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LONDON – ATLAS II Thematic Group 3: Global Internet: The User Perspective - Session 4

Sunday, June 22, 2014 – 15:00 to 16:30

ICANN – London, England

WOLF LUDWIG:

Hello everybody. Welcome to the afternoon session. We are almost... After the introduction from yesterday afternoon, we had the layout of our subject based on the inputs from Jean-Jacques and Fatima. Then we had a very productive discussion yesterday afternoon, with some continuation going into more detail and more aspects this morning. Now we've reached a rather critical stage. We must come up with conclusions and policy recommendations.

As was mentioned this morning already, our conclusions and policy recommendations will serve as our input for the Final Report. The Final Report would be incomplete without the conclusions and inputs from Thematic Group 3. The most difficult exercise this afternoon is, after the long and intensive debates we had over the last six and a half to seven hours, to summarize the ideas, suggestions and concerns from the debate, to very concrete conclusions and recommendations.

Therefore, Glenn, the rapporteurs have taken some notes. We had some additional assistance. Now we have some slides with very brief conclusions from the debates. Jean-Jacques will present them to you. Then we have to think about whether this is really reflecting the essence of the debates, whether aspects are missing in your opinion, and make suggestions for concrete additions.

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*Note: The following is the output resulting from transcribing an audio file into a word/text document. Although the transcription is largely accurate, in some cases may be incomplete or inaccurate due to inaudible passages and grammatical corrections. It is posted as an aid to the original audio file, but should not be treated as an authoritative record.*

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With the process and procedure now understood, we have one and a half hours, or even less, for this debate. We should try to be as precise as possible. Jean-Jacques, can you start with the first slides and notes?

JEAN-JACQUES SUBRENAT: Since things are turning out this way, I'll do my best. I think the purpose of our exercise now is to get a general contribution from all participants here, and via remote participation, to the actual wording of part of what will become the report, and perhaps recommendation from this Thematic Group to the upper level, which is the Chair of the ALAC.

All this would be fed into the ATLAS II process as a result of our work over one and a half, or two days. I can only try to act as a facilitator by pointing out certain things which, because of my experience perhaps, have some relevance. It's really you who are to make the major contribution. On issue two, which I hope will come online soon...

WOLF LUDWIG: Jean-Jacques, can you elaborate on the drafts you've already... On the substance?

JEAN-JACQUES SUBRENAT: On the substance of issue number two? Since you can't see it, perhaps you'll forgive me for reading it out to you. Issue number two: "There are differences between developed and developing countries for the end user, in terms of..." There already I have a small problem with the terminology that's used here. I would suggest... There are differences between emerging economies and other economies for the...

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What's an end user? I call it the general Internet user. Never mind. You'll see whether you want to change that or not. "In terms of: infrastructure, access, especially bandwidth, accessibility, for example for persons with disability, costs and quality of services, and commercial agreements, that is for example between access and content providers and governments."

The second point there is: "These differences affect end users in terms of online activities, creation of local content and innovation, online literacy." Now, before I turn the floor over to you, I want to make a personal remark. All this is true. All this is accurate, apart from perhaps the vocabulary, but it's static. I don't think it'll represent a true contribution of this Working Group or TG, because it's just a description.

It doesn't say what we expect from this and where we want to go. Perhaps you could input from that point of view as well, as we go along in looking at issue number two. There's one point not mentioned here, and that I personally consider of high importance. That's the input from Aziz earlier today. That's to say that all these elements – infrastructure, accessibility, cost and quality of services, commercial agreements, etcetera – are all important.

By the way, I'd add the contribution from our friend from Armenia, who said what about local content and the education to make that possible? Well, all these elements have to be seen together in a holistic way, to make sense. Some people told us today that in some cases there are countries where every child is given a computer. Okay, that sounds great, but then what about access? Is that guaranteed? What about content?

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Are they going to see “101 Dalmatians” for the hundred-and-first time in their lives, at the age of five? Is that education? Is it culture? No, it’s entertainment. There’s no doubt. There are real questions, and this I would suggest that we add, and that’s a sentence to underline the necessity to have a holistic approach to these sector concerns, which are all legitimate of course – access, accessibility, etcetera.

We also need to underline the user requirement for a holistic solution and a holistic approach, by institutions, by governments, by ICANN, by others. These differences affect end users in terms of online activities, creation of local content and innovation, online literacy. I think that’s indisputable. That is true. That I wouldn’t touch, except perhaps to elaborate on that. The wording is okay, I think.

That was what I could do in a improvised way, Gunela and Wolf, to keep the crowd busy, to keep the children at home quiet. I’m afraid I can’t last 15 minutes like that, so you’ll have to do something radical!

WOLF LUDWIG:

Thanks for this. I hope we’ll now have the first slides to be reviewed and discussed with you. Okay. You see here part two. The draft of part one is still in process, so we’ll now restart with part two, and come back to the first part later. Now I have a critical look on the text. Does it reflect the process of our discussions? Surely not in all details, of course. You cannot on two or three slides comprise a discussion of six hours.

Now it’s the essential aspects and points. If you have a close look together with the language modifications already suggested by Jean-Jacques, to avoid terms like “developed” and “underdeveloped”

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etcetera... Just a moment. Here we are again. This makes the whole process... Here we are again. Okay. Can we go back to last...? Yes, this one.

Any comments, suggestions, from your side? Are there any comments? Does anybody want to comment on this? You are all satisfied... Okay. I would have been surprised, Sergio. Go ahead.

SERGIO SALINAS PORTO: I am proactive, Wolf, that's why. I'm from Argentina. I heard Jean-Jacques and I'd like to make some comments. First of all, I think it's okay not to use "developed" and "developing" but "emerging" countries. Secondly, we talked about digital literacy. Instead of using "digital literacy" I would say "digital appropriation" because we take apprise, which we already have, digital ownership.

We take ownership of that right, the right to use new technologies. I'd like to use "digital ownership", and not "digital literacy", if possible. Thank you very much.

WOLF LUDWIG: The next comment is on the right side, and then we come to Pastor Peters.

AIDA NOBLIA: I am from Uruguay. The program we have is not just a program in which we give computers to children. It's a training and education program. It's a comprehensive program that includes education training. We give computers to children as part of the whole program. We train children

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and teachers, so education and training is part of the whole program. It reaches and influences the families, because we teach children, and their families learn through the children.

It's a global and comprehensive program. It's not just giving away computers. I'd like this to be clarified, because it's a global program. It doesn't only include giving computers to children. It's a program that includes training and new technologies, which includes giving computers, as part of the whole program.

WOLF LUDWIG: ...Asking for concrete formulations. We cannot go into details. We cannot make case studies and case listings. We must come up with a recommendation.

AIDA NOBLIA: The program is about training and education, that includes giving computers to participants. This is what I'd suggest correcting.

WOLF LUDWIG: Quick remark directly from Jean-Jacques?

JEAN-JACQUES SUBRENAT: I'd like to make clear that when I mentioned providing a computer to each child, I wasn't thinking of any country in particular. I didn't look at the screen. I was thinking about the whole floor of the conversation for the last two days. I wasn't thinking about you or your country.

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AIDA NOBLIA: Based on what I've seen on this screen, because I think your criticism or your comments are positive, constructive criticism. Thanks a lot.

WOLF LUDWIG: Can we continue over here? Can we pass the microphone to Pastor Peters?

PASTOR PETERS: I'm [unclear 28:29] the last item, we established trust in the Internet and empowered end users to take part in policy development. I want to say how we can include cost, cost in the sense that if there's one challenge faced by the average end user, it's the cost that deals with Internet usage. It varies from country to country. If there is a way we could look at that, to reduce cost for the average user, that would be something that would also help empower Internet users.

WOLF LUDWIG: I remember the cost factor comes at another point. It is included but not under this point. I wouldn't just see empowerment under cost calculation factors. The cost factor was discussed under accessibility this morning.

SPEAKER: I think he's coming into the trust was an issue on relating to cyber crime and cyber fraud, and the fear and lack of trust, which is why people cannot get onto the Internet. What you're talking about is important but it relates to a different topic.

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WOLF LUDWIG: Okay, any other comments? We included what was said so far for the revised version, but does it mean you are happy with the summaries and the conclusions we have here? Sergio?

[TAPE CHANGE - AUDIO PART 2]

WOLF LUDWIG: ...They are best practices and will stand as best practices for the future. In such particular cases it may be justified to name them as a best practice. Can we agree on this? Let me frankly ask – is this a discrimination debate because my country is not named, and therefore I don't want any other country to be named?

SPEAKER: No, because your suggestion should be based on the really official [monetary 00:38] efforts. Your perception of the situation regarding the WHOIS and the protection of rights, is actually not based on some research or... It's just coming from...

WOLF LUDWIG: Sorry, very strong contradiction. Please name me another country which has a comparable or... Than Brazil? Name me any country with ITU or whatever reference?





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GUNELA ASTBRINK: I'm just aware of how we're going to use the rest of the time, because we need to finish at 16:30 and we have had some very good debate on these particular issues, and we also need to look at the other two questions. When we have the material for that we can do so, and I think we are getting close to some of that information, but in the meantime, Fatima, do you want to talk about the remote participants, and some of their input?

FATIMA: [03:46] This is a comment posted by Diego Acosta Bastidas. He was in the room this morning. Diego says that he is requesting the following: he represents Free Software and Culture in Ecuador. He'd like his organization's proposal to... [audio cuts out 04:18]

[TAPE CHANGE TO AUDIO PART 3]

WOLF LUDWIG: ...Ten pages. Almost everybody... [audio cuts out]

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]