Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society submission of comments to the WGIG Report

The Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society has studied the report from the WGIG and would like to make the following comments.

The Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society (PICISOC) covers 22 Pacific Islands Countries and Territories with 300 individual members.

PICISOC fully supports the statement made by the Internet Society in response to the WGIG report (http://www.isoc.org/isoc/conferences/wsis/wgigcomments.shtml).

PICISOC, based on its local expertise in the region, would like to add that it does not support the creation of an additional UN body or forum. If the participation of Pacific Island Nations to the WSIS process is analysed, you will see that this participation is very limited. This is not necessarily due to lack of financial resources, as several sponsorships were available for least developed states, but probably more likely due to the fact that having yet another government official attend a series of meetings overseas puts an enormous strain on the public service resources of such countries.

PICISOC would like to see more virtual participation, as it exists in ICANN, IETF, APNIC, where representatives can fully participate from any location in the world. Audio or Text streaming of the meetings allows one to offer one's comments/opinions as appropriate. The preparation of meetings via mailing lists is a great form of participation for all stakeholders.

In summary we do not encourage the formation of a body that will call for more international meetings, put a burden on the finances of the UN, and put a burden on the taxpayers in developing countries in ensuring one of their representative's is present. We would rather see this task delegated to current UN bodies where they properly run public awareness sessions on Internet Governance and bring these questions, comments and opinions into an existing forum, and if need be to the UN General Assembly with full stakeholder participation (government and civil society).

PICISOC would like to make a short comment on the statement on the limitation of the 13 root servers. While factually true, we find this sentence detrimental to the WSIS process. We would have hoped that the group would have moved on from non-issues as any country in the world can have an anycast root server. The original rootservers are now only identified for historical purposes and not for the stability of the network, be it physical or political.

While the WGIG has been focusing on the operation of the various groups forming the Internet today, it has failed, in a sense, to describe the paradigm shift which has happened in recent years. The Internet has brought a new form of participation that allows all stakeholders to enter a system regardless of their affiliation to certain structures. The IETF is an individual member organisation that creates technology standards which are freely available to all. The standards are such because they answer a need by the people not because they are a compromise between competing

industries or governments. If you look at today's Internet, it is technologically driven by two bodies, the IEEE for the hardware and the IETF for the software. ICANN relies on IETF for implementing its policies. The shift in the telecommunications industry to anything on IP, shows the role more predominant of IETF. This can be put in parallel with the Free and Open Source Software movement. For instance with VoIP, the h323 protocol was adopted by the public and corporations, and then replaced by either SIP (IETF RFC) or peer to peer systems, shows that the old system for creating standards inside the ITU is no longer adequate. In that sense the WGIG has failed to study the relevance of ITU in the Internet standards making process and its form of governance by restrictive selected participation.

PICISOC would like, however, to congratulate the WGIG for bringing awareness to all countries on what Internet Governance is, and obliges all bodies to define their real interaction with each other. We believe many people and governments have a clearer picture on the politics of the Internet, where policies are really created and how they do make a difference.

For and on behalf of the Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society,

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