

**Convergence Session – Rapporteur Remarks**  
**Internet technical community Forum, 16<sup>th</sup> June, Seoul**

I'd like to start by calling out a few observations from each of the presenters' remarks.

**Rosemary Sinclair** noted the importance of maximizing end-user options, supporting creativity and innovation at the edges. Also, it is critical to establish universal, unfettered broadband access as the basis for the products that are the Internet economy.

**Nii Quaynor** advocated bottom up policy development – empowering the development of locally-suited policies integrated in the whole. Convergence on single Internetworking infrastructure allows more scalable deployment and ongoing support within Africa than the alternative would.

**Alain Durand:** observed that the Internet is facing a major challenge – evolving from IPv4 to include more IPv6. At the same time, the importance of bottom-up public consideration is not reduced – as it has the ability to temper ill-considered last-minute changes in IP governance would throw a highly evolved system into imbalance.

**Philip Smith:** noted that the rapid growth of the Internet continues – back to the rates of the late 1990's. Nevertheless, network capabilities and infrastructure are expanding to address the needs: industry (including the Internet operations community) is adaptable and flexible, like the Internet itself

Together, these experts' presentations support the recommendation of the Internet technical community, in its memorandum to the OECD ministers:

**To create maximum benefit from convergence by:**

- Recognizing the paradox that convergence results not from centralizing technology and business models, but from ensuring a resilient and neutral network infrastructure, which enables the decentralization of creativity and innovation to the edges of the network. This requires the ongoing protection of users' rights to innovate, create and disseminate technologies, applications and content across the network without undue restriction by governments or network operators.
- Drawing on the insight and expertise of all stakeholders, especially those from the Internet technical community, to conceive and implement Internet-friendly policy frameworks that will encourage the deployment of technology, protection of critical Internet infrastructure and enable users to take advantage of fully deployed and converged networks that are integrated into a global economy.
- Continuing to support technologies and legislation that encourage the open and collaborative Internet model.
- Ensuring that neither government regulation nor the economic power of monopolies delays or prevents the growth of the Internet by limiting the ability to provide new, better, cheaper or more innovative Internet-related services. Forward-looking policies must promote competition in infrastructure development, Internet access, Internet services, Internet-related software and e-commerce applications.