INTERNET GOVERNANCE

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR AFRICA?

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PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES

- Emergence of a new economy

- Empowering the citizen

BASIC QUESTION???

- Governance mechanism for the ICT Sector

- Different and Differing viewpoints

Harmonized Approach

- Allocation of Internet names and numbers
- Cyber security
- Standards
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Support to e-health, e-education, e-gov

Legal regulatory policy

- Trustworthy
- Transparent
- Non-discriminatory
- Enforceable
- Effective separation-Policy Maker/regulator

Defining the contours

ICT GOVERNANCE

V/S

INTERNET GOVERNANCE

PRECONDITIONS

- Institutional Readiness
- Local Capacity
- ICT Use
- Affordability
- Cultural dimension

How best can Africa benefit from Internet Governance?

Major Clarification

- Internet Governance issue not limited to ICANN

- ICANN-Private Law Entity

- Under the Jurisdiction of the State of California

Legal Relationship-US &ICANN

- Memorandum of Understanding.

- Two private parties-Nobody else

- US Dept of Commerce and ICANN

Other aspects of Internet Governance

- Infrastructure
- Copyright
- Content
- Trade Marks
- Standards
- Cyber crime
- Security
- Digital Divide

- Encryption
- Data and Consumer Protection
- Interconnection
- Transfer of technology
- Interoperability
- Moral and Cultural values

FOCUSSING ON THE GLOBAL ASPECT

Need for:

(1)   Information sharing

From basic to technical

(2) Reflection

On the African context-drawbacks and specificities

(3) Structured and Coordinated approach

From **WSIS** to **IGF**

Change in the status of the Forum

WSIS

Negotiating Forum-Declaration & Action Plan

"… unanimous agreement in WSIS, as per the "Declaration of Principles" and "Plan of Action", that Internet Governance should be "multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations".

WGIG

The WGIG has been asked, inter alia,

to "investigate and make proposals for action, as appropriate, on the governance of the Internet by 2005" dealing with the following issues

Develop a working definition of Internet governance

Identify the public policy issues that are relevant to Internet governance

Develop a common understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of Governments, existing international organizations and other forums, as well as the private sector and civil society in both developing and developed countries

Internet Governance Forum

- Where are we (Africa) in the process?
- Basic Misunderstandings
- Narrow-ICANN perspective only
- Neglect of the broader internet issues
- Summary appraisal of the present status of Internet Governance

Need for change in perspective

- Moving from a bilateral context onto a multilateral platform
- Need to do a balancing act-

Preservation of what we have and use

v/s

Constructive and adaptable changes

How do we proceed?

- Being honest about our shortcomings
- Identifying our needs
- Seeking help from specialized entities-AfriNic, ISOC, ICANN, IANA (there are others)
- Develop a specialized pedagogy

The Pedagogy

Group recipients into those

- needing basic training in the first place
- (b) specialized training for internet regular users
- (c) higher reflection group-strategy
- (d) Use regulators as focal points

Structuring

1.National Initiatives

2.Sub regional level

3.Regional Level-May be inter-
    regulator(Continuity)

4.Political strata

5.African Common Position

Getting Started

Setting up of a coordinating body

(1)   Organization

(2)   Production of materials

(3)   Funding

(4)   Appraisal

(5)   Communication

Thank You
For Your Attention.