

Creating an Enabling Environment

WSIS Facilitation Meeting on Action
Line C6, the Enabling Environment
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The Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

- Result of Second Phase of WSIS
- Convened by the UN Secretary-General
- Forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue
- Mandate to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.

What the IGF is NOT:

- ...not a new organization;
- ...not a decision-making body;
- IGF has no power of redistribution.

What the IGF is:

- ‘Soft governance’ approach.
- IGF has the power of recognition:
 - can identify issues of concern;
 - can draw attention to an issue;
 - can put an issue on the agenda of international cooperation.
- Can shape public opinion and decision making.

Multistakeholder dialogue

All participate as equals, everybody can have a say:

- Governments
- Intergovernmental organizations
- Internet institutions
- Private Sector
- Civil Society
- Academic and Technical Communities

IGF Themes

Five broad themes:

- Access
- Diversity
- Openness
- Security
- Critical Internet Resources

Two priorities:

- Development:
 - Internet governance for development.
- Capacity–building:
 - Capacity to improve access to the Internet;
 - Capacity to engage in Internet policy discussions and decision–making.

National policies

- Much of the IGF discussion deals with international factors.
- However: National policies are important.
- Enabling environment is a key factor to allow for development and deployment of the Internet.

Policy Coherence

- Need for policy coherence at all levels:

- International

- Regional

- National

=> International coordination needs to build on coordination at the national level!

Methodology

- How to achieve policy coherence?
- Not through negotiations on a common framework...
- ...but through exchange of information and
- sharing of “best practices” on “Internet friendly policies.
- No “one size fits all” solution!
- Different solutions adapted to different needs.

Best practices

‘Enabling environment issues’:

- National policies, including multistakeholder cooperation;
- Management of ccTLDs;
- Cyber security and cyber crime;
- Protection of children;
- Multilingualism;
- Access for people with disabilities;

Integrated approach

- Emerging from the IGF discussions:
- National policies need to be based on an integrated approach (“integrated regulatory framework”).
- Telecom infrastructure, Competition, Prices, Rates, Power supply, Tariffs and Taxations need to be coherent to enable Internet availability and growth.

Regional and National IGFs

- Emerging interest in creating national and regional IGFs.
- Examples include:
 - UK
 - Senegal
 - Italy
 - European Parliament encouraging the organization of ‘European IGF’ before mid-2009.

IGF 2008 – Hyderabad, India 3 – 6 December 2008

