Towards a Dutch Approach to Standard-Setting

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lab

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Executive Summary

The critical infrastructure lab worked with three Dutch ministries, namely the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (BuZa), and Ministry of Interior Affairs (BZK), to help devise an initial inter-ministerial Dutch approach to standard-setting in communication networks. The ever-increasing digitisation of society is 1) increasing the societal importance of communication standards; 2) increasing the geoeconomic importance of standards; and 3) putting geopolitical pressures on communication standards.

The different ministries all get confronted with different aspects of standard-setting in different fora and areas: in the UN through various processes (such as the Global Digital Compact and the WSIS+20 review), through bilateral channels, within the EU High-Level Forum on Standardisation and NIS2 regulation, and in private standards and governance consortia (such as the IETF and ICANN). To ensure a consistent, effective, and efficient approach to standardisation, a cross-departmental approach is needed. To this effect, the critical infrastructure lab engaged the three ministries in a joint workshop on September 11 and 12, 2023.

To develop a joint Dutch approach to communication standards and standard-setting, the participants of the workshop identified several short-term action points. These include, but are not limited to:

◈ Increase the importance of standards and standardisation in the departmental agendas. A first step is to identify desirable/ undesirable scenarios, i.e. what happens if we don't invest in standards and what happens if we do.

◈ Demystify standard processes and align approaches towards standards and SDOs through interdepartmental capacity-building programs and through the facilitation of interdepartmental and inter-agency coordination.

◈ Assess the national security and economic security risks and opportunities concerning international communication standards and identify and engage key stakeholders.

◈ Request OECD to research the synergy between the different principles (including human rights, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct, the European Standardisation Strategy, and possibly Lisbon Treaty, as well as the Declaration for the Future of the Internet.)

◈ Engage with multilateral partners from non-aligned countries and swing states in discussions leading up to the GDC, WSIS+20, and other fora, particularly through capacity-building efforts. Work with the regional/country process by connecting this topic to existing regional cyber dialogues and cyber capacity-building programs.

◈ Invest in the multistakeholder process by developing a stakeholder participation fund, invite multi-stakeholder actors to co-create a road map towards WSIS+20, GDC, and other fora, and hold Dutch multistakeholder pre-meeting before the meeting of major international standards bodies.

◈ Empower NGOs to participate in standardisation processes, starting by organising a mini-conference for NGOs by government and academia.

This report contains the findings and outcomes of the International Standards Workshop. The findings are based on interviews with civil servants involved with standards and standard-setting processes at the EZK and BuZa, a close reading of relevant policy documents, and conversations at the workshop. It is comprised of several sections. The report starts by situating the need for such as workshop, offers insights into the changing (geo)political landscape and the Dutch approach to standards and standardisation, and ends with proposed next steps.

100 truthful statements
about communication standards
from a Dutch perspective

IT WORKS! (So, what are we talking about?)

Unlike the resources that standards govern, standards themselves are not inherently scarce.

Internet and communication standards are not on the political agenda of the vast majority of Dutch parties.

Communication standards strenghten human rights

In a globalized world, standards for (new) technologies are inherently international and therefore geopolitical

A decoupling of European and International standard is detrimental to the global market

With NXP, NL could do more to influence com standards related to chips

China's geopolitical ambition are translated into their engagement in SDOs

ITU does not set standards for the internet.

There currently is no overview of Dutch participation in standardization across standards bodies.

There is no good standard is if I can't without accredit action and compliance

the world largest machine that works

Drive Innovation

emerging new tech without standards

Setting priorities in standardization activities is key to allocate resources to relevant initiatives

Although NIMBY, NL could play a role in creating green internet by in 2017 Data centres power big renewables

Influencing the right communication standards requires a large number of FTE within the government

increasing conflict over water & energy consumption of internet infrastructure

global standards are more efficient

To achieve the digital and energy transition, we first need to negatively impact the environment before we can 'save' it.

Little attention (globally) on sustainability of communication standards

The standardization ecosystem is not an accurate reflection of society

Standards should cover technical aspects only and not policy

Tech big tech with major influence

We need standards for a strong internal European market and global trade

The borders between technology & geopolitics are getting blurry

Standards have an impact on the enjoyment of human rights

Implementation of some standards require such a significant investment that it hinders newcomers a lot

In-depth knowledge of communication standards is spread thinly

Increasing participation & effectiveness of Dutch standards participation is good for NL

EU: Europe should have a bigger role in creating NEXT GEN TECH.

NL together with Europe should invest in capacity building of standardization professionals

Geopolitical Tension exist over communication standards

need for tool so' rare critical materials

don't know how to assess societal impact of standards

economic Marketing based Digital life

Ambiguity threatens interoperability

THE CURRENT communication standards are questioned by specific countries

THERE is little attention to standardization in education.

Standards only exist if they are implemented in reality

'Winner' of standardization process has a large economic/ financial gain

env. Big data hubs with negative impact

Are preferably designed by a Multi stakeholder process

In NL little political attention for communication standards

Ethereal Environmental considerations play NO role in the use of the internet

The EU should have an bigger role in shaping them internationally

Digital sovereignty (including standards) is not commonly regarded as an important societal virtue/value

Transparency eliminates a lot of threats

As politic becomes more and more about tech focussed, vision a standard also become more incident driven

LESSONS FROM GAIA-X CAN INFORM SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR NEW STANDARDS

False (child) standards Shape Geopolitics

IAB started environmental Working group

multi stakeholder

there should be short term benefit (financial) for organizations invest in to system standardization activities (SMEs, civil society)

Social Shaping Public Perceptions by algorithms

Standard setting is often a meritocracy

emerging digital values with lacking standards

Are increasingly shaped by Geopolitical factors

Engineers / tech community does not feel comfortable talking about human rights &

For a long time the tech community and diplomats "stayed away" from each other.

Western dominated Standards

'Chosen' standards have a big behind the scene impact on social life

How a standard works is difficult to comprehend

new era of subjective "truths"

The effort to influence communication standards comes mostly from non EU nations

Environmental considerations currently have little to no role in standardization

Communication standards are sufficiently modern

MANY STANDARDS BODIES LACK TRANSPARENCY (PUBLIC PROCEEDINGS)

Communication standards increase our welfare

Standards we set in Europe may not be useful in os countries

Internet optimized for resilience, connectivity, security ≠ hr or environment

Promote energy efficiency

Importance of multistakeholder process is often overseen by political actors

the internet & standards are getting more politicized

There is a higher distrust against government than business

if implemented standards can give a important competitive advantage

IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT ARE THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF PARTICULAR STAKEHOLDERS IN MULTISTAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATION

participation in standardization is open to all stakeholders

EU is a Referee, not an innovator (AND the referee NEVER wins the game)

THERE IS NO PROCESS OR FRAMEWORK FOR analysis of HUMAN RIGHTS impact of standards

technical work is not easily understandable but the impact can be broader than just technical

Few people know how the standardization process work (Human capital)

participation of businesses is essential to develop relevant and implementable standards

Standards are a reflection of the mix of standard-developing persons/organizations

THERE ARE NO STANDARDS FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCE USE OF COMMUNICATION PROTOCOLS

The Netherlands is a standard-taker, not a standard-maker

three clusters - liberal democracies - non alligned countries - repressive cyber program

Standard-setting is meant to foster competition but is dominated by a few large companies

THERE IS NO FORMAL PROCESS FOR THE ARTICULATION OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST IN STANDARDIZATION PROCESSES

Many standard-setting processes are opaque and hard to participate in.

Affect Human Rights

Technological developments interact with existing standards to create new standards

The struggle for the future of internet governance is of great geopolitical importance

ENVIRONMENTAL NGOS ARE NOT REPRESENTED IN STANDARDS MULTISTAKEHOLD PROCESSES

The way the ITU works fits with the methods of work of authoritarian countries

Foster Interoperability

INTERNET AND TELECOM. STANDARDS ARE INCREASINGLY OVERLAPPING

CIVIL SOCIETY HAS A HIGH BARRIER OF PARTICIPATION IN STANDARD SETTING DUE TO TECHNICAL COMPLEXITY CAPACITY AND THE CULTURE OF DEBATE

control over extraction, processing and use in chips, hardware has become a geopolitical issue

SOCIAL | TECHNO-LOGICAL | ENVIRON-MENTAL | ECONOMIC | POLITICAL

Introduction and Rationale

many political processes
have become very technical
and many technical
processes have become very
political

The Netherlands is both an inherently infrastructural and a networked country. It is an infrastructural country because without dykes, locks, and canals the Netherlands would simply not exist as we know it today, and it is an inherently networked country because it has always benefited from strong global connections, in part because of its size. Therefore, it is not a surprise that the Netherlands is traditionally well represented in internet governance and internet standard setting, and is punching above its weight in international governance. Sometimes it is even said that "Dutch is the secret language of DNS" (DNS being one of the key internet protocols). WiFi, IMAP and other important communication protocols have at least in part been invented in the Netherlands.

Now that the internet has become the informational backbone of the world, communication standards are of increasing societal, economic, and political importance. It is observed that "many political processes have become very technical and many technical processes have become very political". From a state perspective, standards and standard setting are geoeconomic and geopolitical tools, as changes to the public core of the internet translate to significant societal and economic costs and benefits. At the same time, the past decades have seen the consolidation of the technology market in the hands of non-European corporations who — for better and worse — have increased influence over standards and standard-setting. Market consolidation have put significant strain on the *open* and *multistakeholder* model of communication standards.

In this report, we refer to communication standards as established norms or requirements for a repeatable technical task, which is applied to a common and repeated use of rules, conditions, guidelines or characteristics for products or related processes and production methods, and related management systems practices. Or more simply said, standards are an agreed way of doing something. Standard setting is the process of developing standards. Here, we can differentiate between *de jure standards* that are developed by standards bodies, and *de facto standards*, that are merely customs and conventions that have become accepted in practice without undergoing any institutional process of consensus building. In principle, standards themselves are voluntary, even though they can be mandated by laws or regulations. The standardisation process is comprised of three distinct phases; the development, implementation, and updating of communication standards.

Internet standards differentiate themselves from other industrial standards as the standards that jointly comprise the public core of the Internet. They are *de jure standards* typically formalised through an open process and often governed by multistakeholder institutions. As such, approaches to standard-setting in other domains do not necessarily match the model of making Internet standards. To ensure an open, free, and secure internet that is run on a public core in a changing geopolitical and economic context calls for a coherent approach by the Netherlands to international standard-setting. Several Dutch policy documents already give concrete guidance on this, such as the Dutch International Cyber Strategy, the National Strategy on a Digital Economy, government response to the AIV report on the Internet.

To contribute to the development of a consistent, effective, and efficient Dutch approach to standardisation, the critical infrastructure lab conducted 9 interviews (EZ and BuZa), organised a 1.5-day workshop with three ministries (EZK, BuZa, BZK), and performed document analysis of relevant policy. For the document analysis, we read the 2023 Dutch National Cyber Strategy, the 2022 Digital Economy Strategy, the 2021 Dutch Digitalization Strategy, the AIV report on The Internet (and Cabinet Response) from 2016, and the WRR report on the Public Core of the Internet (and Cabinet Response) from 2015. The findings and outcomes of the research, including the International Standards Workshop, are offered in the present report.

Findings from Policy Documents and Interviews

1. Pillars of the Dutch internet policy

Dutch internet policy recognises that a secure and stable internet is essential for the Dutch economy and society as a whole. A sharp distinction is made between governance *on* and *of* the internet. Governance *on* the internet relates to issues such as content, access, censorship, disinformation, and surveillance. Within this approach, the Dutch government continues to promote democratic values and human rights principles online. Governance *of* the internet relates to the public core. The public core is defined in the WRR report as the "parts of the Internet have the characteristics of a global public good". The Internet can only function as a public good if the core values of universality, interoperability and accessibility are guaranteed — and if the key features of information security (confidentiality, integrity and availability) are supported". The public core is comprised of several institutions, protocols and standards that make the Internet function as a network of networks. The cornerstone of the governance *of* the internet is its multistakeholder model, the open decision-making model where government, industry, civil society, the technical community, and academia participate through open processes, with open archives, and through voluntary standards. In the International Standards workshop, the focus was on governance *of* the internet, namely on safeguarding the public core against fragmentation and pressures from a changing geopolitical and geoeconomic context. While the differentiation between governance *on* and *of* the internet might seem clear, the changes to the public core *of* the internet can have a significant impact on what is possible *on* the internet. Just keeping government influence from the public core *of* the internet is not sufficient to safeguard human rights *on* the internet, because companies that engage in the operation of the public core can also hamper them.

The values that inform the Dutch internet policies are 'open', 'free', and 'secure'. The interviewees interpret these values in slightly different ways. As one interviewee mentioned, "these terms are guidelines that get a different substance in different fora". From a technical perspective, these values are defined as:

◈ *open* → everyone can connect networks to the internet,
◈ *free* → traffic can move freely across the globe, and
◈ *secure* → a package can move from A to B without being tampered with along the way.

The values that inform the Dutch internet policies are 'open', 'free', and 'secure'.

From a more politically-oriented viewpoint, some understand that:

◆ *open* means that the internet is accessible to all, with the least amount of restrictions and censorship,
◆ *free* means that human rights, fundamental freedoms, and privacy are safeguarded online, and
◆ *secure* means that people and the public core are protected against cybercrime or state-sponsored attacks.

Others take a different approach when they argue that:

◆ *open* prevents the fragmentation of the public core, while
◆ *free* helps to safeguard human rights and fundamental freedoms, and
◆ *secure* ensures that users can trust the internet.

Finally, a security-informed approach relates all three values to protection against cybercrime or state-sponsored attacks, and providing economic security by ensuring that the Netherlands remains a technological front-runner. These slightly different interpretations of the core values become more prominent when discussing a consistent, effective, and efficient approach to communication standards and standardisation. There are concerns that the more political approach to the public core will turn the network and network operators into gatekeepers. At the same time, governments are confronted with a reality in which the governance of the public core is already being politicised by external events, actors and developments.

2. Holding the line in a changing world

Several interviewees highlighted that the internet and its standardisation generate a lot of value for the Dutch economy. Conversely, the Netherlands is a critical node in the transnational internet infrastructure, and the Dutch technical community has contributed to DNS, WiFi, IMAP and other important communication protocols. As an early adaptor, the Dutch influence on internet infrastructure and its governance is disproportionally large compared to the size of the country ("it's punching above its weight"). In order to safeguard this position, the Dutch government aims to keep the public core universal, interoperable, and accessible, while simultaneously maintaining its influence in governance spaces.

However, several interviewees highlighted that the governance *of* the internet and the strong Dutch position are under threat. There are efforts from countries with repressive cyber regimes to influence the governance of the public core by expanding the influence of the United Nations, for instance by way of pushing legally binding proposals through UN bodies. In addition, there is a trend of

the Dutch government aims to keep the public core universal, interoperable, and accessible

economic consolidation that favours American and Chinese corporations, which decreases the presence and influence of European technology and telecommunication champions. And finally, the European Commission aims to enhance the importance of public standard-setting through its High-Level Forum on Standardisation. As one interviewee put it:

"In coming years we will need to decide how to govern the internet, while very much making sure that these core values, which might be very Western – open, free, and secure internet, and multistakeholder [governance] – we want to preserve those. We have to create a broad coalition to preserve them, with all their flaws."

At first glance, the current Dutch response to these emerging threats is to hold the line on the original values and governance model of the public core through applying three tactics:

1. pushing back on ITU mandate expansion,
2. aligning with the US on sanctions, and
3. protecting the multistakeholder model.

A closer look reveals that there are nuances in how the different departments relate to communication standards and standardisation. EZK, the department that is responsible for the standardisation of communication, have a liberal policy vis-a-vis networks, based on the premise that norms and standards should be free from political influence. Therefore, the least amount of government interference is preferable. Proponents of this approach also propose to separate Internet *governance* from Internet *standardisation*. This is not a common understanding in the academic literature (see DeNardis), and is likely informed by the wish to minimise government involvement in standard-setting. A concern is that this approach might make Dutch interest irrelevant in the long run, as other countries *do* wield their regulatory, financial, and soft power to influence standards.

BuZa is increasingly confronted with the changing geopolitical and geoeconomic context as external pressures have placed standards and standard-setting processes on their agenda. Several interviewees indicated that it is necessary to move from the current defensive agenda to a more proactive approach when it comes to standards setting and internet governance on the international stage. This can include working with aligned and non-aligned countries in WSIS+20, ICANN, GDC, Summit of the Future or strategically making the defensive agenda proactive, by using the ITU to push back multilaterally. However, it is unclear how to integrate human rights considerations, one of the core pillars of the Dutch National Cyber

Strategy 2023, in standard-setting, or what is the exact role of BuZa in standardisation processes.

There is joint interest from EZK and BuZa in the positive impact that standards can have on environmental policy, natural resource consumption, and supply chain security. There might be convergence in these areas with the EU High-Level Forum on Standardisation, but also in adding environmental considerations to human rights considerations in standard-setting.

3. Challenges to a consistent, effective, and efficient approach to standardisation

There are a number of challenges identified by the interviewees in creating and maintaining a consistent, effective, and efficient approach to standardisation. In this report, we have gathered these challenges into two main groups. One comprises various internal challenges, and the other relates to the inclusion of human rights considerations in standards processes.

Capacity issues, lack of knowledge, and cultural differences are all seen to hamper the ability of the Dutch government to fully participate in the standardisation of communication networks. There is an inherent conflict between the longevity of standardisation processes and the relatively shorter time span of the democratic political cycle, i.e. the 4 year mandate of governments. Within the departments, there is limited capacity to work on standards. It is also unclear who is involved in which standards processes, in which capacity, and how these priorities are set. Between departments, there are slightly different approaches, as there is confusion on what certain standards processes can and can not do. Culturally, the technical and diplomatic communities are miles apart from one another, and other states are felt to take advantage of this divide.

There is a fear that the inclusion of human rights considerations in communication standards and standards processes will require the network itself to become the gatekeeper of what is and is not allowed to be transferred over the network. This is true even if in many cases the network already plays this part, for instance when it comes to spam filtering, or the implementation of sanctions. This sentiment refers to a lack of knowledge on how to assess and integrate human rights considerations in standard-setting, and who should be responsible for enforcing human rights compliance. Several interviewees indicated that this topic is challenging as "the balancing of human rights is not something that should be left to the market, this is what governments should do". If you integrate it into standards, "do you tell the technical community to become human rights experts, or do you develop technology and test it for human rights compatibility at the end?". Another challenge relates to the often glacial speed at which industrial standards are

Culturally, the technical and diplomatic communities are miles apart from one another, and other states are felt to take advantage of this divide.

being developed. Including human rights considerations in the standardisation process will slow it down even further.

Including human rights in standardisation needs to
consider speed. The multilateral system is not fast
enough. Including HR considerations in standards will
only slow the standardisation process down".

Looking towards the future, EZK and BuZa hope that in 5 years the internet is still an interoperable global network that is governed in a multistakeholder manner. Ideally, both departments would have contributed to this positive future through the creation of a consistent, effective, and efficient standard strategy that has the financial means needed to implement it. Such a standards strategy should clarify how to best support Dutch priorities, i.e. develop shared aims and approaches, define a clear division of labour between the departments, identify different policy levers, and support Dutch actors to actively participate in the standardisation of communication networks. A joint effort at harmonising policy work in the area should also clarify the intended scope of influence over the standards process - whether it is direct influence through government participation in standardisation, or indirect influence through strategic support for the ecosystem.

New Insights that Emerged from the Workshop

The 1.5-day International Standards Workshop was devised to identify the current state of play in standardisation, spark discussion, find common ground between the different departments, and identify actionable pathways forward. This section of the report reflects the new insights that emerged from the workshop. Overall, the commitment and active participation of all attendants showed that issues of communication standards are highly relevant to at least three ministries, namely the EZK, BuZa, and BZK.

Shared agendas and pain points

All those involved in the workshop see the importance of standards and standardisation for the Dutch economy and society and the need to have a clear and unified Dutch approach to these. It is widely recognised that there are many things that the Dutch state can influence through standards policy. Still, the same sense of focus and urgency is not (yet) shared across government hierarchies.

Different departments tend to focus on different bodies and technical domains.

The Dutch state is involved in a wide range of fora and governance bodies that (in)directly impact standards and standardisation processes. The choice of these specific fora and SDOs above others is the result of historic choices. There are no clearly articulated criteria for determining which fora and governance bodies to prioritise. Different departments tend to focus on different bodies and technical domains. Some communication and knowledge sharing exist, but the alignments should be strengthened. There are several commitments made in existing policies, but it is not necessarily clear who will enact them.

Upcoming geopolitical and standardisation processes need a proactive and positive approach for the Netherlands to maintain its influential position, safeguard the public core of the internet, and protect the internet as a human rights-enabling space.

Awareness of other stakeholders

Emerging challenges that put to the test the current policy practices can be met by developing alliances with different stakeholders. It is important to take into account that within the currently accepted multistakeholder model of internet governance, the recognised stakeholders include the industry, civil society, academia and the technical community in addition to the representatives of governments. Dutch stakeholders working on standards can be directly relevant to Dutch interests, or even representative of them.

Currently, there is a lack of awareness of which other Dutch stakeholders are working in which standards bodies. This is a blind spot of policy making that is not only a deficiency in legitimacy, but also a drawback for articulating the Dutch interest in standards processes. Different stakeholders offer different resources that can be mobilised to tackle particular challenges to a consistent, effective and efficient approach to standardisation.

For instance, civil society organisations and academia can contribute analysis and expertise on areas where other stakeholders are lacking. The issue of taking into account human rights in standards processes is a case in point. Actors from the Dutch IT and telecommunication sector, or the technical community, might have their particular interests and priorities in specific target domains that either tie in with national policy priorities or need to be strategically coordinated with them.

Capacity building as a multiplier

Capacity-building emerged as a key tool to support the development of a standard strategy and ensure an open, free, and secure internet. This needs to happen on several levels. Internal capacity development within the ministries needs to happen in order to understand ongoing processes and prevailing interests. Ideally, this would happen in an interdepartmental fashion to facilitate cross-departmental insights and joint learning.

Capacity-building and strategic coordination are also needed among the domestic industry, civil society, and other actors. Increased capacity and coordination would improve the effectiveness of the engagement of Dutch actors in international standard-setting and allow them to learn from each other about what is happening in other fora. Finally, foreign states and civil society organisations could benefit from capacity building to develop a joint and shared agenda for standard setting along the interests of the Netherlands.

In conclusion, capacity-building and strategic coordination across departments, domestic actors, and potential international allies would help to galvanise the Netherlands' leading position.

Currently, there is a lack of awareness of which other Dutch stakeholders are working in which standards bodies.

Capacity-building and strategic coordination are also needed among the domestic industry, civil society, and other actors.

IMPACT OF STANDARDS

Standards should not be political but are inherently political because they impact society.

creating / setting a standard is an investment

global standards are more efficient

Standards only exist if they are implemented in reality

tech

technical

Acknowledgements

We want to thank all the participants of the workshop, especially those who made time to share their thoughts, insights and experiences during the interviewees, and Mushon Zer-Aviv for guiding the process.

About the Lab

The critical infrastructure lab researches power and contestation in transnational media infrastructures. The lab aims to create space to co-develop alternative infrastructural futures that recenter people and planet over profit and capital. We aim to do this by establishing a community around three infrastructural subtopic (geopolitics, standards, environment), producing a sound body of research, as well as developing strategic insights and actionable policy recommendations.

https://criticalinfralab.net

Annex I: Follow-up and Actions

These are literal transcriptions of mini-projects that were developed by the participants of the workshop.

Group A: "Multilateral fora"

A1: Convince government hierarchy of the importance of investing in standardisation discussion

- ◈ **Force:** Connect, pull.
- ◈ **Action:** Need to identify desirable/undesirable scenarios, i.e. "what happens if we don't, what happens if we do?".
- ◈ **Context:** Now.
- ◈ **Owner:** Each ministry for their own department!
- ◈ **Identified by:** Maartje.
- ◈ **Milestones:** ∅
- ◈ **Timeframe:** ∅
- ◈ **Channel:** ∅
- ◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
- ◈ **Notes:**
    - ◇ BZK said they have a bit of capacity on standardisation and technical expertise, ensure we use it!
    - ◇ Create MT buy-in! → Can the Nationale Normalisatie Agenda be a means to this end? Speerpunten, netwerk, priority setting, and capacity building. [Owner: Juliana]
    - ◇ Workshop with NEN and EZK for foreign affairs practitioners to enhance their understanding.
    - ◇ I can help with writing three scenarios to convince SQ [Owner: Sander].

A2: Human power

- ◈ **Force:** Get into where the action is (push).
- ◈ **Action:** Hire people!
- ◈ **Context:** Who wants to change things?
- ◈ **Owner:** All stakeholders.
- ◈ **Identified by:** Marco (EZK).
- ◈ **Milestones:** ∅
- ◈ **Timeframe:** ∅
- ◈ **Channel:** ∅
- ◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
- ◈ **Notes:** ∅

A3: Contextualise the problem (capacity building with swing states)

◈ **Force:** Connect.
◈ **Action:** Shift focus.
◈ **Context:** Internal.
◈ **Owner:** ∅
◈ **Identified by:** Maartje.
◈ **Milestones:** ∅
◈ **Timeframe:** ∅
◈ **Channel:** ∅
◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
◈ **Notes:** ∅

A4: Engage with new partners in discussions leading up to the GDC and WSIS+20 (capacity building with swing states)

◈ **Force:** Connect and push.
◈ **Action:** Identify stakeholders.
◈ **Context:** Regions/countries — connect it to existing regional cyber dialogues that are already happening!
◈ **Owner:** MFA with other stakeholders.
◈ **Milestones:** ∅
◈ **Identified by:** Marie.
◈ **Timeframe:** ∅
◈ **Channel:** ∅
◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
◈ **Notes:**
    ◇ Making non-aligned countries like-minded, capacity-building programmes about standard-setting part of ODA (Official Development Assistance) budget.

A5: Define capacity building priorities and countries

◈ **Force:** Connect/push.
◈ **Action:**
    ◇ Connect our different strategies.
    ◇ Identify countries.
    ◇ Put in place holistic capacity building programme.
◈ **Context:** Mapping in The Hague, with identified implementation partners.
◈ **Owner:** BuZa.
◈ **Identified by:** Maartje.
◈ **Milestones:** ∅
◈ **Timeframe:** ∅
◈ **Channel:** ∅

◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
◈ **Notes:** ∅

A6: Capacity building on multilateral processes and technical processes through snuffelstage

◈ **Force:** ∅
◈ **Action:** ∅
◈ **Context:** ∅
◈ **Owner:** ∅
◈ **Identified by**: Fieke
◈ **Milestones:** ∅
◈ **Timeframe:** ∅
◈ **Channel:** ∅
◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
◈ **Notes:**
　　　◇ Capacity building.
　　　　　◇ → *Please contact Juliane/EZK to align actions!*

A7: Demystify standard processes

◈ **Force:** Ensure SDOs do what they are supposed to do (contain)!
◈ **Action:** Capacity building.
◈ **Context:** Interdepartmental.
◈ **Owner:** EZK.
◈ **Identified by:** Marco.
◈ **Milestones:** ∅
◈ **Timeframe:** ∅
◈ **Channel:** ∅
◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
◈ **Notes:**
　　　◇ Knowledge and capacity building.
　　　　　◇ Engage with NEN!
　　　　　◇ Meeting with PV Geneva and ISO/IECS!

A8: Assess the national security issue (economic security) regards to international communication standards and identify key stakeholders

◈ **Force:** Connect, pull, push.
◈ **Action:** Trigger, research, monitor.
◈ **Context:** National.
◈ **Owner:** BZK.
◈ **Identified by:** Jaap.
◈ **Milestones:** ∅
◈ **Timeframe:** ∅
◈ **Channel:** ∅

◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
◈ **Notes:** ∅

A9: Form an MSH-group to come up with a road map towards WSIS+20/GDC

◈ **Force:** Connect and push.
◈ **Action:** Identify stakeholders.
◈ **Context:** The Hague.
◈ **Owner:** MFA.
◈ **Identified by:** Marie.
◈ **Milestones:** ∅
◈ **Timeframe:** ∅
◈ **Channel:** ∅
◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
◈ **Notes:** ∅

A10: Create MSH-group to better inform policy decisions/ national positioning

◈ **Force:** Connect.
◈ **Action:** Map, identify, organise.
◈ **Context:** The Hague.
◈ **Owner:** Government.
◈ **Identified by:** Maartje.
◈ **Milestones:** ∅
◈ **Timeframe:** ∅
◈ **Channel:** ∅
◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
◈ **Notes:** ∅

Group B: "Strengthening the multistakeholder approach"

TIMELINE OF IMPLEMENTATION

◈ **Q4 2023** → Stakeholder participation fund first steps (B1)
◈ **Q4 2023** → Research who to engage commissioned (B3)
◈ **Q4 2023** → Pre-meeting (B5, also part of research trajectory B3)
◈ **Q1 2024** → NTS/DOSA and NLS-SS
◈ **Q1 2024, March** → Research outcomes published (B3)
◈ **Q1 2024, May** → Cyber & Telecom working parties meet in Brussels (B2)
◈ **Q2 2024, June** → Meeting with capitals before Q3 2024 (B2)
◈ **Q3 2024** → *"Positioning the NL tech innovation ecosystem to become an impactful actor"* might become a reality (B4)

B1: Stakeholder participation fund

◈ **Force:** Lack of participation due to little resources.
◈ **Action:** Research about contact Dutch government and StandICT.
◈ **Context:** TBD (maybe via PV Brussels).
◈ **Owner:** Justin Fiedler.
◈ **Milestones:** Standard setting strategy.
◈ **Timeframe:** Q4 2023.
◈ **Channel:** Coordination by EZK.
◈ **Notes from others:** ∅

B2: Cooperation and coordination with like-minded countries and stakeholders to raise (political) awareness and strategise

◈ **Force:** Strength in numbers to set the agenda internationally.
◈ **Action:** Small-scale coordination meetings between technical and policy experts. Joint meeting or workshop between Brussels working parties on Cyber and Telecoms to coordinate participation in the High-Level Forum on Standards and other policy spaces. Another joint meeting between all the equivalent civil servants in the EU capitals.
◈ **Context:** EU, broader group of like-minded countries.
◈ **Owner:** Jacco-Pepijn.
◈ **Milestones:** GDC, IGF.
◈ **Timeframe:** Meeting between Cyber and Telecom before Q2 2024, and then meeting with capitals before Q3 2024.

◈ **Channel:** ∅
◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
◈ **Notes:**
  ◇ Present the participation fund and the results of the research on Dutch participation in standards bodies at these meetings as an opportunity for cooperation and an example of good practice!

B3: Research into mapping Dutch organisations' engagement in the multistakeholder ecosystem

◈ **Force:** Co-coordinate Dutch governments' plan about current Dutch engagement.
◈ **Action:** We need to ask research institutions or thinktanks to do the research into stakeholder participation in multi-stakeholder institutions.
◈ **Context:** This is to change what is happening in multistakeholder institutions. People to make it happen have to be involved from:
  ◇ EZK/DEIZ.
  ◇ EZK/MC.
  ◇ Academics and thinktanks.
◈ **Owner:** Christoph Ephraim (EZK).
◈ **Identified by:** Christoph Ephraim (EZK).
◈ **Milestones:**
  ◇ Deciding who finances the research.
  ◇ Commissioning the research
    ◇ → *before the NL standards strategy kick-off*!
◈ **Timeframe:**
  ◇ *1 months* to formulate the requirements and commission the research.
  ◇ *3-6 months* of research.
◈ **Channel:** ∅
◈ **Notes from others:**
  ◇ Contact NEN to join forces about this!
  ◇ EZK provides financing for initial stakeholder mappings for new standardisation initiatives such as:
    ◇ EN/CENELEC;
    ◇ ISO/IEC;
    ◇ ETSY.
  ◇ HLF priority project for NSB peer review on participation:
    ◇ the research results are interesting!
◈ **Notes:** ∅

B4: Positioning the NL tech innovation ecosystem to become an impactful actor

◈ **Force:** Many high-impact tech innovations are external to NL.
◈ **Action:** Align government departments for technological strategies!
◈ **Context:** Interdepartmental meetings.
◈ **Owner:** Justin, as well as Alica, Marco (EZK).
◈ **Identified by:** Justin.
◈ **Milestones:**
  ◇ NTS;
  ◇ DOSA;
  ◇ NL Standards Strategy;
  ◇ 2023 TK verkiezingen.
◈ **Timeframe:** *Q4 2023* until the beginning of *Q3 2024*.
◈ **Channel:** Coordination by EZK (DE/Topsectoren).
◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
◈ **Notes:**
  ◇ EZK needs to expand on NTS, DOSA & NL standards setting!

B5: Dutch multistakeholder pre-meeting before the meeting of a major international standards body

◈ **Force:** Human rights sector is "afraid" of conversation with the technical community and speaks a different language than SMEs.
◈ **Action:** Organise a round-table/workshop to identify shared priorities, coordinated participation and define success criteria for that participation.
◈ **Context:** All 5 stakeholder groups need to be involved!
◈ **Owner:** Alica (EZK) would be the ideal owner according to the group B participants.
◈ **Identified by:** Maxigas (Infralab).
◈ **Milestones:**
  ◇ *Identify next meeting* that makes sense to target.
  ◇ *Identify participants* (who are already involved in international standards bodies & those who might be relevant to the issues/standards, but who are not currently actively participating in the relevant standards processes) — possibly based on the research into participation and stakeholders defined in B3.
◈ **Timeframe:** Would be good for the NL IGF that starts in about an hour from now, or as soon as possible... but more realistic a few months before the chosen meeting of the international standards body.
◈ **Channel:** Dedicated Signal channel?
◈ **Notes from others:** Why focus on WSIS for standardisation and not e.g. on IETF, W3C, 3GPP? — WSIS is not the standards-setter.
◈ **Notes:** ∅

Group C: "Human rights & societal impact"

C1: Empower NGOs to participate in standardisation

- ◈ **Force:** Lack of Civil Society Funding & Resources.
- ◈ **Action:** Inform and Interest NGOs.
- ◈ **Context:** Mini-conference for NGOs by government and academia.
- ◈ **Owner:** Sander (BZK) and Juliana (EZK).
- ◈ **Milestones:**
    - ◇ Map NGOs.
    - ◇ Align content and format.
- ◈ **Timeframe:**
    - ◇ EOP conference.
    - ◇ Contact University of Twente.
- ◈ **Channel:** Email.
- ◈ **Notes from others:** Ø
- ◈ **Notes:** Christophe Efraim.

C2: Facilitate interdepartmental and inter-agency coordination

- ◈ **Force:** European values implemented in standards, align:
    - ◇ UNGPs;
    - ◇ OECD framework;
    - ◇ Lisbon Agreement;
    - ◇ Declaration Summit of the Future of the Internet.
- ◈ **Action:** Send out invitations to participate in National Normalization Agenda.
- ◈ **Context:**
    - ◇ Netherlands.
    - ◇ European Commission.
    - ◇ High Level Forum on European Standardisation.
- ◈ **Owner:** EZK (Sander, Saqib, Sinan, Christof, Juliane, Pim) .
- ◈ **Milestones:**
    - ◇ Coordinate MT MC/DETZ.
    - ◇ Rework workshop results.
    - ◇ Prepare briefing for DG.
    - ◇ *November 30* → HLF meeting.
- ◈ **Timeframe:** *November 30*.

◈ **Channel:** ∅
◈ **Notes from others:**
  ◇ Inform partners outside Europe of the process leading up to EU policy and lawmaking. Involve them early in the process!

C3: Translate existing European commitments to concrete aims and obligations for standardisation

◈ **Force:** European values are not mainstreamed in standardisation.
◈ **Action:**
  ◇ Inventarisation, translation, and publication of aligned values and norms.
  ◇ Two examples of implementation.
◈ **Context:** NL & EU.
◈ **Owner:** Juliane (EZK) with support from
  ◇ Sander (BZK) and
  ◇ Niels (infralab).
◈ **Milestones:** Feed into C2.
◈ **Timeframe:** Feed into C2.
◈ **Channel:** ∅
◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
◈ **Notes:** ∅

C4: Request OECD to research the synergy between the different principles

◈ **Force:** Further follow up on UNGPs in standardisation.
◈ **Action:** Ensure they are further acted upon.
◈ **Context:** Comprehension in NL first, thereafter in EU/UN.
◈ **Owner:** Alisa (EZK).
◈ **Milestones:** OECD meetings.
◈ **Timeframe:** 1 year.
◈ **Channel:** ∅
◈ **Notes from others:** Is there sufficient buy-in in the OECD for European Values? *Or does this need extra work?*
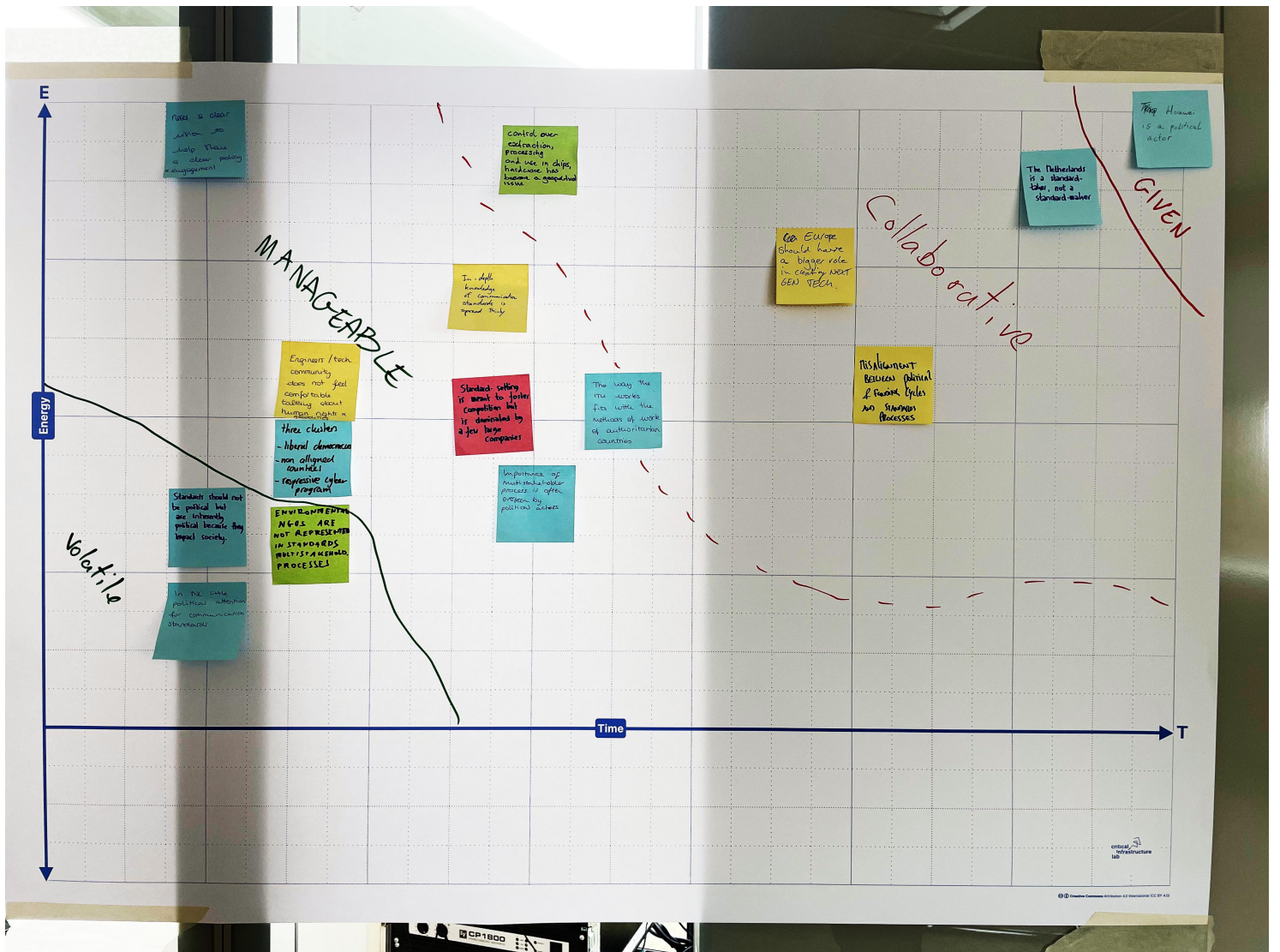◈ **Notes:**
  ◇ *Principles such as*:
    ◇ human rights, UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct, European Standardisation Strategy (and possibly Lisbon Treaty, Declaration Future of the Internet).
  ◇ First step would be to contact experts on UNGP/OECD standards via Niels/Guus (→ SOMO).

C5: Netherlands Chairship of FOC - bridge EU & FOC

- ◈ **Force:** EU values.
- ◈ **Action:** Bringing the EU in the FOC.
- ◈ **Context:** Brussels, Paris, and Berlin.
- ◈ **Owner:** Guus/MoFA, Digital Diplomacy Network, High Level Group on Internet Governance (HLIG).
- ◈ **Milestones:** Presentation in HLIG at DDN.
- ◈ **Timeframe:** 1 year.
- ◈ **Channel:** ∅
- ◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
- ◈ **Notes:** ∅

C6: Increase Funding for Human Rights in Digitisation

- ◈ **Force:** Lack of Funding and Awareness.
- ◈ **Action:** Write an action plan or donor principles!
- ◈ **Context:** ∅
- ◈ **Owner:** MFA .
- ◈ **Milestones:** ∅
- ◈ **Timeframe:** ∅
- ◈ **Channel:** ∅
- ◈ **Notes from others:** ∅
- ◈ **Notes:** ∅

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