

Internet Governance:

The Way from Geneva to Tunis

# The results of Geneva:

- The beginning of a broad-based multilateral process on Internet governance
- Mandate to the UN Secretary-General to set up a Working Group on "the governance of Internet"
- The Working Group is to report to the second phase of the Summit in Tunis in November 2005

# Basis for WGIG: Principles enshrined in Geneva Declaration

- the Internet by now is a global facility
- its management should be multilateral, transparent and democratic and
- its management should involve fully governments, private sector, civil society and international organizations.

# Terms of Reference of the WGIG:

- 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 from both developing and developed countries.

# The process ahead: as important as substance

it needs to

- be “open and inclusive”
- ensure “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”.

# Process related priorities (1)

- no single organization in charge

=> institutional independence of WGIG is of paramount importance.

# Process related priorities (2)

"open and inclusive" character of process :

## Stakeholders:

- All stakeholders and all relevant intergovernmental and other international organisations will have to be given equal access to the work of the group.

## Governments:

- WGIG will have limited membership
- Need for a compromise between efficiency and legitimacy
- Need to interact with all governments and stakeholders in an open-ended mode.

# Process related priorities (3)

- Importance of developing country participation
  - their full and meaningful participation be essential – this involves
    - travelling costs
    - capacity building



# Implementation of Geneva Mandate

need for setting up first

- a Secretariat
- Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG)

# Secretariat

## Principal mandate:

- to provide support to the UN Secretary-General in order to establish the WGIG
- to provide substantive, organizational and administrative support to the WGIG
- Composition of Secretariat: seconded staff from UN agencies and other relevant international organizations
- Aim: Secretariat should reflect regional balance.

# Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG)

- principal mandate: prepare report for Tunis as its main deliverable
- Members to be appointed by the UN Secretary-General
- limited membership
- balanced and representative composition
- respecting various criteria (geographical, gender and stakeholder balance).

# Tentative Road Map (1)

## - three main phases

a first preparatory phase:

setting up the Secretariat and the WGIG:

- Secretariat is expected to start functioning as a small core group as from June. It should be fully operational by October 2004.
- In parallel: Chairman of WGIG will be nominated.
- Remaining Members of WGIG will be selected through open-ended consultations with all stakeholders to be held by the Chairperson.
- Composition of WGIG should be completed by October 2004.

# Tentative Road Map (2)

second phase: substantive work

- Start: once the WGIG is appointed
- Implementation of the mandate set out by the Summit
- Three or four meetings of the WGIG
- two or three rounds of open-ended consultations with all governments and stakeholders
- The WGIG may wish to draw on selected resource persons and advisers as well as on regional or thematic meetings and workshops
- The report should be issued not later than July 2005.

# Tentative Road Map (3)

third phase:

preparing the Summit and winding up

- The WGIG and a core group of Secretariat members will accompany the process until the Tunis Summit.
- The Secretariat will be gradually scaled down.

# A reminder:

## Two schools of thought (1)

### First school of thought:

- need for a multilateral forum for a dialogue with the various stakeholders, preferably with the legitimacy of the UN system
- should not replace any existing mechanism, nor infringe on the work of any existing organisation
- would be supplementary and deal with policy issues
- Internet Governance seen as issue related to national sovereignty.

# Two schools of thought (2)

Second school of thought:

- present system works well
- before trying to solve a problem, it is necessary to identify what problems need to be addressed
- system private sector driven, therefore essential to ensure full and active involvement of the private sector and all stakeholders.



# Agenda of WGIG:

- Task of the WGIG: to decide on the scope of its mandate
- narrow, technical definition vs. broad definition (including issues such as network security, intellectual property rights, consumer and data protection)

# Preliminary conclusion

- Need for broad-based consultations to make sure that all governments and major stakeholder feel represented by the WGIG
- WGIG can only be successful if all stakeholders will recognize themselves in its final report.