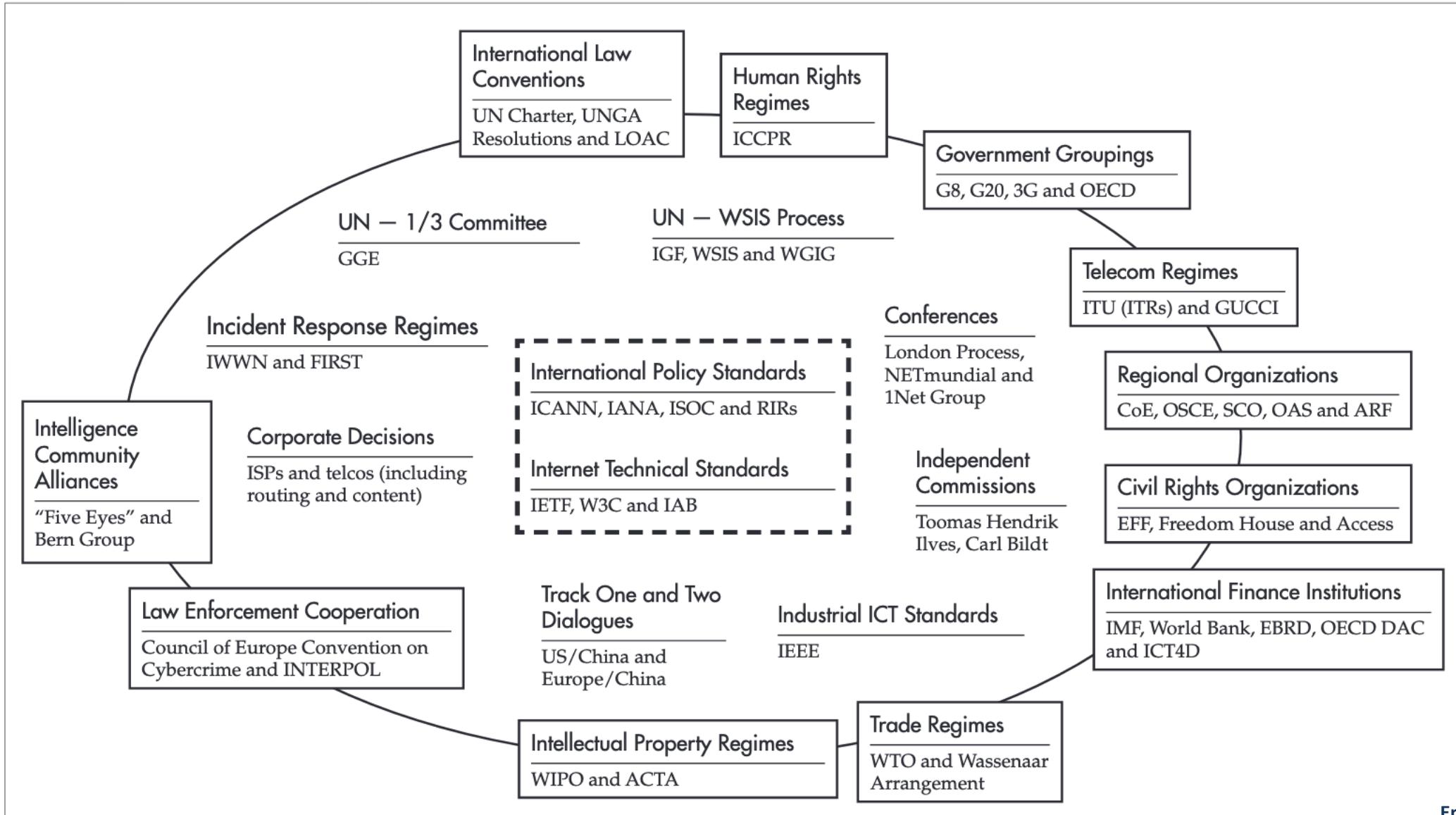
ICANN has no role in the hottest fields of Internet governance such as content control, cyber-crime, etc.

- Traditionally telecom regulatory bodies and ICT related ministries participate in Internet Governance issues. With the growing impact of the Internet on the political, social, and economic fabric of modern society, other government departments have started being involved in Internet governance, including foreign affairs, culture, media, and justice.

- Achieving policy coherence in the field of Internet governance requires a flexible form of policy coordination, including horizontal communication between different ministries, the business sector, and other actors.

Core
- Competition authority
- Consumer protection authority

- Data protection/ Cybersecurity authority

- Media & broadcasting authority
- Internet authority

- Radio spectrum agency
- ICT regulator
- ICT Ministry

Verticals
- Energy regulator
- Financial authority

- Health authority
- Education ministry

- Trade bodies
- Government Ministries

- Technical agencies

Mesh
- Operators & service providers
- Digital platforms

- Industries
- Consumers associations

- Consumers at large, incl. unconnected/ unserved

- Academia
- The judiciary
- Municipalities

Source: ITU

- Are the right stakeholders participating?
- How is their participation balanced?
- How are the body and its stakeholders accountable to each other for their roles in the process?
- Is the body an empowered space?

This *global network* of computer networks, largely based nowadays on platforms of wireless communication, provides ubiquitous capacity of multimodal, interactive communication in chosen time, transcending space.

The Internet is not really a new technology: its ancestor, the Arpanet, was first deployed in 1969 (Abbate 1999).

In *1996 the first survey* of Internet users counted *about 40 million*; in 2013 they are over 2.5 billion, with China accounting for the largest number of Internet users. Furthermore, for some time the spread of the Internet was limited by the difficulty to lay out land-based telecommunications infrastructure in the emerging countries.
Source:

This has changed with the explosion of wireless communication in the early twenty-first century.

Indeed, in 1991, there were about 16 million subscribers of wireless devices in the world, in 2013 they are close to 7 billion (in a planet of 7.7 billion human beings). *Source: www.bbvaopenmind.com*

Digital exclusion involves the unequal access and capacity to use information and communication technologies (ICTs) that are seen as essential to fully participate in society (Schejter et al 2015).

Since the 1970s, the use of ICTs has spread unevenly and many still remain digitally excluded (Selwyn 2004, Dutton et al. 2014).

Stories and analysis of national experiences

Liberia's government to allow Libtelco to enter the mobile market

After more than a decade of civil war which destroyed much of its infrastructure, Liberia became a prime example of an almost entirely wireless telecommunications market. There are two mobile operators – MTN Liberia, majority owned by MTN Group, and Orange Liberia, the local unit of Orange Group. Both have steadily invested in network infrastructure while MTN Liberia has been active in promoting its m-money services in a country where most people are un-banked. Competition between these operators has led to a reduction in pricing for voice and data services, and since this impacted on tax revenue the regulator was prompted in mid-2019 to impose a tariff floor.

Growth in **_Internet adoption_** is a key pillar of economic development and sustainable growth. A recent World Bank study found that a 10% change in broadband adoption is associated with a 1.38% increase in GDP per capita growth in developing countries (Qiang and Rossotto 45). Furthermore, access to the Internet enables improved human development outcomes through increased efficiency in the public and non-governmental sectors.

In the absence of progressive policies anda competitive telecommunications market environment, however, regulatory and commercial landscapes canimpede this development opportunity. *Source : World Bank*

On April 17th , 2012- Liberians Prepare for Fast Speed and Affordable Internet Connectivity -The installation of fiber-optic cables to bring high-speed, affordable internet access to Liberia continues, and is expected to be available later this year. "This installation work is expected to be completed on April 18, 2012 and fully tested and ready to go live by June 15, 2012," Brewer said. "We have set a tentative date of November 5, 2012 to commission and allow the system to go live because we have to wait for the other 19 stations along the Atlantic Coast to be ready before we all go live together."

The landing of the Africa Coast to Europe (ACE) submarine fiber-optic cable of the West Africa Regional Communications Infrastructure Program (WARCIP) in Monrovia in early November 2011 has already had an impact on ordinary Liberians. This World Bank supported project is to promote greater regional economic and infrastructural integration. the Bank is providing US$25.6m International Development Association (IDA) financing.

Liberia has been repeatedly cut off from the internet by hackers targeting its only link to the global network.

Recurrent attacks up to 3 November flooded the cable link with data, making net access intermittent.

Researchers said the attacks showed hackers trying different ways to use massive networks of hijacked machines to overwhelm high-value targets. Experts said Liberia was attacked by the same group that caused web-wide disruption on 21 October.

Those attacks were among the biggest ever seen and made it hard to reach big web firms such as Twitter, Spotify and Reddit.

Lonestar Cell MTN partners with Sendwave for remittances from US -Lonestar Cell MTN has partnered with Sendwave to make it possible to receive remittances from the US straight to their Mobile Money accounts. MoMo customers can use the funds they receive to pay bills, buy goods and pay for services they need by dialing star 156 hash. Lonestar says it has over 8,000 Lonestar Cell MTN cashpoints in Liberia to make this as easy as possible for them.

On 12 Auguts 2020 , Liberian parliament passes bill to allow Libtelco expansion -Liberia's House of Representatives has passed a bill expanding the functions of the Liberia Telecommunications Corporation (Libtelco), The Observer reported. The bill amends the Telecommunications Act of 2007 to allow Libtelco to offer more services.

Ideas appropriate for Liberia's state of development include:

●Establishing open access principles for connections to submarine cables and domestic backhaul networks.

●Creating an effective Internet Exchange Point and caching popular content and applications.

●Allowing the open use of available WiFi spectrum.

●Increase the implementation of internet projects to foster the growth of user and developer communities.

●Increasing public sector information online and making it easily accessible

Thank you

Peterking Quaye, National IGF ,Convener for Liberia
Email: peterkingq@gmail.com
info@waictanet | liberiaigf@gmail.com

Engage|Learn| Develop