

Over the past several decades, the global economy has realized a huge bounty due to the Internet and World Wide Web. These could not have been possible without the innovations and standardization of the underlying technologies. Evidently, this standardization occurred with great speed and effectiveness only because of key characteristics of a new global standards paradigm. Accordingly, it is time to characterize the principles which have led to this success and to ensure acceptance of standards activities that adhere to these principles.

## **Global Open Standards Development – Affirmation of Principles**

We embrace a new global standards paradigm where the economics of global markets, fueled by technological advancements, drive global deployment of standards regardless of their formal status.

In this paradigm, standards are developed through an open participatory process, voluntarily adopted globally, support interoperability and foster global competition. These voluntary standards serve as building blocks for products and services targeted at meeting the needs of the market and consumer, thereby driving innovation. Innovation in turn contributes to the creation of new markets and the growth and expansion of existing markets.

Participation in the new paradigm demands:

1. Respectful cooperation between standards development organizations (SDOs), whereby each respects the autonomy, integrity, processes and intellectual property rules of the others.
2. Adherence to the five fundamental principles of standards development of:
  - a. Due process - any materially interested party has the right to participate, allowing for equity and fairness among participants. Due process ensures that no one party dominates or guides the development, all interests are welcome to participate, the process is transparent and opportunities exist to appeal decisions;
  - b. Consensus - processes allow for all views to be considered and addressed, such that agreement to be found across a range of interests;
  - c. Transparency - advance provision of public notice of a proposed standards development activity, the scope of work to be undertaken, conditions for participation, provisions of a public comment period before final approval and adoption, and easily accessible records of decisions as well as the materials used in reaching those decisions;

- d. Balance – not exclusively dominated by any particular person, company or interest group.
  - e. Openness - the standards development process is open to all interested and informed parties.
3. Commitment, by affirming SDOs and their participants, to collective empowerment by striving for standards that:
- are chosen and defined based on technical merit, as judged by the contributed expertise of each participant;
  - provide global interoperability, scalability, stability and resiliency;
  - enable global competition;
  - serve as composable building blocks for further innovation; and
  - contribute to the creation of global communities, benefiting humanity.
4. Open standards: standards that are developed through the five principles outlined above, are accessible to all for implementation and deployment under fair terms, and have a well-defined forum and process for periodic review and update as necessary.
5. Adoption of these standards is voluntary and success is determined by acceptance by the market.

By signing this statement, we affirm our support for and adherence to these principles.