



19 March 2014 – United Nations officials have welcomed the recent announcement that the United States plans to transition key oversight of the internet to the global community. UN spokesmen welcome the handing over of stewardship of domain names and other aspects of the Internet’s architecture to the global community, as a major step towards the multilateral Internet governance that the UN has been advocating for many years.

For the past 15 years, the US Commerce Department’s National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NITA), has been the watchdog of sales and assignments of web domains such as “.com” or “.org”. With this announced intention to relinquish stewardship, the United States is in line with the decisions taken at the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Tunis, which agreed on a “multi-stakeholder model of Internet governance.”

“The Secretary-General...encourages Governments, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, the private sector and the Internet technical community to engage in furthering the process to ensure a single, open, free, secure and trustworthy Internet,” said UN spokesman Stéphane Dujarric

The US announcement to change oversight arrangements of these critical Internet mechanisms, was also welcomed by the Dr. Hamadoun Touré, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunications Union ([ITU](#)).

“The Internet is a global public good and therefore all nations and peoples should have an equal say in its running and development,” he declared in a [news release](#) .”

Photo: ITU

UN officials welcomes US intent to relinquish control of internet

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