Internet Governance and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

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Internet Governance Workshop, Bangkok, 12 January 2006
What is Internet Governance?

The development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.

Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, Para 34
What does Internet Governance cover?

- Infrastructure and management of critical Internet resources
  - Domain name system; IP addresses; administration of root server system; peering and interconnection etc
- Issues relating to the use of the Internet
  - Spam; network security; cybercrime; privacy; multilingualism etc
- Other issues relevant to the Internet
  - IPRs; freedom of expression; capacity-building etc
Historical legacy of Internet Governance

- Unilateral control by the US Government
  - For historical reasons, only one government is involved in authorization to changes in the root zone file
  - No formal relationship with root server operators
  - Distribution of IP addresses is arbitrary

- Lack of multilateral mechanisms for ensuring network stability and security
  - No effective global Internet Governance mechanism
  - Many different players (e.g., ICANN, ITU, OECD, RIRs)
Shifting Internet demographics

2001: Number of Internet Users by Region
Estimated 500 Million Users
- Asia-Pacific: 32%
- Europe: 29%
- Africa: 1%
- Americas: 38%

2004: Distribution of Internet Users by Region
Estimated 875 Million Users
- Asia-Pacific: 37%
- Europe: 29%
- Africa: 3%
- Americas: 31%
The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

- WSIS proposed by Tunisia at ITU Plenipotentiary Conference, 1998
- Adopted as UN Summit in 2001
- First Phase, Geneva, 10-12 December 2003
  - 11’000 participants, of which 41 Heads of State/Govt
  - Adopted Geneva Declaration and Plan of Action
- Second Phase, Tunis, 16-18 November 2005
  - 25’000 participants, of which 47 Heads of State/Govt
  - Adopted Tunis Commitment and Agenda for Information Society
  - Dealt with Internet Governance and Financing of ICT4D
Negotiating positions

- **US**
  - Defend status quo; Formalise “technical” role of ICANN

- **EU**
  - New public/private model for international cooperation
  - Globally-applicable public policy principles
  - Technical management should be private-sector led

- **Like-Minded Group (e.g., Brazil, China, India, Iran)**
  - Establish Inter-governmental Council for Global Public Policy and Oversight
  - Council anchored in the United Nations system
## PrepCom Progress ....

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<th>Days</th>
<th>Paras agreed</th>
<th>As % of final</th>
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Tunis Agenda for Info Society (Doc 6R1)

- Chap 2 on Financial Mechanisms (para 3-28)
  - Creation of voluntary Digital Solidarity Fund
- Chap 3 on Internet Governance (para 29-82)
  - Creation of Internet Governance Forum (72-78)
  - Agreement on “enhanced cooperation” in which all govts have an equal role and responsibility (68-71)
  - Separate processes for ccTLDs (63) and gTLDs (64)
- Chap 4 on Implementation and Follow-up (para 83-122 + Annex)
Creation of Internet Governance Forum

- Invites UN SG to establish IGF for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue:
  - Covers “public policy issues related to key elements of Internet Governance” including critical resources
  - Complements existing bodies
  - Multilateral, Multi-stakeholder, Democratic, Transparent
  - First meeting in Athens in 2006
  - Initial mandate for five years
  - Role in capacity-building and exchange of best practice

- Establish effective and cost-efficient Bureau, drawing upon expertise of ITU
Equal roles and responsibilities of Governments

- “We recognise that all governments should have an equal role and responsibility for international Internet governance …” (para 68)
- “Enhanced cooperation in the future” …
  - Development of globally-applicable public policy principles
  - Process to be started by UN SG in 1Q 2006, involving all relevant organisations
  - No involvement of govts in technical and operational matters
New approach for ccTLDs and gTLDs

- For country-code Top-Level Domains (ccTLDs)
  - Flexible and improved frameworks and mechanisms
  - No country involved in decisions regarding another country’s ccTLD
  - Respect for national sovereignty of ccTLDs (para 63)

- For generic Top-Level Domains (gTLDs)
  - Further development of public policies
  - Strengthened cooperation among stakeholders (para 64)

- Reinforcement of regional Internet registries (RIRs)
  - Guaranteeing rights of countries to manage their own Internet resources (para 38)
A new coordinated global approach towards countering spam

- We call upon all stakeholders to adopt a multi-pronged approach to counter spam that includes, *inter alia*, consumer and business education; appropriate legislation, law enforcement authorities and tools; the continued development of technical and self-regulatory measures; best practices; and international cooperation.

> *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*, para 41
Please help us in updating the ITU anti-spam survey!

http://www.itu.int/spam

ITU Survey on anti-spam legislation worldwide

In the framework of its "Countering Spam" activities, an ITU Survey has been prepared on countering spam initiatives and spam legislation worldwide. The aim of this Survey is to gather information regarding spam and legislation worldwide, including the authorities responsible for anti-spam measures in each country. Information is regularly updated.

- Argentina >>
- Australia >>
- Canada >>
- Chile >>
- China >>
- Colombia >>
- Costa Rica >>
- Denmark >>
- Estonia >>
- European Union >>
Survey results
Global cooperation on cybersecurity

- **We reaffirm** the necessity to further promote, develop and implement in cooperation with all stakeholders a global culture of cyber-security, as outlined in UNGA Resolution 57/239 and other relevant regional frameworks. This culture requires national action and increased international cooperation to strengthen security while enhancing the protection of personal information, privacy and data.

  ➢ *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, para 39*
Increased cooperation on e-commerce

- We call for the development of national consumer protection laws and practices, and enforcement mechanisms where necessary, to protect the right of consumers who purchase goods and services online, and for enhanced international cooperation to facilitate a further expansion, in a non-discriminatory way, under applicable national laws, of e-business as well as consumer confidence in it.

➢ *Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*, para 47
Conclusions

- Not the end of the story, but a new beginning
- An agreement in which “everyone is happy”
- A reconciliation between “national sovereignty” and “multi-stakeholderism”
- A move from an asymmetric regulatory framework to a symmetrical one
- A new platform for the further internationalisation of the Internet
For more information:

www.wsis.org
www.itu.int/wsis/outcomes

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