8th AfriNIC Open Policy Meeting

Rabat
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The Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

- Result of Second Phase of WSIS.

- Convened by the UN Secretary-General.

- Forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on issues related to the Internet.

What the IGF is NOT:

- …not a new organization;
- …not a decision-making body;
- IGF has no power of redistribution.

What the IGF is:

- Based on'soft governance' approach.
- 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.
- Can shape public opinion and decision making.

One cross-cutting priority : Development

- Internet governance to be placed in WSIS and MDG context ('digital divide').
- "Internet governance for development"
- Two aspects:
  - Effective and meaningful participation in Internet governance arrangements;
  - Building of capacity to address Internet governance issues.

Multistakeholder dialogue

All participate as equals, everybody can have a say:

- Governments
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Internet institutions
- Private Sector
- Civil Society
- Academic and Technical Communities

The purpose of IGF Meetings

- Exchanging ideas and information;
- Sharing best practices;
- Learning from one another
  - (no one size fits all solutions!).

What IGF can offer

- Platform that promotes cooperation involving all stakeholders.

- Interaction with people and institution participants would not meet otherwise.

- Dealing with issues outside the remit of technical organizations.

IGF impact

The IGF can:

- Shape public opinion and decision-making processes in other institutions;

- Encourage policy coherence at all levels;

- provide a platform for reaching out to all stakeholders;

- bring in different stakeholder perspectives into public policy debate

- 109 countries represented in the meetings

Policy Coherence

- Need for policy coherence at all levels:
  - International
  - Regional
  - National

  => International coordination needs to build on coordination at the national and regional levels

- Importance of meetings such as AfriNIC!

Methodology

- How to achieve policy coherence?
- Not through negotiations on a common framework…
- …but through exchange of information and
- sharing of "best practices" on "Internet friendly policies.
- No "one size fits all" solution!
- Different solutions adapted to different needs.

National policies

- 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.

National and Regional IGFs

- Emerging interest in creating national and regional IGFs.
- Examples include:
  - Senegal
  - UK
  - Japan
  - Italy
  - European Parliament encouraging the organization of 'European IGF' before mid-2009.

IGF annual meetings

- Annual meeting of four days.
- Two meetings so far:
  - Athens 2006;
  - Rio de Janeiro 2007.
- After Europe and Latin America:
- 2008 is Asia's turn - Hyderabad, India.

Different formats

- Main Sessions
- Workshops
- Best Practice Forums
- Open Forums
- Dynamic Coalitions

Dynamic Coalitions

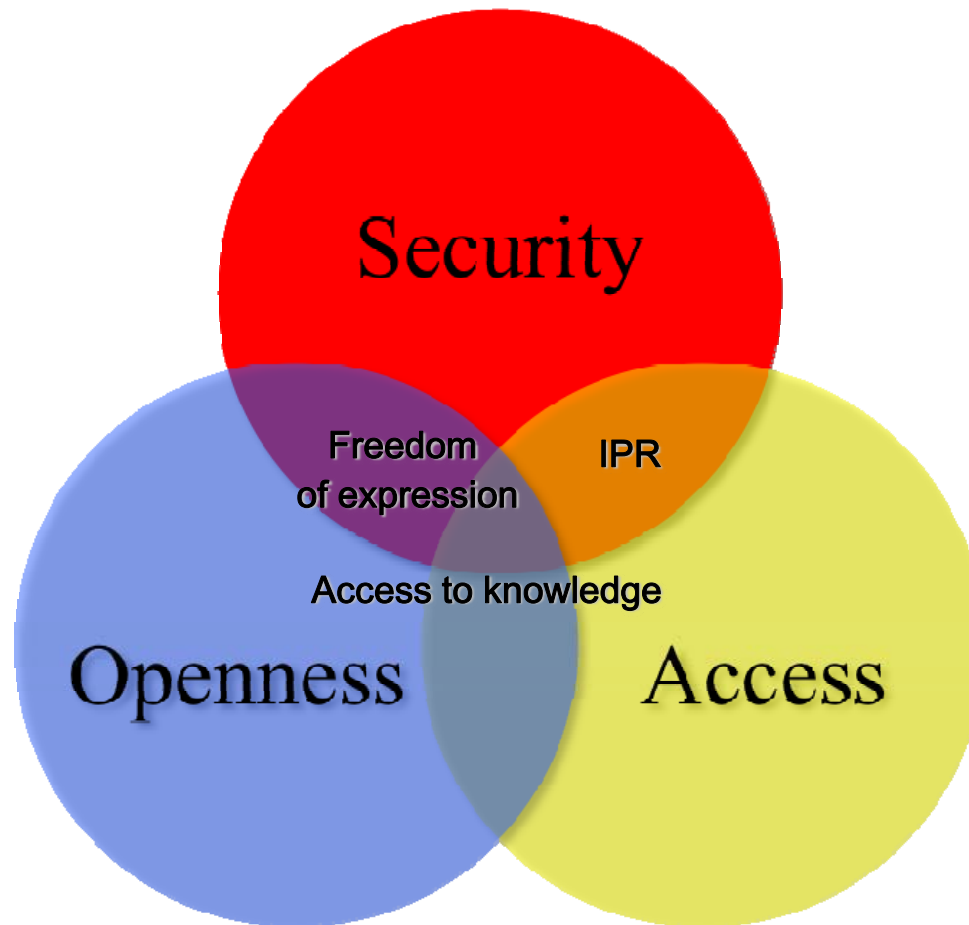Dynamic Coalitions emerging from the workshops:

- 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)
- Access and Connectivity for Remote, Rural and Dispersed Communities
- Dynamic Coalition on Child Online Safety

Five broad themes:

- Access
- Diversity
- Security
- Openness
- Critical Internet resources

IGF at the Intersection

Rio Meeting - African interest

- Internet Governance - What Strategy for Africa?

- Kenya BPF

- Regulatory Frameworks for Improving Access

- Access: The Local Challenge

- Linguistic diversity

Hyderabad meeting

- Overall theme: "Internet for all".
- Agenda:
  - Reaching the next billion
  - Promoting cyber-security and trust
  - Managing critical Internet resources
  - Taking stock and the way forward
  - Emerging issues: The Internet of tomorrow.

Ways to participate

- Open consultations in Geneva: 16 September 2008.
- Online:
  - Submit issue papers;
  - Propose Workshop & Best Practice Forums;
  - Online Forum;
  - Virtual Participation.

IGF 2008 – Hyderabad, India
3 - 6 December 2008

Direct International Airport Connectivity.