World Summit on the Information Society

Report to ccNSO Meeting
Capetown,
December 2004
Peter Dengate Thrush

WSIS Background

- The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is a United Nations-sponsored event, proposed by the ITU in 1998 and intended to attract Heads of State:
  - Phase one was held in December 2003 in Geneva at the Palexpo, and
  - Phase two will be in November 2005 in Tunisia.

- The official focus of the WSIS agenda is articulated in a UN General Assembly Resolution as the
  - "urgent need to harness the potential of knowledge and technology for promoting the goals of the United Nations Millennium Declaration and to find effective and innovative ways to put this potential at the service of development for all".

Millennium Declaration Goals

http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm

Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
Achieve universal primary education
Promote gender equality and empower women
Reduce child mortality
Improve maternal health
Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
Ensure environmental sustainability

WSIS2003 Results

The WSIS2003 Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action were positive and constructive with respect to

- the importance of infrastructure development to improving the lives of people around the world and

- promoting economic growth and human development

- partnerships between governments, businesses and civil society

http://www.itu.int/wsis/

44 Heads of State, Prime Ministers, Presidents, Vice-Presidents and 83 ministers and vice-ministers from 176 countries

WSIS 2003 Principles/Plan of Action

- The role of all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development
- Information and communication infrastructure: an essential foundation for an inclusive information society
- Access to information and knowledge
- Capacity building
- Building confidence, trust and security in the use of ICTs
- Enabling environment
- ICT-Applications: benefits in all aspects of life.
- Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content
- Media
- Ethical dimensions of the Information Society
- International and regional cooperation

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WSIS2003 Results (cont'd)

– A number of very contentious issues were resolved for purposes of the Declaration and Plan of Action

- Human Rights

- Open Source Software,

- Security

- Intellectual Property Rights

- Media Rights

– Two areas were identified for further work

- "Digital Solidarity Fund"

- "Internet Governance"

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WSIS Preparatory Committee Meetings (PrepComs)

- **PrepCom-1 (Preparatory Meeting)**: 24-26 June 2004, Hammamet (Tunisia)

- **PrepCom-2** : 17-25 February 2005, Geneva (Switzerland)

- **PrepCom-3** : September 2005

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PrepCom 1 Decisions

The Focus, Output and Preparatory Process of the Tunis Phase

- The focus of the Tunis Phase should be:
  - Follow-up and implementation of the Geneva Declaration of Principles and Plan of Action by stakeholders at national, regional and international levels, with particular attention to the challenges facing the Least Developed Countries;
  - Consideration of the report of the Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM) and appropriate action;
  - Internet governance: consideration of the report of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) and appropriate action;
- The agreements reached in the Geneva phase should not be reopened;
- The output of the Tunis Phase should be a final document or documents, comprising a concise political part and an operational part, both of which reflect the areas of focus of the Tunis phase and reaffirm and enhance the commitments undertaken in the Geneva phase;
- The preparatory process of the Tunis Phase should be inclusive, efficient, transparent and cost-effective; in principle, following the roadmap illustrated in the annexed chart.

WSIS Regional Conferences

- **Western Asia**: 22-24 November 2004, Damascus (Syria)
- **Africa**: 2-4 February 2005, Accra (Ghana)
- **Latin America and the Caribbean I**: 2004, Havana (Cuba)
- **Latin America and the Caribbean II**: 2005, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

Plus 19 WSIS-related Thematic Meetings (so far)

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Working Group on Internet Governance

Formation of WGIG announced 11 November 2004:

Members:

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    -- **Abdullah Al-Darrab, Deputy Governor of Technical Affairs, ICT Commission of Saudi Arabia;**

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    -- **Carlos Alfonso, Technical Director, RIT, Rio de Janeiro;**

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    -- **Peng Hwa Ang, Dean, School of Communication, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore;**

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    -- **Karen Banks, Director, GreenNet, Association for Progressive Communications, London;**

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    -- **Faryel Beji, President and CEO, Tunisian Internet Agency;**

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    -- **Vittorio Bertola, ICANN at-large Advisory Committee, Turin;**

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WGIG Members cont'd

- -- **Baher Esmat, Telecom Planning Manager, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt;**

- -- **Mark Esseboom, Director, Strategy and International Affairs, Directorate General for Telecom and Post, Ministry of Economic Affairs, the Netherlands;**

- -- **Juan Fernandez, Coordinator, Commission of Electronic Commerce, Cuba;**

- -- **Ayesha Hassan, Senior Policy Manager for E-Business, IT and Telecoms, International Chamber of Commerce, Paris;**

- -- **Qiheng Hu, Adviser, Science and Technology Commission, Ministry of Information Industry, China; former Vice-President, ChineseAcademy of Sciences;**

- -- **Willy Jensen, Director, Norwegian Post and Telecom Authority;**

- -- **Wolfgang Kleinwächter, Professor, International Communication Policy and Regulation, University of Aarhus;**

- -- **Jovan Kurbalija, Director, DiploFoundation, Geneva;**

WGIG Members cont'd

- -- **Avri Doria, Technical Consultant, Providence, Rhode Island;**

- **-- William Drake, Senior Associate, International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development, Geneva; Chairman, Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility;**

- **-- Raúl Echeberría, Executive Director, LACNIC, Montevideo;**

- **-- Dev Erriah, Chairman, ICT Authority of Mauritius;**

- **-- José Alexandre Bicalho, Member, Brazilian Internet Steering Committee; Advisor, Board of Directors, National Telecommunications Agency (Anatel);**

- **-- Kangsik Cheon, Chief Operating Officer, International Business Development, Netpia, Seoul;**

- **-- Trevor Clarke, Permanent Representative of Barbados to the United**

WGIG members cont'd

- -- Iosif Charles Legrand, Researcher, California Institute of Technology and CERN, Geneva;

- -- Donald MacLean, Director, MacLean Consulting, Ottawa;

- -- Allen Miller, Executive Director, World Information Technology and Services Alliance, Arlington, Virginia;

- -- Juan Carlos Moreno Solines, Executive Director, Gobierno Digital, Quito;

- -- Jacqueline A. Morris, Consultant, Port of Spain;

- -- Olivier Nana Nzépa, Coordinator, Africa Civil Society, Yaoundé;

- -- Alejandro Pisanty, Director, Computing Academic Services, Universidad Autonoma de Mexico;

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WGIG Members cont'd

- -- **Khalilullah Qazi, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations in Geneva;**

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  -- **Rajashekar Ramaraj, Managing Director, Sify Limited, Chennai;**

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  -- **Masaaki Sakamaki, Director, Computer Communications Division, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan;**

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  -- **Joseph Sarr, President, NTIC Commission, Dakar Regional Council;**

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  -- **Peimann Seadat, Permanent Mission of Iran to the United Nations in Geneva;**

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  -- **Charles Sha'ban, IT Manager, Talal Abu- Ghazaleh International, Amman;**

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WGIG Members Cont'd

- -- Lyndall Shope-Mafole, Chairperson, Presidential National Commission on Information Society and Development, South Africa;

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  -- Waudo Siganga, Chairman, Computer Society of Kenya;

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  -- Mikhail Vladimirovich Yakushev, Director, Legal Support Department, Ministry of Information Technology and Communications, Russian Federation;

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  -- Peter Zangl, Deputy Director-General, Information Society Directorate General, European Commission, Brussels; and

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  -- Jean-Paul Zens, Director, Media and Telecom Department, Ministry of State, Luxembourg.

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ccTLD Actions

- August 2003; Presentation at APTLD meeting, Busan Korea

- November 2003; Centr and APTLD presentations to ccTLD meeting, Tunisia

- March 2004; presentations to ccNSO meeting Rome,

- July 2004 – formation of ccNSO WSIS working Group by ccNSO Council

ICANN Constituent Activity

- WSIS Workshop Planning Group formed including members from GNSO, ASO, ccNSO and ALAC, in private capacities.

- Workshops conducted in Rome, Kualar Lumpur and Capetown

- Questionnaire prepared for all ICANN constituents

- Results being collated into WSIS White Paper and resolution

Other straws in the reform wind

October 2004, Mr Zhao (ITU) publishes:

"Concretely, I propose that consideration be given to ITU's maintaining and publishing the authoritative list of country code domain name delegations, at the request of those countries who wish ITU to undertake this task (with other countries free to continue present arrangements if they wish)."

Straws in the wind

- No response from ccNSO members, yet
- Centr has published detailed and courteous rebuttal.
- ccNSO has the authority under the ICANN bylaws to make policy on cctld delegation and re-delegation – which will require negotiation with the GAC.
- US DoC may welcome formal process, including appeals process, run within ICANN by a combined ccNSO/GAC body.
- Would much diminish one of political issues aggravating several of the major WSIS players

Should be done, or well underway by July 2005

Other Straws

- Zhao's paper also called for IPv6 allocations to be made by countries, not by RIR's

- November:Prompt and courteous rebuttal by NRO

- Common theme of workshops and elsewhere – "if it ain't broke, don't fix it"

Other straws…cont'd

- 23 November Mr.Utsumi publishes (as Secretary General of the WSIS) a paper calling on the WGIG to focus its work only on ICANN and its role.

- Anecdotally – the WGIG members have resisted this, explaining that there is more to "internet governance" than merely ICANN.

Action Plan for the ccNSO

- We are likely affected by the outcomes of this process.
- We could focus first on the WGIG – its focus is directly on that aspect of the WSIS process which is of concern to us – internet governance.
- We have had a call from Mr Desai (chair of the WGIG) for input to the WGIG

Action Plan for the ccNSO

- Once the WGIG reports back to the WSIS in July, we must re-focus on the WSIS.

- In the interim, we need to maintain a watch on the WSIS.

- We can make available our expertise in cctld management, and ICANN experience to the WGIG.

- We can support (after discussion/modification as requireed) the text of he resolution