

OMAC Report

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March 2021 Board Meeting

16 March 2021

OMAC Activity

The OMAC held its first meeting of 2021 on February 23. In response to OMAC members' desire for more engaging and informational meetings, the OMAC Chairs organized an expert panel discussion regarding the intersection of geopolitical dynamics and standards setting and its implications for multi-stakeholder internet governance and "one" internet.

This discussion, featuring experts from Cisco, Internet Society, and RIPE NCC, provided OMAC members an excellent overview and understanding of the challenges standards setting organizations face from certain countries - with the example of NewIP serving as a case study in this regard.

Key Take Aways

Panelists agreed that vigilance and engagement in standards setting bodies from industry and others, including ISOC, is necessary to ensure that no one entity can drive an agenda that could lead to internet fragmentation.

This OMAC meeting proved a success and represents the most well attended OMAC meeting in some time. With over 60 registrants for the meeting, 40 attended the interactive session. Feedback provided by members indicated a high degree of satisfaction with the meeting and its format: 100% of poll participants found the discussion at the meeting extremely or very useful, and would attend an OMAC Meeting in the future.

Future Engagement

Future OMAC meetings will build upon this success and will include additional policy discussions of importance to the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance. OMAC chairs also intend to organize monthly member meetings that discuss topics that are relevant to them. In this regard, the OMAC will leverage the learnings and discussions from these meetings to provide the Board with pertinent advice. ISOC is a leading torchbearer for the multi-stakeholder model of internet governance and should have its finger on the pulse of these matters.

OMAC and OMAC Chairs look forward to further engagement with the Board in the months ahead.

