

# ICANN – WSIS Workshop

## The Working Group on Internet Governance

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# WSIS / WGIG:

- Last workshop in Kuala Lumpur was at the beginning of first phase of WGIG: setting up of WGIG.
- WGIG on track: set up early November; first meeting held last week.
- Priority for first phase was: make sure that all governments and major stakeholders feel represented in WGIG.
- General feeling: WGIG off to a good start.

# WSIS / WGIG: Significance

- Heads of State and Government paid tribute to the importance of the Internet.
- They put Internet governance on the agenda of international cooperation.
- The beginning of a broad-based multilateral process on Internet governance leading to Tunis and beyond.
- Broader context: adapting global governance to needs of 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

# The WGIG activities

- Main deliverable: "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".
- Main activity: drafting a report.
- Main objective: to facilitate negotiations in Tunis.

# The WGIG process

- The second, main phase of process has started for good –  
WGIG is at the core of a multifaceted and multilayered process.
- Numerous events have already taken place before WGIG has started its work.
- WGIG is not operating in a vacuum, but underpinned by many events and accompanied by many actors.

# The composition of the WGIG

- Members of WGIG have been know since 11 November.
- Several Members present in Cape Town, representing the various ICANN constituencies.
- Composition to a large extent reflects consultations held last September.
- Important features of WGIG are:
  - multi-stakeholder approach and
  - balance between regions and stakeholders.

# WGIG Terms of Reference contained in WSIS Declaration and Action Plan

- 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 first meeting of the WGIG (1)

- WGIG held its first meeting from 23-25 November in Geneva.
- 24 November: open-ended consultations for all governments and stakeholders.

Aim of meeting:

- to set up roadmap for future work
- to get a clearer picture as regards scope of work and priorities.

# The first meeting of the WGIG (2)

- Objectives achieved.
- WGIG is developing its identity. Good chemistry among its members.
- WGIG started substantive work and agreed on its agenda.

# Strong message: Development

Stress on developmental dimension:

- Internet governance seen in context of ICT4D.
- Developing country representation in Internet governance mechanisms.
- Need for capacity building.

# The first meeting of the WGIG – concrete results:

- WGIG agreed on
  - preliminary draft outline of report.
  - structure for mapping the issues.

# Draft outline of structure of report:

- 0 Introduction (Background, Mandate, Methodology)
- 1 Working definitions: Internet and Internet governance
- 2 Evolution of the Internet
- 3 Current situation
- 4 Inventory of Public Policy Issues and Priorities
- 5 Future developments and scenarios
- 6 “Proposals for action, as appropriate”
  - (a) functions and actors
  - (b) Internet governance mechanisms
    - (i) formal institutional arrangements
    - (ii) non-formal arrangements
  - (c) possible options
  - (d) capacity building

# Inventory of Public Policy Issues and Priorities:

Four (+one) categories grouped according to “agreed language” taken from Declaration:

- (a) equitable distribution of resources;
- (b) access for all;
- (c) stable and secure functioning of the Internet;
- (d) multilingualism and content;
- (e) other issues for consideration.

# Next steps:

- Drafting of issue papers /on-line consultations.
- Bottom-up, member driven process.
- Template for issue papers is being developed.
- Each issue is to be measured against principles / benchmarks contained in Declaration.

# Cross-cutting principles:

- The management of the Internet should be:
  - multilateral,
  - transparent and
  - democratic;
- “International Internet governance issues should be addressed in a coordinated manner.”

## Next meeting:

- Back-to-back with WSIS PrepCom-2: 14-18 February 2005.
- Open consultations: 15/16 February.
- Agenda: Identification of public policy issues.
- Preparation of “preliminary report” to be presented to PrepCom.

# Roadmap:

- Third meeting of WGIG and open-ended consultations in mid April 2005.
- Fourth meeting (final drafting report) in mid-June).
- Regional meetings in Ghana, Egypt, Thailand, Brazil.
- Report issued not later than July 2005.

# Outlook:

## Internet Governance after Tunis?

Too early to tell:

- need for substantive discussion first, before addressing institutional issues.