



# INTERNET GOVERNANCE DISCUSSION AND WSIS

*Bertrand de LA CHAPELLE*  
*Director – wsis-online.net*



# WHAT DID WSIS PHASE 1 BRING ?



# The principle of a UN SG Working Group

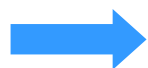
- Internet Governance was one of the **most debated issues** during PrepComs
- Almost a cause for deadlock, as stakeholders diverged on :
  - The meaning of the term
  - The objectives
  - The breadth of questions
  - The way to address them
- Way out : the Action Plan asks the UN SG to :  
« set up a **working group on Internet Governance**, in an open and inclusive process that ensures a mechanism for the full and active participation of [all stakeholders], ..., that will report [] in Tunis in 2005 »



## Clear missions for the WG (inter alia)



- 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 intergovernmental and international organisations and other forums as well as the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries;



**Internet Governance is both Agenda and Process**



## Lessons from the « Couchepin Roundtable »

---

- Internet governance as Agenda can be understood :
  - **Restrictively** : standards / management of internet resources
  - Or as an **umbrella word** : many legal aspects related in particular to social behaviors on / uses of the Internet
  
- Internet governance as Process presents multi-level and multi-sectoral dimensions, with probably **several hundred entities or organizations** of various legal status and geographic reach involved;
  
- An efficient Working Group should be small but can hardly represent all geographical and sectoral interests involved : neutral steering role ?



## So, what did WSIS bring ?

---

- the issue is now on the International Agenda;
- it must be addressed in the period between Geneva and Tunis : long but finite period
- all stakeholders must be involved : public, private, civil society actors, as well as international or intergovernmental organizations
- A new, innovative, format has to be invented

**How to facilitate the « open and inclusive »  
preparatory process ?**



# Vicious or virtuous circle ?

## Agenda of Issues

- Issues of common concern
- That concerned stakeholders agree should be addressed
- Even if they do not agree on how and to what purpose

## Consultation Process

- Mechanisms, fora methodologies
- To allow all relevant actors
- To identify and address their issues of concern
- And assume their joint responsibilities



# MAPPING ISSUES AND STAKEHOLDERS



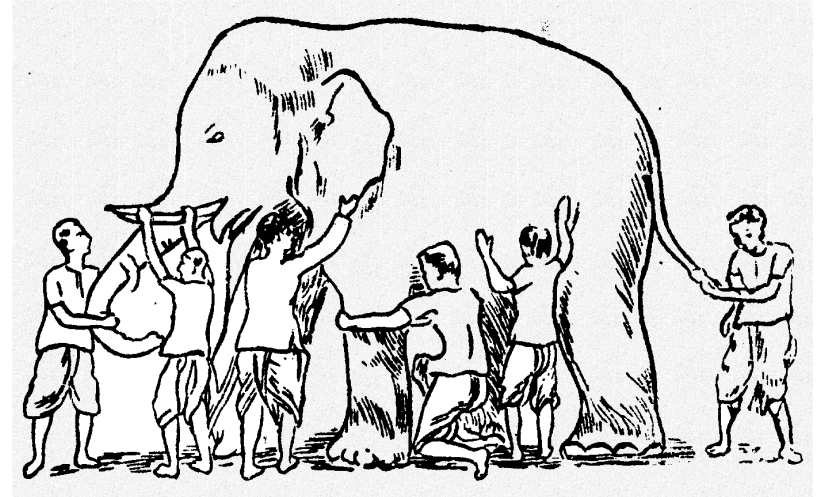
# Six blind men and the elephant

.....  
And so these men of Indostan  
Disputed loud and long,  
Each in his own opinion  
Exceeding stiff and strong,  
Though each was partly in the right,  
And all were in the wrong!

Moral:

So oft in theologic wars,  
The disputants, I ween,  
Rail on in utter ignorance  
Of what each other mean,  
And prate about an Elephant  
Not one of them has seen!

John Godfrey Saxe (1816-1887)



c. Lou Rosenfeld and Jess McMullin

« Kipling » seminars :

Mapping exercises



# A variety of concrete problems

- Protocols and standards
- User behavior (eg defamation, spam)
- Optimization of rare resources (names, spectrum, ...)
- Internet-based activities (eg gambling, auctions..)
- Legislations on illegal or harmful content
- .....
- Management of Internet Infrastructure
- Technological innovations VoIP, peer to peer, wifi ...
- .....

**Can there be a common agreed map ?**



# A list of issues in the Action Plan 9 clusters

1. Information and communication Infrastructure
2. Access to information and knowledge
3. Capacity building
4. Building confidence, trust and security

## ***Protection of privacy***

c) Governments, and other stakeholders, should actively promote user education and awareness about online privacy and the means of **protecting privacy**.

## ***Spam***

d) Take appropriate action on **spam** at national and international levels.

5. Enabling environment
6. ICT applications
7. Cultural and linguistic diversity, local content
8. Media
9. Ethical dimensions of the information society



# A bottom-up mapping



## Issues

- Concrete problems
- Often interlinked
- Already addressed or not
- Requiring concertation, coordination, guidelines or regulation
- At national, regional or global level

## Relevant Stakeholders

On each issue :

- Governments
- Private sector
- Civil society
- International organizations



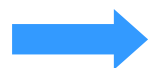


# AN OFFLINE AND ONLINE PRELIMINARY PROCESS



# WSIS remained a constituency-based processes

- **Governments** : ad hoc Working Group during the preparatory process
- **Private sector** : Dedicated working group within the International Chamber of Commerce (acting as CCBI)
- **Civil society** : Internet Governance Caucus



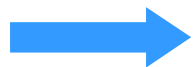
**Multi-stakeholder interaction is now needed**



## Lessons from existing processes (eg W3C)



- Wide **iterative** consultation processes
- In “**Russian Dolls**” mode : convenors, thematic working groups, issue networks, and @large constituencies
- **Starting with the most informal** and progressively shaping up as drafts and formal proposals
- Conducted offline (meetings) **and** on the Internet



**Inclusive probably means offline and online**

# A serie of meetings by various « convenors »

Geneva



ITU Workshop (February)



ICANN Rome (March)



UN ICT TF Global Forum (March)



ISOC's INET 2004 (May)

Other ?

**Can they share  
some methodology ?**

Tunis



# Possible questions for a mapping process



- What are the different **concrete issues** of Internet Governance ?
- Who are the **stakeholders** playing a convenor role on each issue or should be involved in consultations ?
- What are the **events** that can be used to conduct physical consultations ?
- What are the **concerns** of each actor in each issue ?

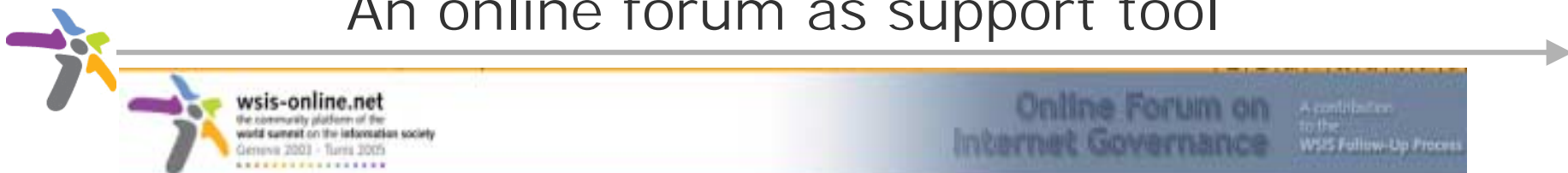


A **community platform** for all actors willing to implement the WSIS Action Plan :

- Calendar of events
- Identification of actors (people / organizations) with similar interests
- Facilitation of projects
- Consultation tools (interest groups, working groups, ...)

All indexed through a **list of Summit themes** taken from the Action Plan.

# An online forum as support tool



**wsis-online.net**  
the community platform of the  
world summit on the information society  
Geneva 2003 - Tunis 2005

## Online Forum on Internet Governance

A contribution to the WSIS Follow-Up Process

Home

### How to participate

- Search
- Summit themes
- All Summit Events
- Projects
- People
- Organizations
- UNDP Initiatives
- Civil Society News
- Feedback
- Press

**Online Forum on Internet Governance**

- Forums
- News
- Documents
- FAQs

**World Electronic Media Forum**

- WEMF events

**ICT4D Platform**

- Events, Projects, People, Organizations

**Official WSIS site**

- Swiss Secretariat
- All partners
- Official partners

**ICT for Development Platform**

**Register now!**

e-mail:

Password:

**ITU**

**ICANN**

**IGOV News**

- (02/23/04) Test
- (02/11/04) Online Forum on Internet Governance Grand Opening
- IGOV Threads**
- (02/19/04) Re: Spam / not Internet Governance
- (02/19/04) Spam / not Internet Governance
- (02/19/04) Re: First Topics et alors
- IGOV Links**
- WSIS official website
- Tunis phase website
- Internet Governance Resource

### Welcome to the WSIS-Online Forum on Internet Governance!

## Internet Governance in the WSIS Action Plan

The *Geneva Action Plan* (para C6b) has requested the United Nations Secretary General to « set up a Working Group on Internet governance, in an open and inclusive process that ensures a mechanism for the full and active participation of governments, the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries, involving relevant intergovernmental and international organizations and forums, to investigate and make proposals for action, as appropriate, on the governance of Internet by 2005.

The group should, inter alia:

1. develop a working **definition** of Internet governance;
2. identify the **public policy issues** that are relevant to Internet governance;
3. develop a common understanding of the **respective roles and responsibilities** of governments, existing intergovernmental and international organizations and other forums as well as the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries
4. prepare a **report** on the results of this activity to be presented for consideration and appropriate action for the second phase of WSIS in Tunis in 2005.

## Facilitation workshops and seminars

In this perspective, various preliminary meetings are already planned, including an ITU workshop in Geneva on 26-27 February, an ICANN workshop in Rome on 2-4 March and, with the encouragement of the UN Secretary General, a two-day Global Forum on Internet Governance in New York on March 25-26, on the occasion of the meeting of the UN ICT Task Force.

Other meetings and workshops organized by various convenors in the coming months will allow a large diversity of actors to engage in open consultations before the formation of the Internet Governance Working Group by the UN Secretary General.

## An online forum to facilitate these consultations

With the support of the UN Secretary General's special advisor for WSIS, the present online forum is being hosted on wsis-online.net to receive and present contributions from willing actors and support the inclusiveness of these efforts.

**Participation** : participation in the Online Forum is open to any individual or organization concerned with Internet Governance and willing to contribute to the debate in a constructive way. The only condition for participation is registration on the wsis-online web site with a valid email adress.

**Four threads** : To facilitate navigation and flexibility, the forum will initially be structured around four threads :

1. What are the different dimensions of Internet Governance ? [\[thread 1\]](#)
2. What are the main stakeholders already convening groups or consultations on these themes or that should be involved in such consultations ? [\[thread 2\]](#)
3. What are the main concerns or challenges for each of these different issues ? [\[thread 3\]](#)
4. Can this consultation process facilitate the future work of the working group the Secretary General is solicited to set up ? [\[thread 4\]](#)



# Characteristics of the online forum

- Participation : contribution open to all in english or french
- Four threads :
  - What are the dimensions of Internet Governance ?
  - Who are the Stakeholders involved on each issue ?
  - What are the main concerns or challenges for each issue ?
  - Can this open process contribute to the work of the future UN SG WG ?
- Moderated contributions; regular summaries in 6 languages
- Accessible archives



# CONCLUSION



## Possible starting points

---

- Time constraints are clear : two years
- Process and issues are interrelated
- Broadly mapping issues and stakeholders could be a key starting point
- Multistakeholder offline and online preliminary consultations with some shared methodology