

Good morning, and welcome.

As Bill said, the Internet technical community is very pleased to host this Forum as part of the program for the OECD Ministerial meeting on the Future of the Internet Economy.

The Internet is successful in large part due to its unique model—shared global ownership, collaborative engagement models, development based on open standards (and those standards being openly developed), and freely accessible processes for technology and policy development. This "Internet Model" relies on collaboration and on processes that are local, bottom-up and accessible to individuals around the world, whether they be from academia, research, governments, business or civil society.

The openness and transparency of the Internet's technical development and its associated policy development processes, are intrinsic to the success of the Internet itself, and to maintaining this single, interoperable system of networks. This openness drives much of the value of the Internet. The Internet Model has always involved multiple stakeholders; and this is essential as the Internet is a platform on which individuals, organizations, and consumers themselves build out services that are globally accessible.

Today's Forum was organized following this same model. It was created by an informal group of 17 organizations, coordinated on this occasion by the Internet Society (ISOC). Those 17 organizations are each active in the Internet's development, and we all collaborate together to create the standards, provide operational oversight and to build or nurture an environment that will facilitate the Internet's development.

Those who collaborated to bring you this forum and the resulting Memorandum, come from a wide range of entities from around the world. While each has its own mission and its own role to play, they are motivated by a common vision of an open, accessible and global Internet. One that brings shared economic and social benefits to all the world's citizens, now and in the future.

These organizations largely grew up organically, and work together in a collaborative manner, respecting each other's roles and expertise. They are not hierarchically organized, and all understand and respect the interdependencies and collaborative environment that has supported the Internet's phenomenal growth and capacity for innovation.

When the OECD approached ISOC to facilitate the technical community's participation as a stakeholder in this Ministerial, we were honored, and we were equally honored to work with all the organizations that contributed to this important public policy discussion.

That response is characteristic of the individuals who make up the Internet community and its organizations, and not at all surprising. While this model may seem unconventional to some, it clearly works and works well. And, it is a model that will be more and more common, facilitated as it is by the Internet itself. A virtuous circle if you will.

In welcoming you this morning, I want to emphasize that we all believe in the difference an event like this can make. And I want to express the appreciation of all of us participating here today to the OECD and its members, for the opportunity to participate in the preparatory process, as well as this Ministerial meeting.

We all believe fully in the Internet multi-stakeholder model and the invitation to participate in this Ministerial shows the OECD's commitment to involving non-governmental experts and stakeholders in its activities. We hope that this Ministerial and the clear success of the collaborative Internet model will provide inspiration for new forms of cooperation in the future. So, we welcome governments to join us, and together with businesses and civil society to work together to extend the benefits of the Internet to all communities, in all parts of the world.

We hope that you will find today's Forum, and the Internet technical community Memorandum to Ministers informative and useful.

Thank you.