

WSIS and Developments

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Background

- In December 2001, the UN General Assembly [Resolution 56/183](#) endorsed holding something referred to as the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in two phases.
- The first phase took place in Geneva hosted by the Government of Switzerland from 10 to 12 December 2003 and the second phase will take place in Tunis hosted by the Government of Tunisia, from 16 to 18 November 2005. Leading up to each Summit are several Preparatory Meetings (referred to as PrepComs) and numerous regional and/or thematic meetings.
- The first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) concluded with two documents. These two documents are referred to as the:
 - Declaration of Principles
 - Plan of Action

Background cont.

- Two issues emerged as controversial during the first phase of the Summit. These are:
 - Internet governance
 - In relation to the issue of Internet governance, while the issue is very broad and includes content control, spam, Internet charging, consumer issues, data protection, etc., ICANN and its responsibilities became (and continue to be) the political focus.
 - Something referred to as the Digital Solidarity Fund.
 - With regard to the Digital Solidarity Fund, a Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM) was established to address the topic. The Task Force produced its report.

Background cont.

- With regard to Internet Governance, the Summit (via the Principles and Action Plan) called upon the United Nations Secretary-General to establish a Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG). The responsibility of the WGIG is “to investigate and make proposals for action, as appropriate, on the governance of Internet by 2005.” The WGIG is asked to present the result of its work in a report “for consideration and appropriate action for the second phase of the WSIS in Tunis 2005.” The WGIG is to deal with the following issues:
 - 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.
- There are 40 members of the WGIG, ranging from governments, private sector, civil society.
- The WGIG began its work in November 2004, and agreed to focus on an inventory of issues,

WGIG Issue Clusters

1. Issues relating to infrastructural issues and the management of critical Internet resources, including administration of the domain name system and IP addresses, administration of the Root server system, technical standards, peering and inter-connection, telecommunications infrastructure including innovative and con-verged technologies, as well as multilingualization. These issues are matters of direct relevance to Internet Governance falling within the ambit of existing organisations with responsibility for these matters.

(a) Physical and Secured Infrastructure Issues

- Telecommunications infrastructure, broadband access
- VoIP
- Peering and interconnection
- Spectrum policy
- Technical standards

(b) Logical Infrastructure Issues

- Administration of Internet names
- Administration of IP addresses
- Administration of root server system
- Administration of root zone files
- Technical standards
- Multilingualization of Internet naming systems



WGIG Issue Clusters

2. Issues relating to the use of the Internet, including spam, network security, and cybercrime. While these issues are directly related to Internet Governance, the nature of global cooperation required is not well defined.
- Issues:
 - Spam
 - Cybersecurity, cybercrime
 - Security of network and information systems
 - Critical infrastructure protection
 - Applicable jurisdiction, cross border coordination
 - Exemption for ISPs of third party liabilities
 - National policies & regulations

WGIG Issue Clusters

3. Issues which are relevant to the Internet, but with impact much wider than the Internet, where there are existing organisations responsible for these issues, such as IPR or international trade. The WGIG started examining the extent to which these matters are being handled consistently with the Declaration of Principles.

Issues:

- Competition policy, liberalization, privatization, regulations
- Consumer, user protection, privacy
- Electronic authentication
- Unlawful content and practices
- Access protection
- Intellectual property rights
- Dispute resolution
- E-commerce and taxation of e-commerce
- E-Government and privacy
- Freedom of information and media

WGIG Issue Clusters

4. Issues relating to developmental aspects of Internet governance, in particular capacity building in developing countries, gender issues and other access concerns.

Issues:

- Affordable & universal access
- Education, human capacity building
- Internet leased line costs
- National infrastructure development
- Cultural and linguistic diversity
- Social dimensions and inclusion
- Open-source and free software
- Content accessibility

Issues specific to ccTLDs

(a) Physical and Secured Infrastructure Issues

- Telecommunications infrastructure, broadband access
- VoIP
- Peering and interconnection
- Spectrum policy
- Technical standards

(b) Logical Infrastructure Issues

- Administration of Internet names
- Administration of IP addresses
- Administration of root server system
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Parallel developments

- ITU Statements and Staff Papers
 - ITU Secretariat Papers on Internet Governance suggesting among other things that the ITU plays a central role in IP numbering allocations, ccTLD relations and delegations.
 - E.g. “The Management and the supervision of the Internet resources (domain name, IP address, servers, etc...) should be through the ITU in coordination with all concerned parties” [Draft options paper on ITU activities relevant to Internet Governance].
 - ITU public statements: WGIG should focus on future reform of ICANN (Utsumi); series of speeches by Zhao, suggesting ITU could become involved in everything from security to spam to managing how IP addresses are assigned (recent interview).
- Discussions on International Telecommunication Regulations (ITRs)
 - Include one on ccTLDs (Resolution 47)
 - Instructs ITU-T Study Group 2 “to study, and to work with Member States and Sector Members, recognizing the activities of other appropriate entities, to review Member States’ ccTLD experiences.
 - Further invites Member States to take appropriate steps within their national legal frameworks to ensure that issues related to delegation of ccTLDs are resolved.

Assessment

- WGIG Report to the Secretary General is due in July 2005.
- WSIS PrepCom III (September) will discuss the WGIG report.
- ITU Council will discuss ITU staff papers relating to Internet matters.
- Opportunity for ccTLDs to engage their Internet communities, governments, on their views relating to Internet governance matters in general (broad list of issues) and specifically how the Internet's unique identifier system is managed.

Thank you

- Happy to provide copies or answer specific questions.
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