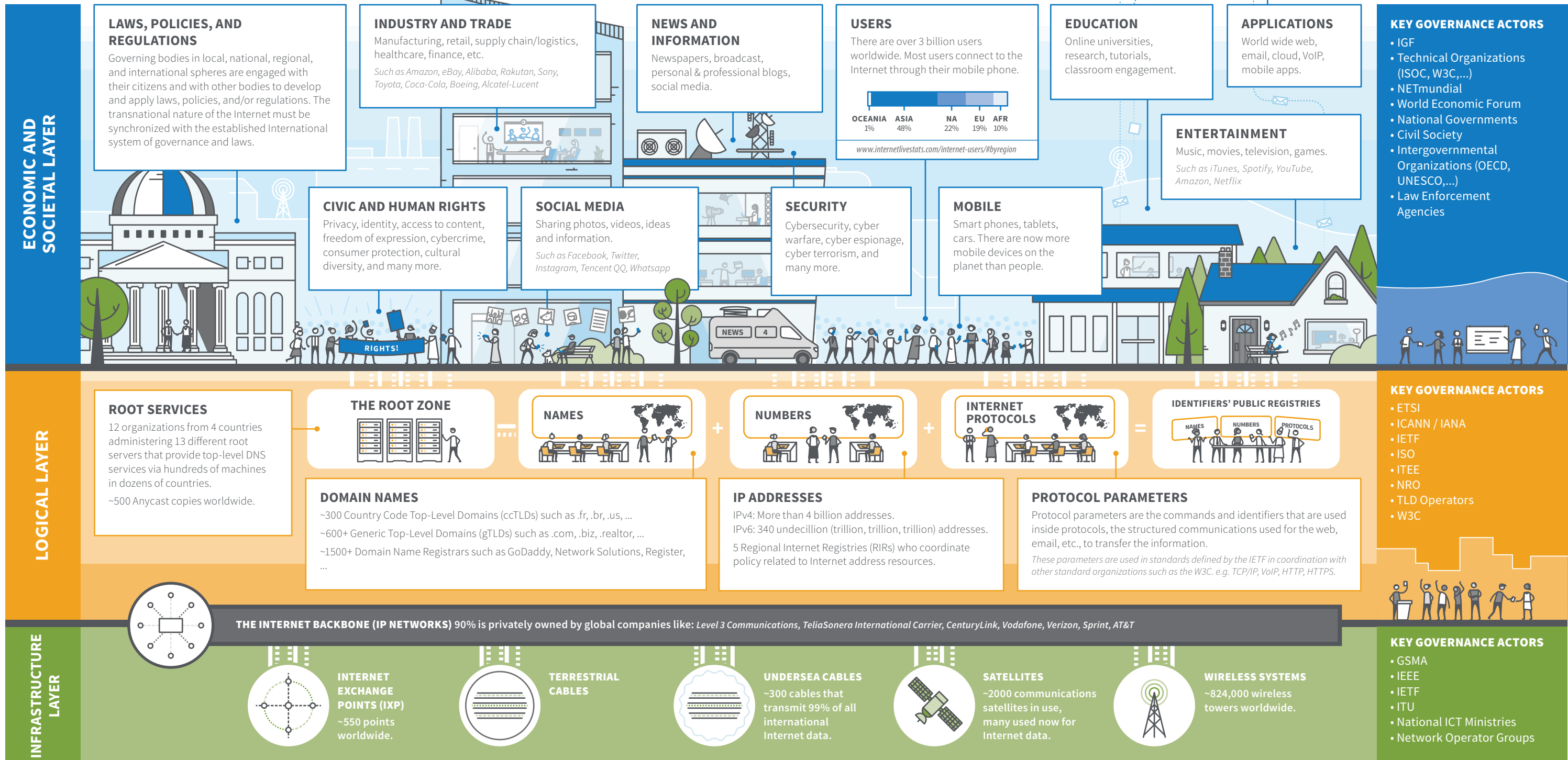


# THE THREE LAYERS OF DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

No one person, government, organization, or company governs the digital infrastructure, economy, or society. Digital governance is achieved through the collaborations of Multistakeholder experts acting through polycentric communities, institutions, and platforms across national, regional, and global spheres. Digital Governance may be stratified into three layers to address infrastructure, economic, and societal issues with solutions. For a map of Digital Governance Issues and Solutions across all three layers, visit <https://map.netmundial.org>

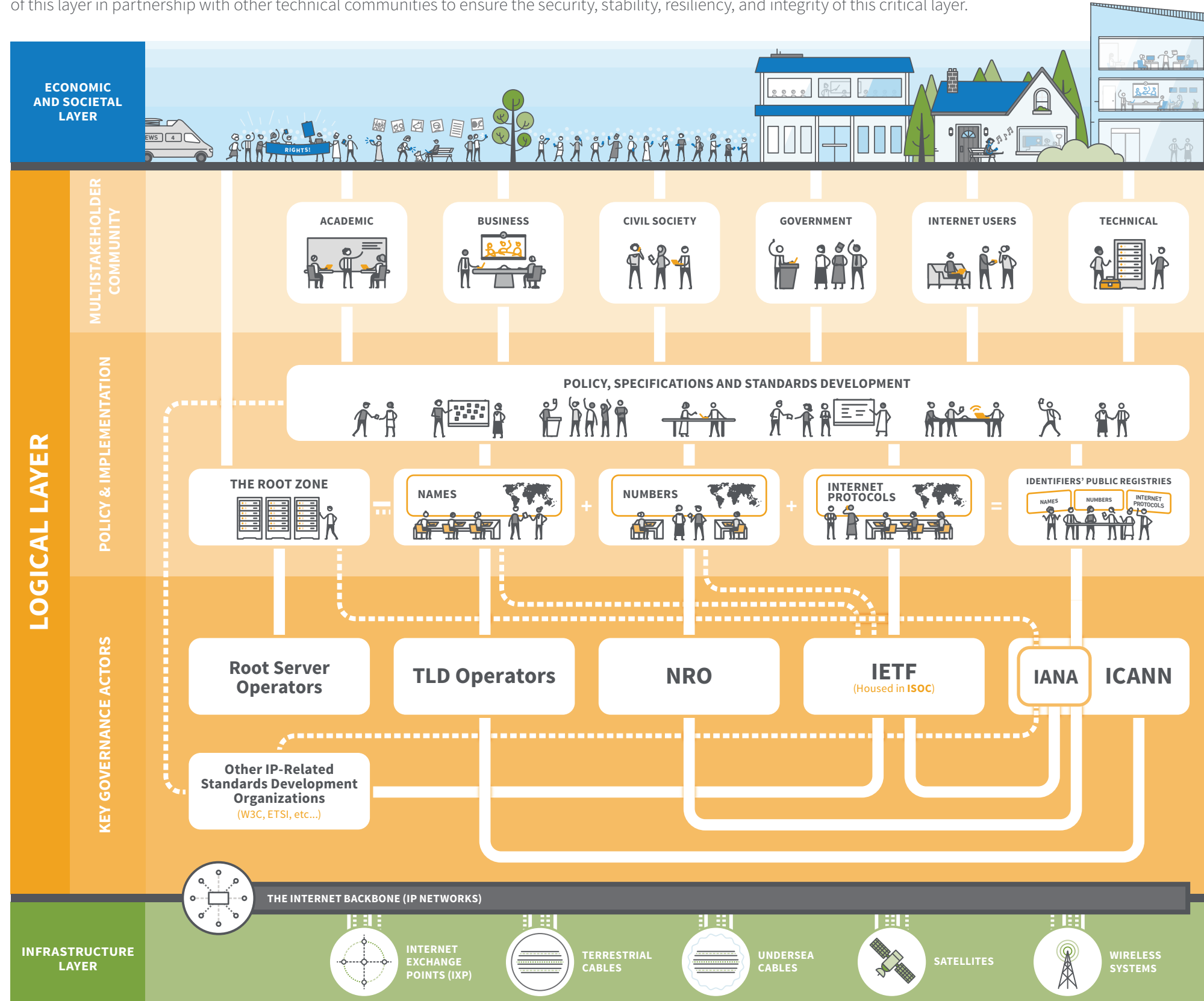
## MULTISTAKEHOLDER COLLABORATIONS

Solutions to issues in each layer include policies, best practices, standards, and specifications developed by the collaborations of expert stakeholders from actors in business, government, academia, technical, and civil society.



# THE LOGICAL LAYER OF DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

Layered on top of the Physical Infrastructure's thousands of networks and satellites, the Internet's Logical Infrastructure is what delivers One Internet for the world through Unique Identifiers (Names, Numbers, and Protocol Parameters). ICANN coordinates the administration of this layer in partnership with other technical communities to ensure the security, stability, resiliency, and integrity of this critical layer.



## TECHNICAL OPERATIONS

The technical operating community is made up of multiple independent actors bound by common principles and mutual commitments that ensure the security and stability of the Internet Infrastructure. Each actor's community develops policies and standards in an open, inclusive, and consensus-based approach.

### KEY GOVERNANCE ACTORS

#### ICANN *Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers*

Helps coordinate the Internet's systems of unique identifiers including domain names and IP addresses, as well as manages the IETF's protocol parameter registries.

[www.icann.org](http://www.icann.org)

**IANA**, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority, is a set of functions housed and operated within ICANN. It acts as the top-level allocator for blocks of IP addresses and AS numbers, proposes creation of and changes to DNS top-level domains, and manages lists of unique identifiers used in Internet protocols.

[www.iana.org](http://www.iana.org)

#### IETF *Internet Engineering Task Force*

Develops and promotes a wide range of Internet standards dealing in particular with standards of the Internet protocol suite. Their technical documents influence the way people design, use, and manage the Internet. The IETF operates under the Internet Society (ISOC) with architectural oversight provided by the Internet Architecture Board (IAB).

[www.ietf.org](http://www.ietf.org)

#### ISO *International Organization for Standardization*

Standardizes, among many other things, the official names and postal codes of countries, dependent territories, special areas of geographic significance.

[www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

#### NRO *Number Resource Organization*

A coordinating body for the five Regional Internet Registries (RIRs). The RIRs manage the distribution of IP addresses and Autonomous System Numbers in their regions of the world.

[www.nro.net](http://www.nro.net)

AFRINIC [www.afrinic.net](http://www.afrinic.net)

LACNIC [www.lacnic.net](http://www.lacnic.net)

APNIC [www.apnic.net](http://www.apnic.net)

RIPE NCC [www.ripe.net](http://www.ripe.net)

ARIN [www.arin.net](http://www.arin.net)

#### TLD Operators *Top Level Domain Operators*

Organizations which have been assigned the management of Top-Level Domains such as: Generic TLDs (.com, .edu, .info, .name etc...), Country Code TLDs (.fr, .us, .gh, .cn etc...) and non-ASCII alphabet TLDs (in language such as Chinese, Korean, Arabic, Russian, French etc...) —among others.

#### Root Server Operators

12 independent organisations operate the 13 authoritative name servers (A through M) that serve the Domain Name System (DNS) root zone. The name servers are a network of hundreds of physical servers located in many countries around the world.

[www.root-servers.org](http://www.root-servers.org)

#### W3C

The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is an international community where Member organizations, a full-time staff, and the public work together to develop Web standards. W3C's mission is to lead the Web to its full potential.

[www.w3.org](http://www.w3.org)

### MULTISTAKEHOLDER COMMUNITY

#### Academic

- Institutions of higher learning
- Academic thought leaders
- Professors & students

#### Business

- Private-sector companies from across industries
- Industry and trade associations

#### Civil Society

- International organizations
- Non-governmental organizations
- Non-profit organizations
- Think Tanks

#### Government

- National governments
- Distinct economies recognized in international fora
- Multinational governmental and treaty organizations
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Public authorities (with a direct interest in global Internet Governance)

#### Internet Users

- Private citizens interested in regional or global Internet Governance

#### Technical

- Internet engineers
- Computer engineers
- Software developers
- Network operators