

The Internet Governance Forum

**EAIGF
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The Internet as a bone of contention

- The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) put a new issue on the agenda of international cooperation: the Internet.
- Recognition of the importance of the Internet as the backbone of globalization.
- Two visions of the world:
 - Bottom-up distributed cooperation vs.
 - Classical intergovernmental cooperation.

Internet Governance

- WSIS adopted a broad definition of Internet Governance (“more than naming and addressing”);
- identified a broad range of public policy issues;
- proposed a “new space for dialogue” (=IGF);
- proposed further internationalization of Internet governance arrangements.

Internet Governance

- *Internet governance is the development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.*

Internet Governance Forum

- Paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda
- Discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet.

What the IGF is:

- A platform for multistakeholder policy dialogue.
 - It is based on a 'soft governance' approach.
- => IGF can shape public opinion and decision making.

Soft Governance

- IGF has no power of redistribution.
- IGF has the power of recognition:
 - can identify issues of concern;
 - can draw attention to an issue;
 - can put an issue on the agenda of international cooperation.
- Example: multilingualism and IDN:
 - IGF did not take any decision, but highlighted the urgency many non English speaking Internet users attach to this issue.

Policy Coherence

- Much of the IGF discussion deals with international factors.
 - However: National policies are important.
 - Enabling environment is a key factor to allow for development and deployment of the Internet.
 - Need for policy coherence at all levels:
 - International
 - Regional
 - National
- => International coordination needs to build on coordination at the national and regional levels

Regional & National IGF Initiatives

- LAC Regional IGF
- Caribbean IGF
- East Africa IGF
- West Africa IGF
- EuroDIG
- Commonwealth IGF
- Asia Pacific IGF
- UK
- USA
- Italy
- Denmark
- Portugal
- Kenya
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- Rwanda
- Côte d'Ivoire
- Finland
- Germany
- Sweden
- Spain
- Russia

Strengths and Weaknesses

Different views on strengths and weaknesses:

- Some see lack of decision-making power as a weakness:
- They want the IGF 'to produce concrete results'.
- Others see it as a strength:
- The lack of decision-making power creates a space for open dialogue.

IGF Annual Meetings

- Annual meeting of four days.
- Four meetings so far:
 - Athens 2006;
 - Rio de Janeiro 2007;
 - Hyderabad 2008;
 - Sharm El Sheikh 2009.
- Fifth meeting:
 - Vilnius, Lithuania, 14-17 September 2010.

Dynamic Coalitions

Dynamic Coalitions emerging from the workshops:

- Stop Spam Alliance (ITU, OECD, APEC...);
- Open Standards (Brazil, W3C, Sun..);
- Privacy (France, World Bank, AI...);
- Internet Bill of Rights (Brazil, ISOC Italy, IP Justice...);
- A2K@IGF (Google, CoE, FSFE, EFF).
- FOEonline (Freedom of Expression and the Media)
- Child online Safety (ECPAT, Save the Children, Childnet International)

The IGF Mandate

- IGF original mandate for 5 years, subject to review.
- UN Secretary-General was requested to hold “formal consultations with IGF participants on the desirability of a continuation of the Forum.”
- Consultations took place at 4th IGF Meeting in Sharm EL Sheikh.
- Based on consultations, Secretary-General will make recommendations to UN Membership.
- Decision by UN General Assembly on whether or not to extend the IGF Mandate in December 2010.

Consultations in Sharm El Sheikh

Overwhelming support for the IGF as it is.

Calls for improvements, such as:

- Visibility for outcomes.
- Participation of developing countries.
- Transparency.
- Remote participation.
- Creating a data bank for best practices.

The Way Forward

- A final decision on whether or not to continue with the IGF will be taken by UN Member States.
- Final decision will also be a decision on whether or not multistakeholder cooperation as the best approach towards Internet governance.

The Vilnius Agenda

- Overall theme:
“IGF 2010 – developing the future together”
- Agenda:
 - Managing critical Internet resources;
 - Security, Openness and Privacy;
 - Access and Diversity;
 - Internet governance for development;
 - Taking stock of Internet governance and the way forward;
 - Emerging issues: cloud computing.

Ways to Participate

- Come to Vilnius
- Participate online
 - Remote hub
 - Email in questions
- Join or create a Dynamic Coalition
- Submit a paper.

More Information

www.intgovforum.org

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