The Internet Society aspires to be the foremost global voice and leader for the Internet of today and the future, ensuring that a vibrant, open, and sustainable Internet is available to everyone, including the billions of users yet to come online.

As a unique platform for innovation, creativity, and economic opportunity, the Internet unequivocally has made the world a better place. In 2014, we found an Internet landscape changing at an accelerating pace, with new opportunities and challenges emerging more rapidly than at almost any other time in our history.

World events have highlighted the role of the Internet as a tool for expressing fundamental human rights and freedoms, and as a platform for citizens to voice their opinions and strengthen democratic participation. Yet we have also witnessed increased attempts by governments to limit or disrupt citizens’ access to the Internet and to conduct surveillance activities that significantly erode users’ expectations of online privacy. Internet penetration continues to increase across the globe, however, many developing economies still face significant challenges in building access infrastructure, growing local online industries, and creating policy and regulatory environments that allow their societies to realize the full economic and social benefits of the Internet.

While we celebrate the Internet’s phenomenal successes, we also see that the future of its foundational tenets, including distributed and de-centralized management and development, open and voluntary technical standards, global network interoperability, and the participatory multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance remain far from assured. In this time of great change, the Internet Society stands firm in its commitment to lead from a core set of values and principles and to ensure that the fundamentals of an open, global Internet are nurtured and sustained so that all people around the world can benefit from the opportunities of the modern information society.

Strengthen and defend the open development and evolution of the Internet, including open Internet standards, technology and infrastructure development, deployment, and innovation.

Advance the open, participatory, multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance and policy approaches that support Internet principles and user-centricity.

Bridge the digital divide by growing Internet connectivity and capabilities throughout the world, with special emphasis on developing regions.

Advocate for the open, global Internet for all the world’s people.