Contribution of the Postal Sector to Internet Governance
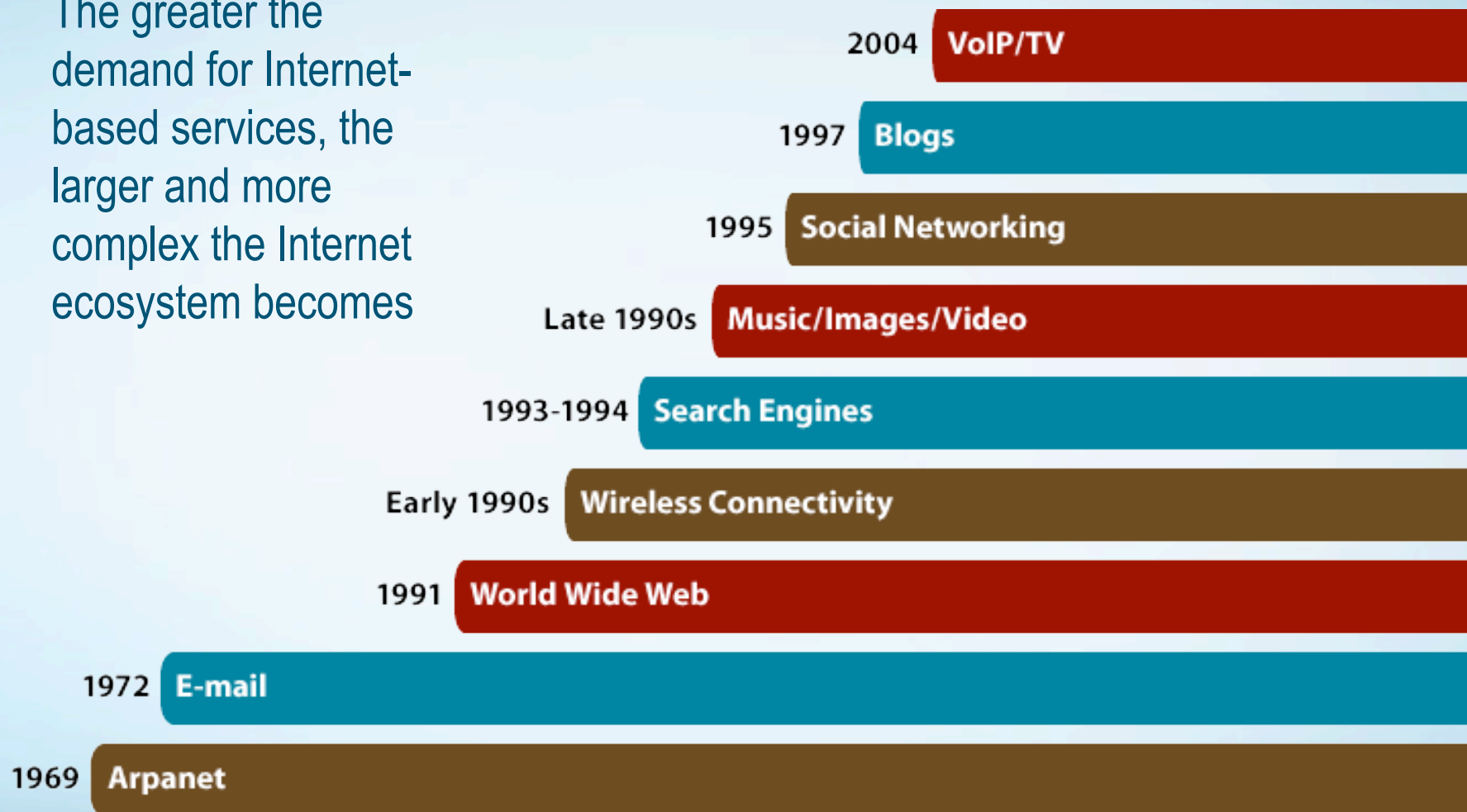
Theresa Swinehart
Vice President
Global and Strategic Partnerships

8 June 2007

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The Postal Sector and the Information Society
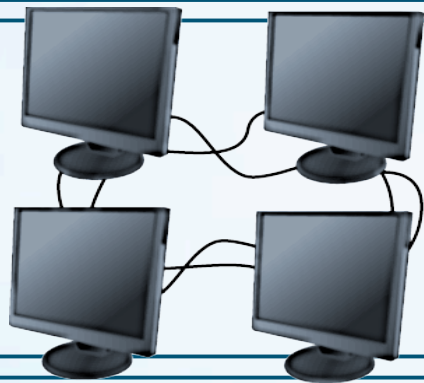Bern, Switzerland

Increased demand for Internet services

The greater the demand for Internet-based services, the larger and more complex the Internet ecosystem becomes

|	
2004	VoIP/TV
1997	Blogs
1995	Social Networking
Late 1990s	Music/Images/Video
1993-1994	Search Engines
Early 1990s	Wireless Connectivity
1991	World Wide Web
1972	E-mail
1969	Arpanet

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Internet's three operating layers

Content and applications standards (HTML, XML, Java) – Promotes creativity and innovation in applications leading to email, World Wide Web, ebanking, wiki, Skype, and much more

2004	**VoIP/TV**
1997	**Blogs**
Late 1990s	**Music/Images/Video**
1993-1994	**Search Engines**
1991	**World Wide Web**

Internet protocols and standards (TCP/IP, DNS, SSL) – TCP/IP, controls traffic flow by dividing email and web data into packages before they are transmitted on the Internet
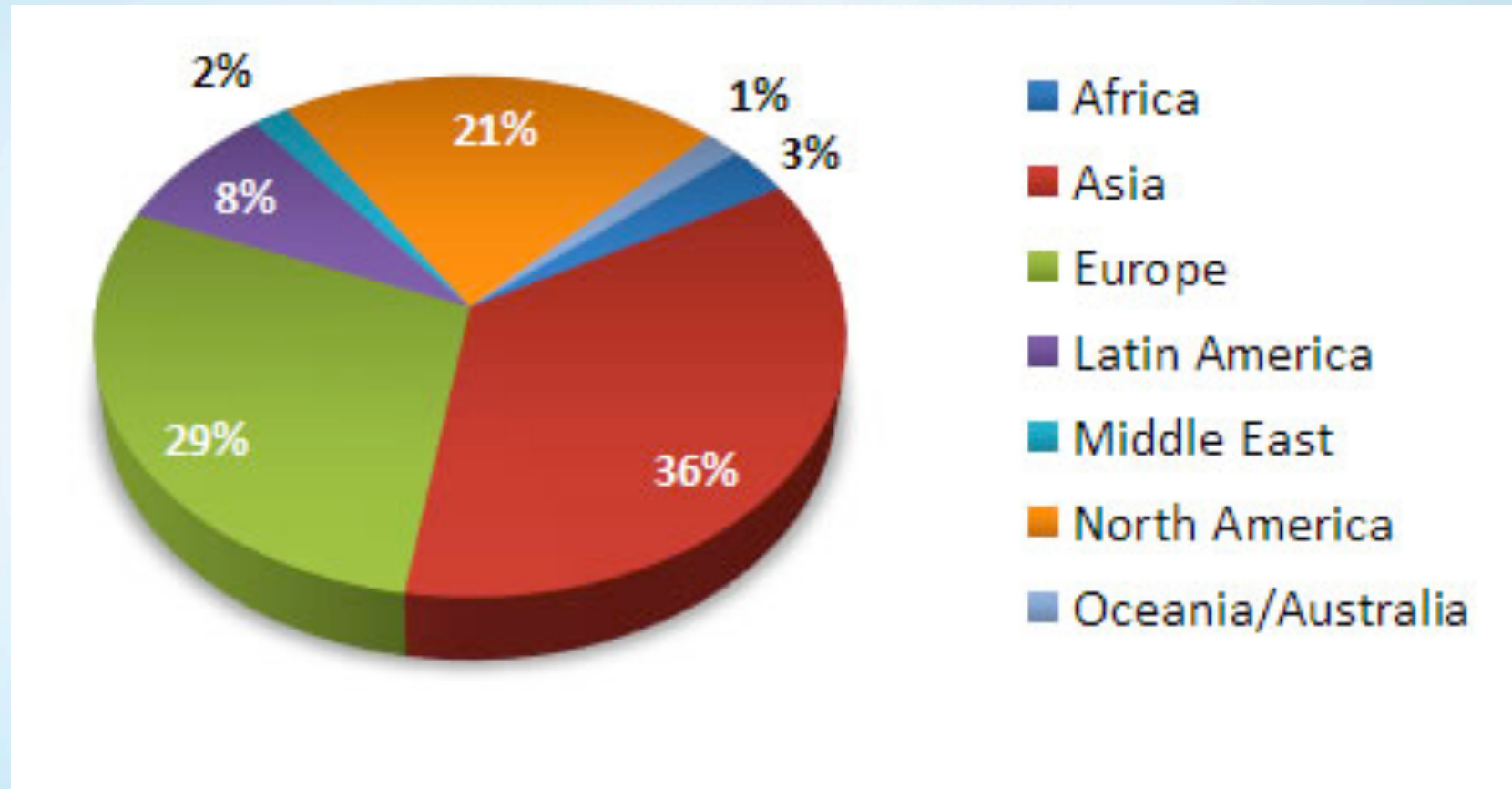
Telecommunications infrastructure – Physical network made up of underwater cables, telephone lines, fiber optics, satellites, microwaves, wi-fi, and so on Facilitates transfer of electronic data over the Internet
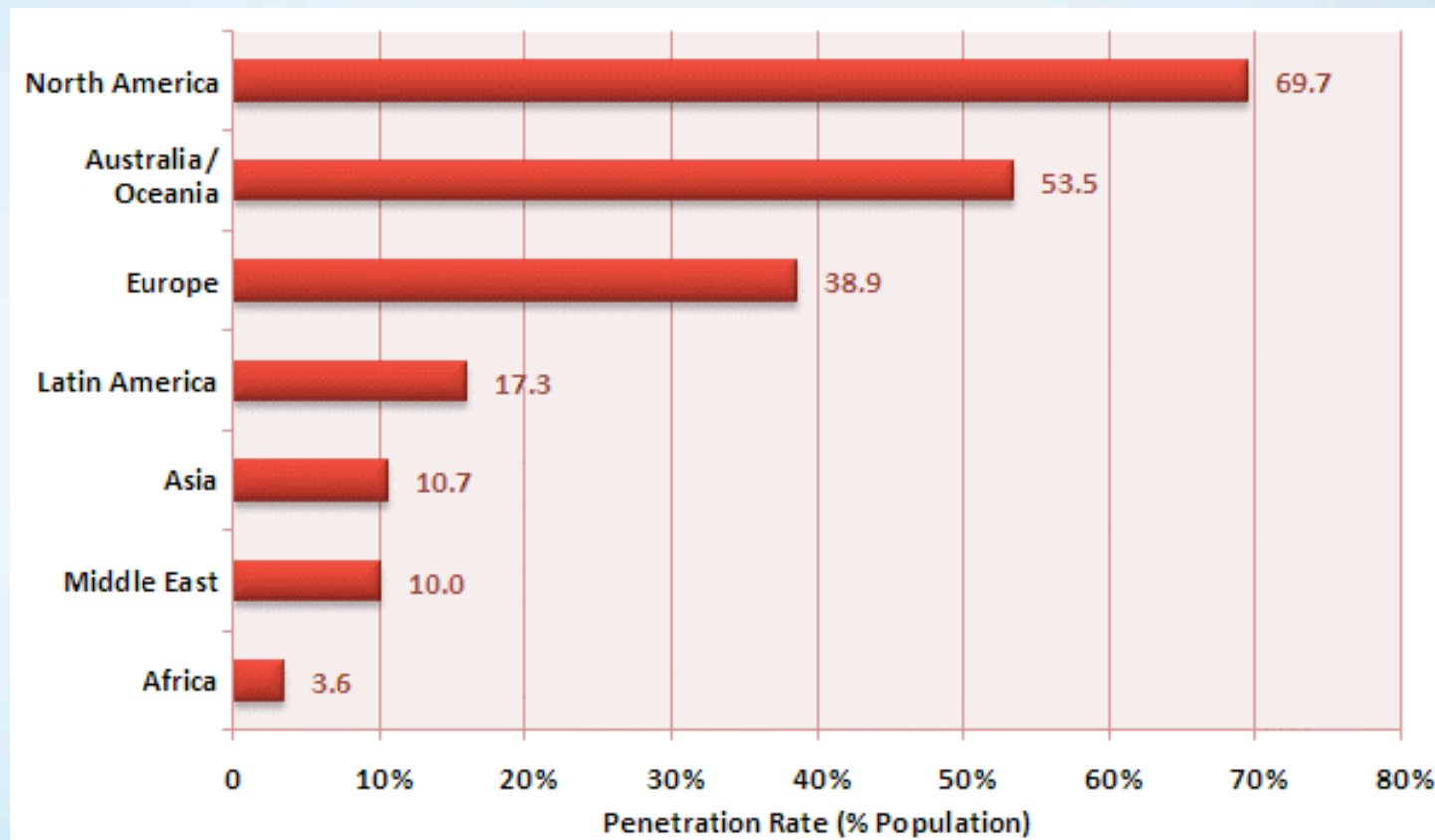
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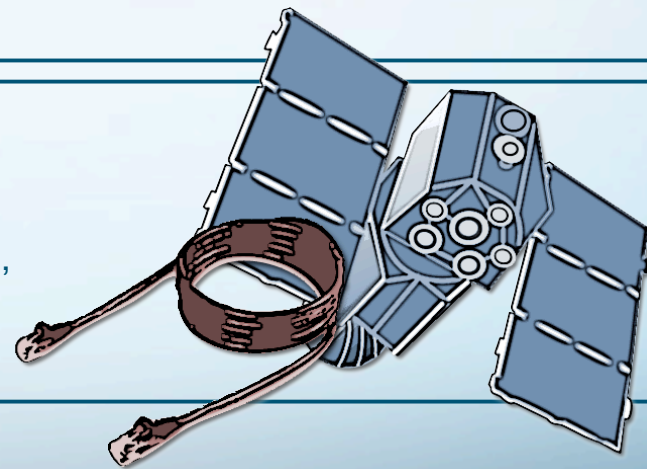
Changing postal environment

- Posts evolving in response to demands of technology-driven information society
- Posts hosting new ways to communicate and do business
  - E-mail (communications)
  - E-commerce (shopping, bill paying)
  - Improved service quality – package tracking, money transfers, digital postmarks
  - Other innovations in products and services coming on line
  - Responding or anticipating consumer and user demands and interests

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World Internet users

Pie chart legend:
- Africa — 3%
- Asia — 36%
- Europe — 29%
- Latin America — 8%
- Middle East — 1%
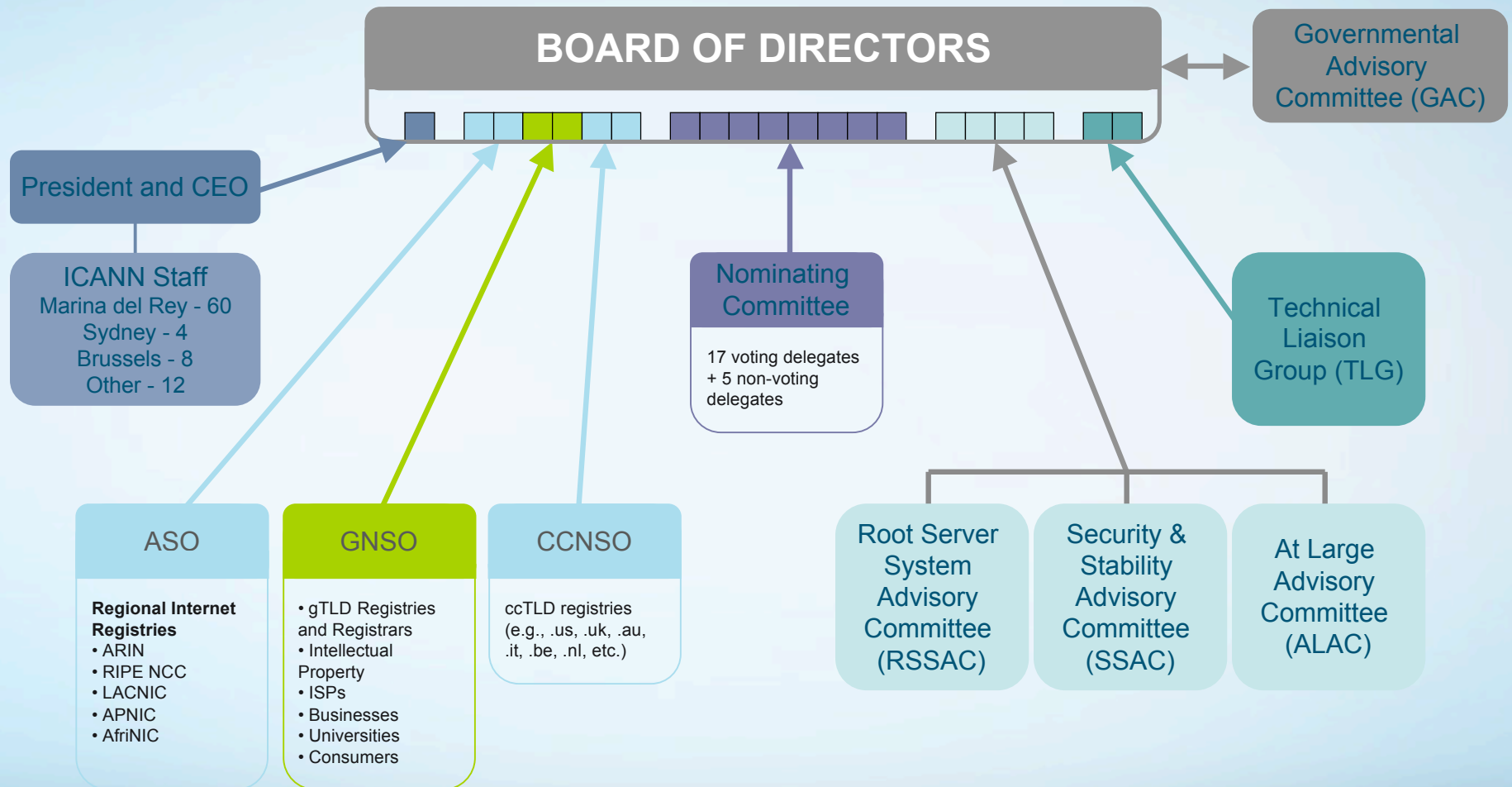- North America — 21%
- Oceania/Australia — 2%

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Internet penetration by region

© 2007, www.internetworldstats.com

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ICANN mission statement

- To coordinate, overall, the global Internet's system of unique identifiers, and to ensure stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems. In particular, ICANN coordinates:

    1. Allocation and assignment of the three sets of unique identifiers for the Internet:
        - Domain names (forming a system called the DNS)
        - Internet protocol (IP) addresses and autonomous system (AS) numbers
        - Protocol port and parameter numbers

    2. Operation and evolution of the DNS root name server system

    3. Policy development reasonably and appropriately related to these technical functions

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ICANN's community

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC)

President and CEO

ICANN Staff
Marina del Rey - 60
Sydney - 4
Brussels - 8
Other - 12

Nominating Committee

17 voting delegates
+ 5 non-voting delegates

Technical Liaison Group (TLG)

ASO

Regional Internet Registries
• ARIN
• RIPE NCC
• LACNIC
• APNIC
• AfriNIC

GNSO

• gTLD Registries and Registrars
• Intellectual Property
• ISPs
• Businesses
• Universities
• Consumers

CCNSO

ccTLD registries (e.g., .us, .uk, .au, .it, .be, .nl, etc.)

Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

Security & Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

At Large Advisory Committee (ALAC)

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Principles of operation

1. Contribute to stability and security of the unique identifiers system and root management

2. Promote competition and choice for registrants and other users

3. Forum for multi-stakeholder bottom-up development of related policy

4. Ensure the opportunity for participation by all interested parties on a global basis

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Emerging and evolving issues

- Security and stability of the Internet overall
- Initial and expanded deployment of IDNs
- Migration from IPv4 to IPv6
  - Individual ISPs may not easily handle increased network load
  - Routing level loads also of concern
- Introduction of new TLDs
- Whois database service
- Registrar data escrow services
- Registry failover plan
- Accountability frameworks with ccTLD managers
- Review of ICANN accountability and transparency

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Internet community – a real phenomenon with world changing values

- Bottom-up technical policy-making and decision-making
- Participation open to all who wish to do so
- Legitimacy determined by open participation and the value of the contribution to the joint effort
- Consensus-based decision making
- Cooperation, coordination and consultation among participants and groups pushing initiatives forward
- Yet, **very** spirited and blunt public debate
- Private agreement or contract approach to creating and managing linkages among and to the network
- Global efficiency in the allocation of resources such as Internet Protocol addresses

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Cannot be definitive about the Internet in ten years, but …

- Usage limited by access to electricity – 3 billion
- Many, perhaps most, will access by mobile devices
- Significant increase in broadband access (over 100 mb/sec)
- Machine-to-machine Internet overtaking a person-to-person Internet
- Billions of Internet-enabled appliances at home, work, in the car, in the pocket/purse
- Internet used by third parties to monitor all sorts of activities and utilities – washing machines, to cars, to electricity meters
- Geo-location and geo-indexed systems much more common and emergency services will be more precisely dispatched

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Cannot be definitive about the Internet in ten years, but …

- Significant improvement in spoken interaction with Internet-based systems
- A wide range of delivery methods for intellectual property (movies, sound tracks, books, etc). VoIP will be prevalent and SIP may be the principal protocol means by which calls are set up. Voice communication will be essentially free except perhaps for calls that terminate on traditional PSTN devices including mobiles
- Almost no industry will be offline since most will rely on the Net for customer interaction, customer discovery, sales, service, advertising, etc.
- Group interaction, collaborative support tools (including distributed games) will be very common
- Internationalised Domain Names and much more multilingual Internet content

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WSIS and Internet governance

- Internet governance involves a wide wide range of topics and issues

- Depth of debate in WSIS reflects a conflict of regimes

- Reflects importance of understanding the Internet, and ensuring that politics do not drive poor decisions

- At risk is 35 years of values and a regime that has created the Internet of today

- True aspirations of WSIS as envisioned by the Secretary General have not been explored

- All levels involved in issues surrounding the Internet

- And all stakeholders need to be involved

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Moving forward

- Globalization of Internet governance must continue to build on existing and evolving international constituencies
- One billion-plus users require focus on stability, integrity and security of Internet operations
  - New players will emerge as key contributors to the Internet space
  - Geographic and technological
  - Existing Internet mechanisms and operations must remain independent of day-to-day politics and political influence
- Internet's coordination of unique identifiers must enable the continued innovation at the edge, the stability and integrity of a single interoperable Internet on which business, communication and development rely
- All organizations have role

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Thank You

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