8th AfriNIC Open Policy Meeting

Rabat
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Markus Kummer
Executive Coordinator
Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
http://www.intgovforum.org/
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
IGF annual meetings

• Annual meeting of four days.
• Two meetings so far:
  – Athens 2006;
• 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

Security

Openness

Access

Freedom of expression

IPR

Access to knowledge
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


• Online:
  – Submit issue papers;
  – Propose Workshop & Best Practice Forums;
  – Online Forum;
  – Virtual Participation.
IGF 2008 – Hyderabad, India
3 - 6 December 2008