Creating an Enabling Environment

WSIS Facilitation Meeting on Action Line C6, the Enabling Environment
20 May 2008

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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 dialogue
- Mandate to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.

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What the IGF is NOT:

• ...not a new organization;
• ...not a decision-making body;
• IGF has no power of redistribution.
What the IGF is:

• ‘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.

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Multistakeholder dialogue

All participate as equals, everybody can have a say:

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

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IGF Themes

Five broad themes:

– Access
– Diversity
– Openness
– Security
– Critical Internet Resources
Two priorities:

• Development:
  – Internet governance for development.

• Capacity–building:
  – Capacity to improve access to the Internet;
  – Capacity to engage in Internet policy discussions and decision–making.

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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.
Policy Coherence

• Need for policy coherence at all levels:
  – International
  – Regional
  – National

=> International coordination needs to build on coordination at the national level!
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.
Best practices

‘Enabling environment issues’:
• National policies, including multistakeholder cooperation;
• Management of ccTLDs;
• Cyber security and cyber crime;
• Protection of children;
• Multilingualism;
• Access for people with disabilities;

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Integrated approach

- Emerging from the IGF discussions:
- National policies need to be based on an integrated approach ("integrated regulatory framework").
- Telecom infrastructure, Competition, Prices, Rates, Power supply, Tariffs and Taxations need to be coherent to enable Internet availability and growth.
Regional and National IGFs

- Emerging interest in creating national and regional IGFs.
- Examples include:
  - UK
  - Senegal
  - Italy
IGF 2008 – Hyderabad, India
3 – 6 December 2008

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