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internet
made in france

NetGouv25 - May 28th 2025

Multistakeholderism vs Multilateralism – An Identity management use case

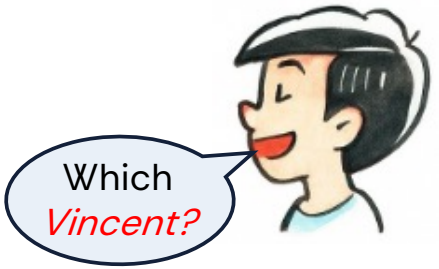
- Sandoche BALAKRICHENAN

Why Identity Management? – *because the machines are dumb*









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ITU Standardising E.164 – A form of *Multilaterism*

› 1865 – Oldest Inter Governmental Organisation

> ITU-T – Standardisation wing



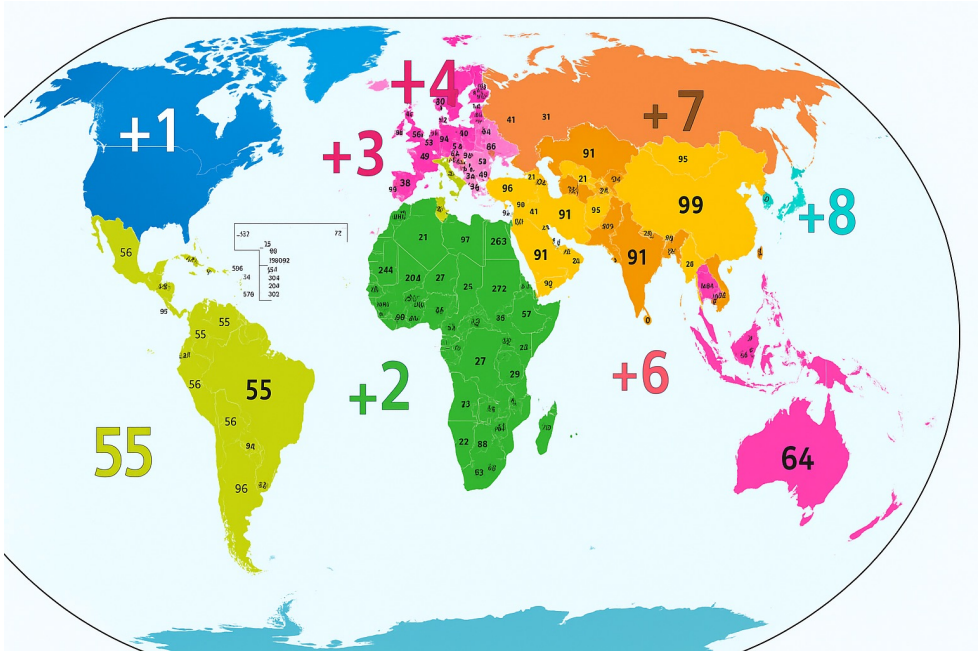
> Multilateral approach (Via Governments & National authorities)

> Timeline

- 1964 – Initial discussion
- 1976 – Adoption of the first formal recommendation on numbering
- 1984 – Recommendation E.164 was finally adopted

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E.164 number – *Allocation*



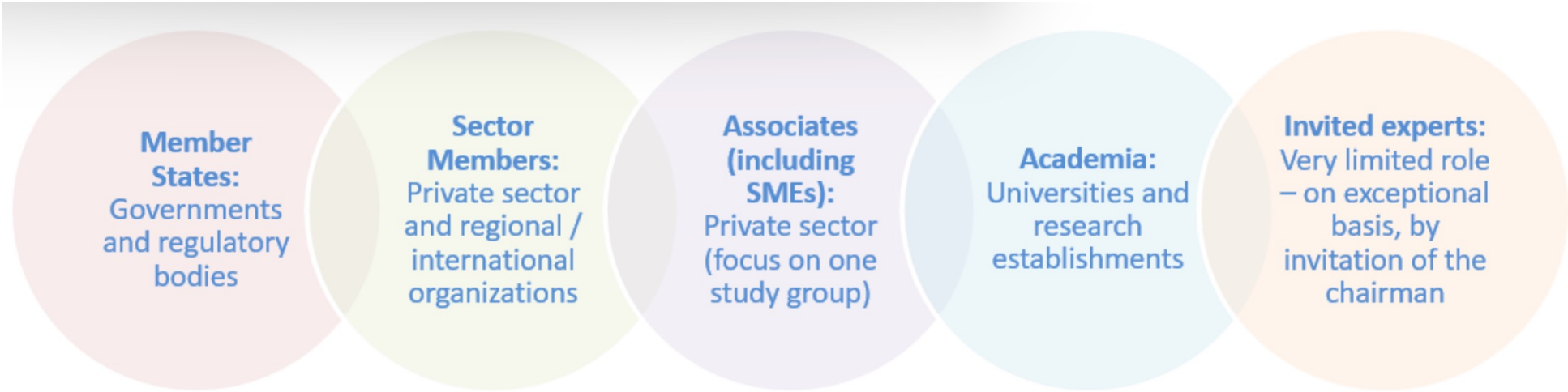


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Pros/Cons of the Multi-lateral model

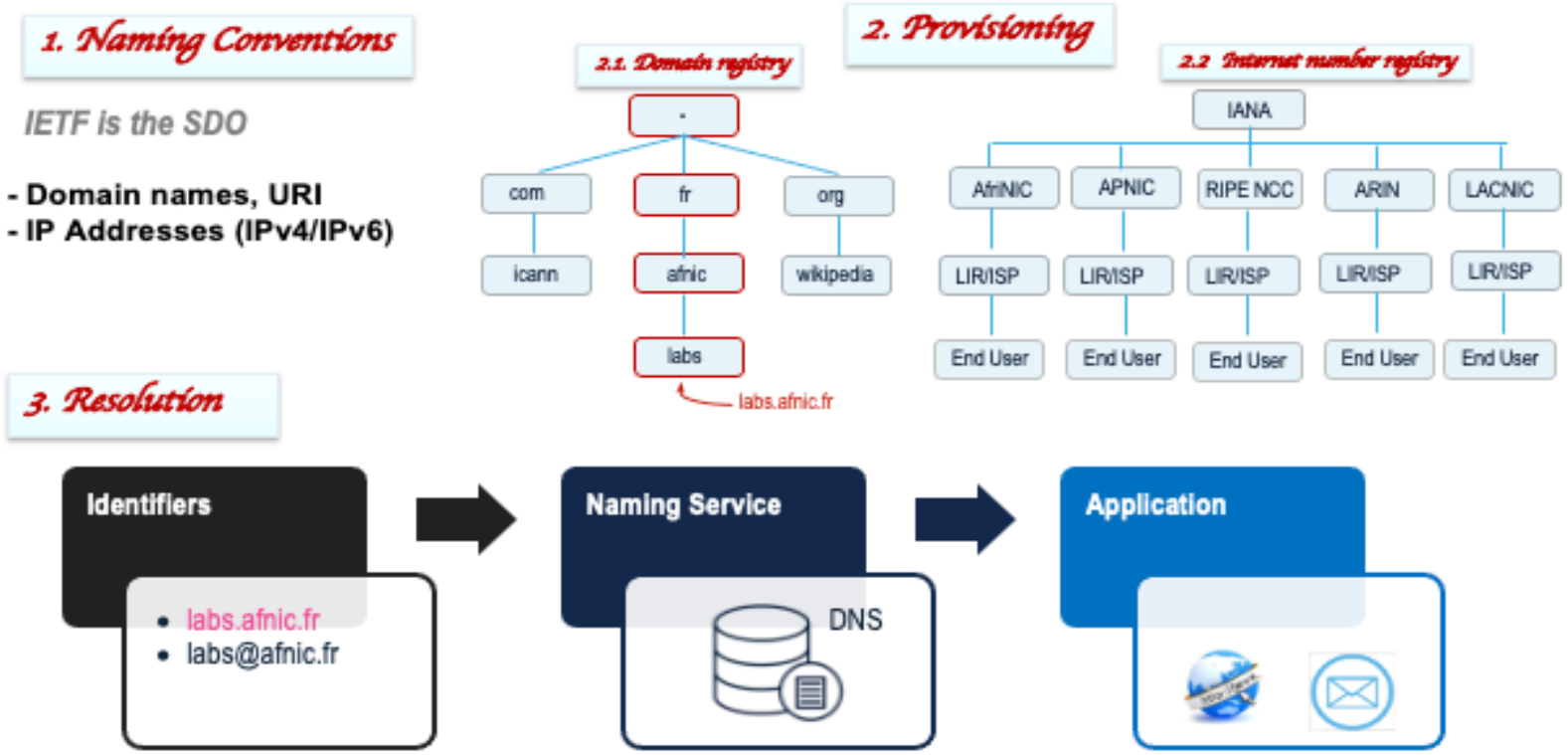
Characteristics	Multi-lateral model
Primary Actors	State & associated actors
Decision-Making	Voting (Each Country has a vote regardless of size)
Strengths	International legitimacy/Formalised dispute resolution
Weakness	Slow, Limited non state participation, Politicisation of technical issues, Inefficient innovation adoption
Legal enforceability	National enforceability in governance

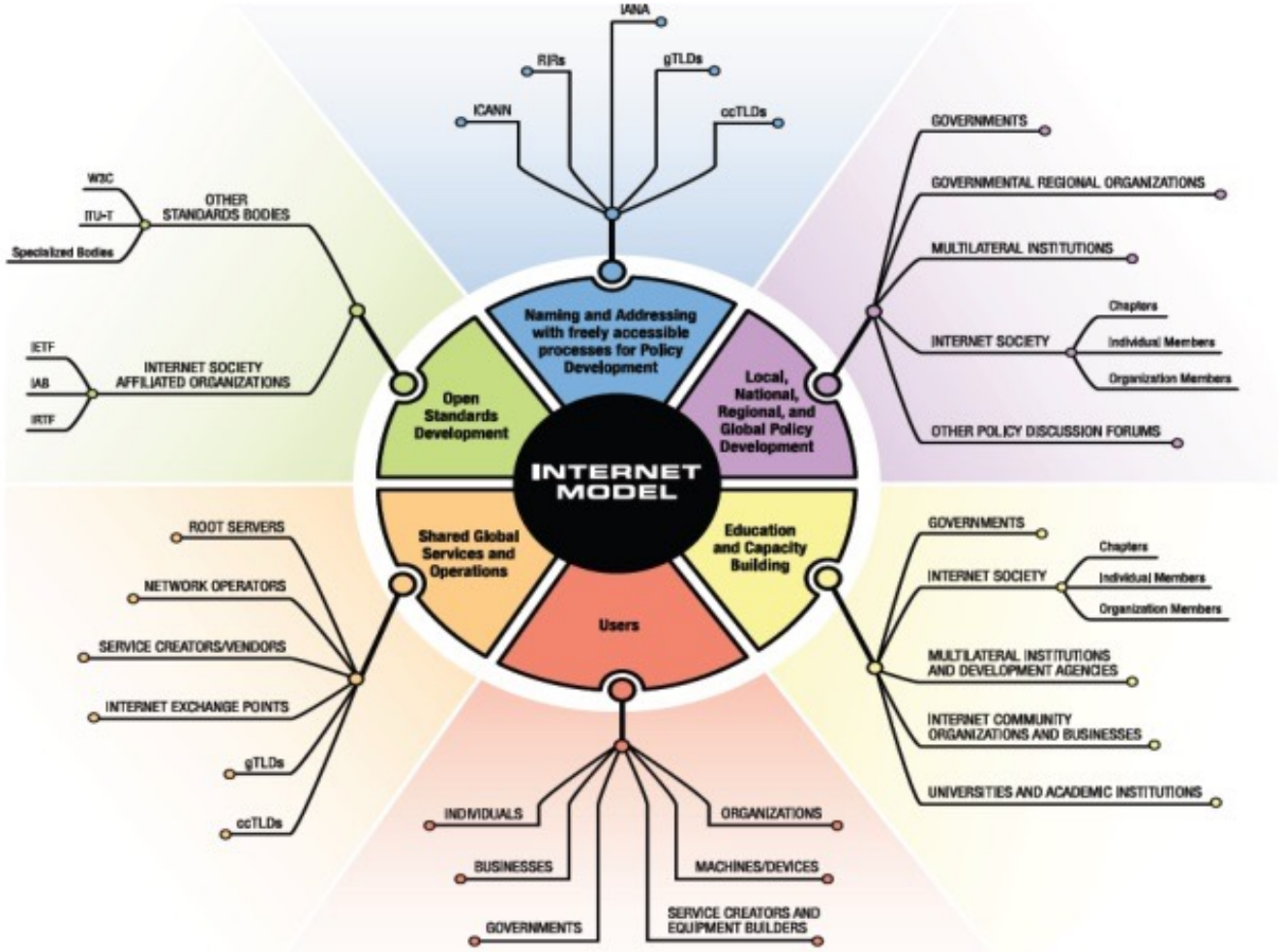
ITU-T from Multilateralism to Multistakeholderism



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Internet identity – *Multi-Stakeholder Use Case*





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Internet Society

http://www.isoc.org

IETF Standardising IPv4 address – *Multi-Stakeholder*

> Founded in 1986

> No membership, volunteer based

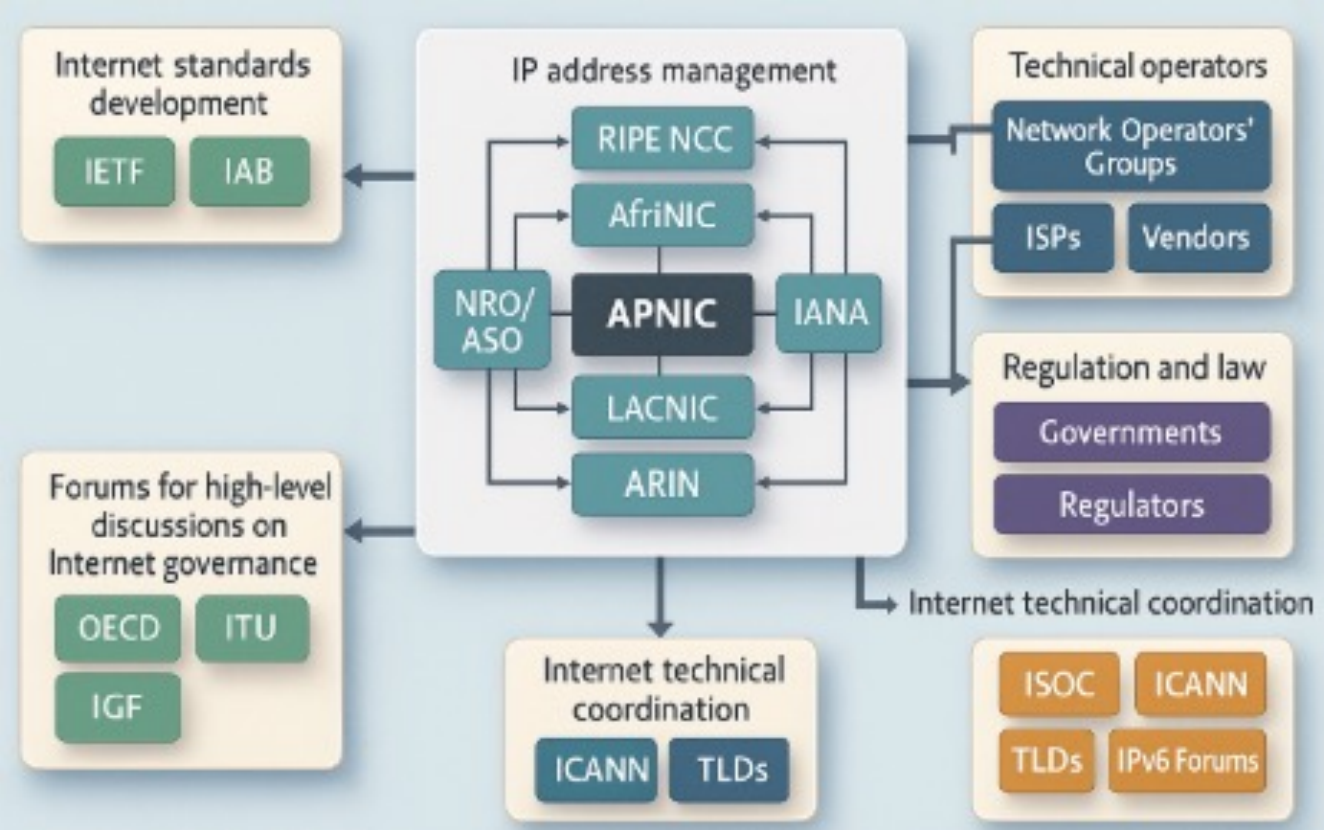
> Open process/ Rough consensus & Running code

> Standardisation & governance Timeline

- 1980 – First public version of IP standards – RFC 760
- 1981 – IPv4 standard – RFC 791

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RIR – *The Multistakeholderism example*



IETF Standardising Domain names– *Multi-Stakeholder*

› Standardisation Timeline

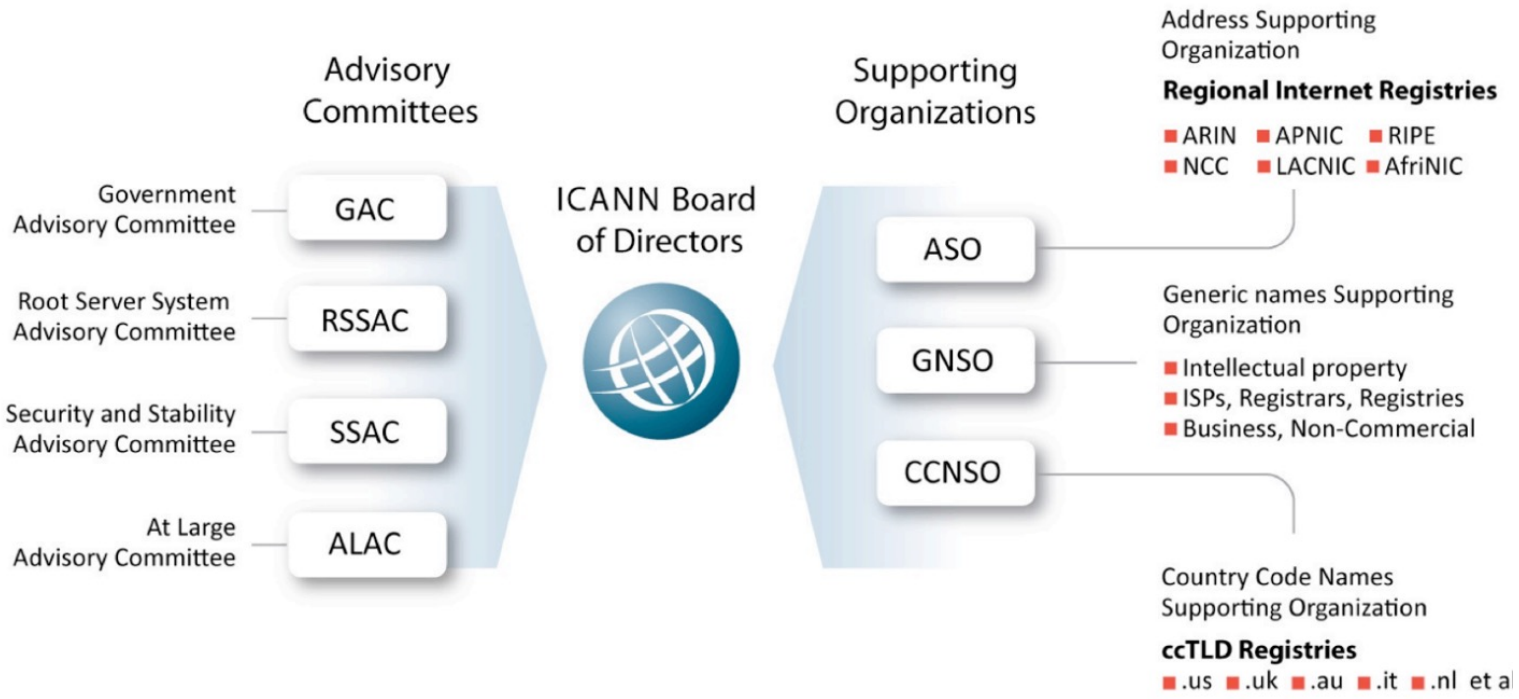
- 1982 – Initial concept (RFC 830)
- 1987 – Standards publication (RFC 1034, 1035) which obsoleted RFC 882, 883 (1983)

› Governance organisation Timeline

- 1985 – First TLD introduction: ‘.com’, ‘.net’, ‘.org’…
- 1986 – ‘.fr’ ccTLD created & delegated by IANA to INRIA
- 1998 – ICANN founded to oversee global DNS
- 1997 – Afnic established to manage ‘.fr’
- 2004 – Afnic reorganised under Multi-Stakeholder governance model

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ICANN – *The Multistakeholderism example*



Source: ICANN

ICANN – *Bottom-up decision making*

› Policy development – GNSO, ccNSO, ASO

› Working Groups/Task Forces

› Public comment periods for wider community input before final decisions

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Pros/Cons of the existing Multi-Stakeholder model

Characteristics	Multi-Stakeholder model
Primary Actors	Civil Society, Standardisation bodies, Private/Public Sector
Decision-Making	Consensus-based
Strengths	Openness, Inclusivity
Weakness	Slow, Complex
Legal enforceability	Long cumbersome process

Multilateralism & MultiStakeholdersim in today's environment – *In Stress*



Complete decentralisation - *Anarchy*



Organised & Unorgainsed Multi-stakeholder ecosystem coexisting



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Source: Rewilding the Internet

Thank you for your attention

Do not hesitate to reach out

Sandoche.balakrichenan@afnic.fr

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Association Française pour le Nommage Internet en Coopération

7 Avenue du 8 mai 1945, 78280 Guyancourt - France
Tel. +33 (0)1 39 30 83 00

www.afnic.fr | contact@afnic.fr | X : @AFNIC | Facebook : facebook.com/afnic.fr