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CONTRIBUTION

Source:	RIPE NCC
Title:	Response to "New IP, Shaping Future Network" proposal
Purpose:	Discussion
Contact:	Marco Hogewoning E-mail: marcoh@ripe.net RIPE NCC The Netherlands

Keywords:	New IP, Network 2030
Abstract:	Having reviewed the "New IP, Shaping Future Network" proposal, the RIPE NCC recommends against making any changes to ITU-T structures and recommends against pursuing the proposed work.

During this group's last meeting in September 2019, a number of proponents introduced a proposal titled "New IP, Shaping Future Network", proposing what was described as an opportunity for a "strategic transformation of ITU-T". The RIPE NCC appreciates the opportunity to respond to the proposal by means of this contribution.

Since first being described in 1974, Internet protocol architecture has totally transformed our societies and economies, as the design philosophy of an open and flexible Internet that has allowed for an unprecedented number of life-changing innovations.

It is true that, boosted by privatisation and increased competition, these technological breakthroughs have also dramatically changed the telecommunications/ICT landscape. While it was once common to carry TCP/IP data streams across traditional PSTN infrastructure, those original telephone services have now also evolved and are carried across using the Internet protocol.

Throughout its lifetime, the Internet protocol has also adapted to accommodate changing requirements and new technological insights. The most noticeable and impactful change, the redesign towards IPv6, with its 128 bits address space to overcome scalability issues and support growth beyond expectations.

We believe it is exactly that open and adaptable nature, not only of the technical architecture but also the surrounding governance models, that is fundamental to the Internet's unprecedented success. Growing alongside its technical infrastructure, the Internet's governance model has also evolved to include new stakeholders and accommodate innovations, unforeseen use cases and unimagined growth as the Internet became the fundamental technology powering our societies and economies.

The open, inclusive, multistakeholder approach throughout its development – both in the technical forums that created its standards, as well as in the governance of its resources – has made the Internet what it is today.

While we recognise the need for both the technical standards as well as these governance models to continue evolving, we strongly believe such evolution should take place from within the organisations and structures that invented the Internet and have supported its evolution throughout its history. We also strongly believe that any rationale for change must be carefully evaluated by all stakeholders in an open and transparent process in order to achieve consensus.

The RIPE NCC is deeply concerned by what has been proposed here. We are especially concerned by the notion that this proposal represents an opportunity to steer away from the traditional "bottom-up" decision-making model.

We also believe the technical rationale presented is flawed and find the suggested alternative designs to be both unrealistic and unproven. Furthermore, if any of the proposed solutions could be developed to a mature and production-ready standard, market adoption is very uncertain and will take decades to accomplish.

The RIPE NCC is of the opinion that the proposal is premature and that following through with any of the suggested work would create significant overlap with the ongoing work of other SDOs – in particular, that of the Internet Engineering Task Force.

Although some of the issues mentioned may warrant further study, we insist that any work on the evolution of the IP protocol layers and the associated technical standards be left to the Internet Engineering Task Force and be conducted under its governance.

The RIPE NCC recommends that TSAG, and the ITU Telecommunication Standardization Sector in general, not make any of the suggested changes to its structure or pursue any work items related to this proposal that would evolve the Internet protocol stack under the ITU's remit.

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