



“SWISS KNIFE TOOLKIT” FOR INTERNET GOVERNANCE

New Tools for Negotiating New Topics

The “Swiss Knife Toolkit” for Internet governance provides access to the necessary knowledge and skills required for meaningful participation in Internet governance activities. The toolkit consists of the following modules:

An **Information and Knowledge Repository**, containing documents, academic articles and various other sources related to Internet governance. Easy access to all relevant information/knowledge is facilitated through the use of:

- hypertext-organised documents that facilitate direct access to the information/knowledge contained in a document (paragraph, sentence, etc.);
- a multi-layered presentation of information (beginning with brief summaries, continuing with outlines of the main points, and ending with complete texts);
- inter-textuality features that facilitate high-level, or horizontal, textual management of various documents (e.g. a comparative survey of the coverage of the term “universal access” in various official documents, academic papers, etc. can be conducted);
- tools for constant online updates through the addition of layers of meaning (e.g. annotations, links, etc.).

A **Procedural Manual**, assisting participants to grasp various procedural activities (e.g. voting, presenting motions, etc.). The manual consists of three main elements:

- a concise survey of the main procedural rules;
- a guide about the functioning of rules (implementation, exceptions); and
- a comparative survey concerning the implementation of procedural rules in the context of other negotiation activities (e.g. multilateral, Internet professional communities, etc.).

Given the high relevance of procedural issues in the early phases of the WSIS process, a particular emphasis will be placed on using procedure as an enabling tool for conducting negotiations.

An **IS Governance Directory**, consisting of an easily accessible database of the key players in the field of IS governance.

A **Language Assistant Tool**, helping participants to manage the various linguistic aspects of the IS governance process, including drafting documents, analysing, producing summaries, etc. The integral part of the language assistant is the IS governance dictionary.

An **Online Negotiation Assistant (ONA)**, facilitating negotiations and consultations over the Internet. A complete negotiation process can be conducted online. Negotiators can make motions (amendments), statements and decisions (voting).

Most of the above mentioned tools have been used in the context of Diplo’s courses on Internet governance over the last seven years.

WALK THE TALK

Should negotiations on Internet governance be conducted via the Internet?