

ITU Council Working Group on International Internet-Related Public Policy Issues

Open Consultation: Public Policy Considerations for OTTs

August 18, 2017

Summary

Abranet would like to express its appreciation for ITU's initiative in creating the opportunity for broad and open participation in the discussions and activities it is developing.

We believe that the experience is new for the institution and for the participants. For future opportunities we believe that greater disclosure and longer deadlines can increase participation. This participation model is widely used in Internet forums and has interactivity and informality as elements that facilitate greater participation.

ITU activities have always been very relevant to the development of the telecommunication sector and for historical reasons limited to Member States.

The broadening of the participation of society in the themes historically treated by the ITU could offer an innovative and very useful vision of those who make use of the telecommunications around the world and could be an important contribution for the continuation of the evolution of the telecommunications sector.

Initial remarks

The Internet Brazilian Association (Abranet) appreciates the opportunity to participate in an open consultation of the ITU environment by the open consultation convened by the ITU Council Working Group on International Internet-related Public Policy Issues (CWG-Internet) on the topic of "Public Policy considerations for OTTs."

Abranet is a national association composed of more than 500 national and multinational companies from every segment of the national Internet, with operations in different regions of the Brazil. In particular, Abranet members include a broad cross-section of the leading global companies in the information and communications technology (ICT) sectors, Internet companies (ISPs), telecom operators.

The growing importance of Internet for the whole society is what motivates and stimulates the Association in its activities, among which we must highlight:

Promotion of society's awareness about the importance of freedom of expression and free international flow of information over the Internet as a basis for the economic and social development of the people and entities.

Participate actively in the articulation of the various segments of society, aiming to stimulate innovation, freedom of expression, free and unlimited information flow in both the national and international context for the continuous development of the Internet.

Participate actively in the discussions about public policies, and legal framework regarding the use of the Internet, presenting to the governmental authorities and other competent entities studies, suggestions and criticisms, taking as a corner stone the fundamental values and principles of human rights established by the United Nations.

We take this opportunity to offer a *multi-sectoral perspective from our associates* on issues related to this public consultation using as reference a rich material, studies, researches and texts produced by the Internet Society.

The Internet can be seen at once as a world-wide broadcasting capability, a mechanism for information dissemination, and a medium for collaboration and interaction between individuals without regard for geographic location. The Internet has given us a view of humanity that no generation has experienced before. All of it was done without a central authority. Since its birth, the Internet managed in an open, collaborative and inclusive manner known as the "[multi-stakeholder governance model](#)".

The [Internet Governance Forum](#) is a mechanism within the UN system to bring together Internet stakeholders from around the world and inspires people to work effectively in support of people-centered Internet development. The IGF is a model for multi stakeholder dialogue that is inclusive of governments but not centrally managed by governments. National and Regional Internet Governance meetings and the global IGF all offer ways to get involved in the dialogue and make a difference for the global Internet.

Telecommunication services and networks developed in the era of monopolies in providing this type of service and, in many countries, the state was the national operator. In this context, it was natural that the organization of the radio spectrum in a global context, the coordination of satellite orbits and rules for international interconnections of telecommunications networks should be handled by the United Nations and based on the positions of the nations involved, this is the natural role of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) created in 1865 originally to deal with telegraphy.

The general approach in the telecommunications sector was to define a telecommunication service to define the network to be used. The initial focus of the development of telecommunication services and networks was a fixed service that during over a decade was the most widely disseminated, the telephone service.

This concept was revised around the 1980s and a new approach was developed to define a network structure capable of supporting a wide range of telecommunications services. This phase became known as the Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) phase, subject to ITU Recommendations.

Abranet understands that the history and work that consolidates the International Telecommunications Union mission is related to the development of international technical telecommunications standards "*..ITU standards (called Recommendations) are fundamental to the operation of today's ICT networks. Without ITU standards you couldn't make a telephone call or surf the Internet..*", to the coordination of radio communications services and management of the radio frequency spectrum and satellite orbits "*ITU ...coordinates this vast and growing range of radiocommunication services, as well as the international management of the radio-frequency spectrum and satellite*

orbits. An increasing number of players need to make use of these limited resources, and participating in ITU-R conferences and study group activities – where important work is done on mobile broadband communications and broadcasting technologies such as Ultra HDTV and 3D TV – is becoming an ever-higher priority for both governments and industry players.”.

On the other hand, very active and solid organizations, have already a number of years dedicated to the Internet, with open and wide participation within the Multi-stakeholder concept that are responsible for what the Internet is today for billions of people.

The development of the information and communication technology industry is based on voluntary, industry-driven standards as they develop new applications that meet the needs of consumers.

The development of the Internet has always been open and inclusive, for example, in globally recognized forums such as the IETF and the IEEE. Voluntary cooperation within and among members of the multi-stakeholder environment ensures the adoption of standards, supports innovation and avoids fragmentation of the global network. Recalling that governments have the freedom to participate in processes developed in multilateral environments.

As the Internet evolved, the flexibility of the platforms allows the creation of a series of new global applications that stimulate economic growth, create jobs, stimulate the development of SMEs and offer benefits to consumers and society in general.

We therefore do not support initiatives to expand the ITU's mission and jurisdiction or to address Internet-related issues in a restricted environment such as ITU's work.

In addition, we believe that this would be an unnecessary duplication of effort as the well-recognized forums for discussions on Internet issues are already established, including aspects such as, security, privacy and on-line applications, open to global participation.

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