

Workshop on WSIS: Issues of relevance to ICANN

The UN Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG)

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The results of Geneva:

- The beginning of a broad-based multilateral process on Internet governance:
 - Mandate to the UN Secretary-General to set up WGIG.
 - WGIG is to report to the second phase of the Summit in Tunis in November 2005.
- Adapting global governance to the needs of the 21st Century.

Basis for WGIG: Principles enshrined in Geneva Declaration

- the Internet by now is a global facility
- its management should be multilateral, transparent and democratic and
- its management should fully involve governments, private sector, civil society and international organizations.

History of the negotiations: Two schools of thought (1)

First school of thought:

- present system lacks legitimacy
- Internet governance seen as issue related to national sovereignty
- need for a multilateral forum for a dialogue with the various stakeholders, preferably with the legitimacy of the UN system
- should not replace any existing mechanism, nor infringe on the work of any existing organisation
- would be complementary and deal with policy issues.

Two schools of thought (2)

Second school of thought:

- present system works well ("if it ain't broke, don't fix it")
- before trying to solve a problem, it is necessary to identify what problems need to be addressed
- system is private sector driven, it is therefore essential to ensure full and active involvement of the private sector and all stakeholders.

Agenda of WGIG:

- WGIG will have to decide on the scope of its mandate.
- Tendency to see Internet governance in a broad context and include issues such as:
 - network security
 - intellectual property rights
 - data protection
 - spam
 - multilingualism.

Terms of Reference of WGIG:

- 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 WGIG

- 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".
- Characteristics of WGIG and profile of its members:
 - Group needs to be big enough to be representative, but small enough to be efficient.
 - Its members should:
 - combine among themselves enough expertise to do justice to the complexity of the task
 - be team-players
 - carry weight within their respective constituencies
 - be ready to commit themselves to a considerable amount of work.

The process ahead: as important as substance

it needs to

- be “open and inclusive”
- ensure “a mechanism for the full and active participation of governments, the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries, involving relevant intergovernmental and international organizations and forums”.

Process related priorities (1)

no single organization in charge:

direct mandate from the WSIS to the UN Secretary-General.

Process related priorities (2)

- All stakeholders and all relevant intergovernmental and other international organizations will have to be given equal access to the work of the group.
- Need for a compromise between efficiency and legitimacy
- Need to interact with all governments and stakeholders in an open-ended mode.

Process related priorities (3)

- Importance of developing country participation
 - their full and meaningful participation will be essential – this involves:
 - travelling costs
 - capacity building.

The Secretariat

Principal mandate:

- to provide support to the UN Secretary-General in order to establish the WGIG
- to provide substantive, organizational and administrative support to the WGIG
- financed through voluntary contributions.

Tentative Road Map (1)

- three main phases
- A first preparatory phase:
July –October 2004
setting up the Secretariat and the WGIG.
- Second phase :
November 2004 – June 2005 preparing the
report.
- Third phase:
July –November 2005
explaining the report and preparing the
Summit

Tentative Road Map (1)

a first preparatory phase:

July –October 2004: setting up the Secretariat and the WGIG

- Secretariat has started functioning - it should be fully operational by October 2004.
- Consultations are being held with governments and all stakeholders on the establishment of WGIG.
- A round of consultations open to all overnments and stakeholders will be held in Geneva on 20 / 21 September.
- Composition of WGIG should be completed by October 2004.

Tentative Road Map (2)

second phase : November 2004 – June 2005

- preparing the report

- Start: once the WGIG is appointed.
- Four meetings of the WGIG.
- A round of open-ended consultations with all governments and stakeholders back-to-back to PrepCom 2 (15 /16 February 2005).
- "Preliminary report" presented to PrepCom2.
- A second round of open-ended consultations in April or May 2005).
- The report should be issued not later than July 2005.

Tentative Road Map (3)

third phase: July –November 2005
explaining the report and preparing
the Summit:

- The WGIG and a core group of Secretariat members will accompany the process until the Tunis Summit.
- The WGIG members are expected to sell the report to their respective constituencies.
- The Secretariat will be gradually scaled down.

Main priorities for the first phase:

- Need for broad-based consultations on the establishment of WGIG:
 - its structure and working methods
 - profile of its members
 - scope of its work.
- Need to make sure that all governments and major stakeholders feel represented by the WGIG.