An Analysis of Internet Governance Aspects

This document does not suggest a specific definition or organisation of the internet governance. Rather, it intends to pinpoint a collection of issues or topics considered by certain groups as parts of the whole domain. It may be used for discussions among cooperative or conflicting viewpoints, for a better understanding of each other's interests.

Internet governance involves a multiplicity of aspects summarised in Table A. These aspects are presented in boxes arranged in rows and columns.

Rows contain 3 levels and list aspects from the ones requiring none or little intergovernmental cooperation (- Cooperative) to the ones likely to require a fair degree of intergovernmental cooperation (+ Cooperative).

Columns (+ Sensitive and - Sensitive) intend to suggest a degree of political or societal sensivity for the aspects they contain.

The term "intergovernmental" is used to mean that several governments agree common rules to deal with specific governance aspects. For some aspects agreed rules may result in committing the management of those aspects to some international structure.

Admittedly, this classification is partly subjective.

From this inventory, it is possible to contrive different scenarii, or negotiation positions, in separating non negotiable aspects from those on which flexibility may be applied.

NB. Numbers are for reference only. They do not convey any other meaning.

Table A

	+ Sensitive	- Sensitive
- Cooperative	5• Guarantee the integrity and stability of the country domain name. 6• Guarantee the security of the national internet infrastructure. 7• Enforce rules against abuses detrimental to society, such as spam, pedophilia, intellectual property theft, and deceitful commerce. 25• Promote access to information and network infrastructures through active private sector involvement.	1• Create a legal and economic framework fostering development of internet usages inducing economic growth and user satisfaction. 4• Guarantee and promote the unrestricted use of national languages for information and access procedures. 14• Name registration and management. 21• Foster enhancement of cultures and multilinguism through internet. 26• Define policies for the registration and use of domain names in national languages
+- Mixed	17• Ensure a growing dissemination of internet uses in daily life, and anticipate the effects of increasing dependence of the society on the internet as a medium. 18• Guarantee internet stability at all levels and protect the network against pirates.	3• Guarantee non-discriminatory allocation of national internet resources. 23• Guarantee infrastructures and services adaptability. 24• Develop citizen and private sector confidence in using internet services. 27• Install national and regional Internet Exchange Centers
+ Cooperative	2• Create a legal framework insuring the protection of personal and commercial data. 9• Rules for the creation, sharing, and use of common internet resources, such as addresses, domain names, and personal and commercial data bases. 10• Agreements on multinational structures and infrastructures, which are needed for the management of common resources. 19• Interference of a transnational medium with national legal systems. 20• Management of common resources (IP addresses and name identifiers). 28• Promote regional root servers in cooperation with relevant stakeholders	8• Coordination and harmonization of national public policies. 11• Set frameworks for the resolution of international disputes. 12• Agree a budget for common resources and international structures. 13• Operation of network infrastructures. 15• Assignment of common resources. 16• Development and use of international standards. 22• Management of geopolitical balance.

Contents related aspects: 2, 4, 7, 17, 18, 21, 24

Operation related aspects: 13, 14, 18, 20, 27, 28

Technical aspects: 15, 16, 26

Scenario 1 - **Light intergovernmental cooperative approach**

This approach intends to draw a scheme where national governments are in charge of the main aspects of the Internet Governance. Intergovernmental cooperation is reduced to the aspects which cannot be dealt with in another way.

Public policies aspects must be mostly managed on a national level, although some of them may need intergovernmental cooperation. Thus, national governments keep the supreme authority to decide whether the results of intergovernmental cooperation are to be implemented, or not, in their respective countries.

The following items of Table A are to be dealt with on the intergovernmental level. All other items are to be dealt with on the national level:

"+ sensitive" :

- Item 9: Rules for the creation, sharing, and use of common internet resources, such as addresses, domain names, and personal and commercial data bases.
- Item 10: Agreements on multinational structures and infrastructures, which are needed for the management of common resources.

"- sensitive" :

- Item 8: Coordination and harmonization of national public policies.
- Item 11: Set frameworks for the resolution of international disputes.
- Item 12: Agree a budget for common resources and international structures.
- Item 13: Operation of network infrastructures.
- Item 15: Assignment of common resources.
- Item 16: Development and use of international standards.

We can point out that Scenario 1 limits the intergovernmental cooperation to global issues: management of technical aspects which are common to every countries and the way the resources are shared and organized on a global scale.

Scenario 2 - Mixed intergovernmental cooperative approach

This approach intends to draw a scheme where the main aspects of the Internet Governance are dealt with on the national or on the intergovernmental level according to their characteristics. Intergovernmental cooperation is neither reduced to the aspects which cannot be dealt with in another way, nor extended to all of the aspects of Internet Governance.

Public policies aspects must be managed on a national level respectful of intergovernmental decisions when they exist. Intergovernmental cooperation aims to set a common way of dealing with some aspects perceived as important to all governments. National governments keep a great freedom of managing the other aspects and in implementing the details of the aspects dealt with on the intergovernmental level.

The following items of Table A can be dealt with on the intergovernmental level. All other items can be dealt with on the national level if the intergovernmental level is not considered as necessary :

"+ sensitive" :

- Item 7: Enforce rules against abuses detrimental to society, such as spam, pedophilia, intellectual property theft, and deceitful commerce.
- Item 18: Guarantee internet stability at all levels and protect the network against pirates.
- Item 2: Create a legal framework insuring the protection of personal and commercial data.
- Item 9: Rules for the creation, sharing, and use of common internet resources, such as addresses, domain names, and personal and commercial data bases.
- Item 10: Agreements on multinational structures and infrastructures, which are needed for the management of common resources.
- Item 19: Interference of a transnational medium with national legal systems.
- Item 20: Management of common resources (IP addresses and name identifiers).

"- sensitive" :

- Item 1: Create a legal and economic framework fostering development of internet usages inducing economic growth and user satisfaction.
- Item 3: Guarantee non-discriminatory allocation of national internet resources.
- Item 23: Guarantee infrastructures and services adaptability.
- Item 8: Coordination and harmonization of national public policies.
- Item 11: Set frameworks for the resolution of international disputes.
- Item 12: Agree a budget for common resources and international structures.
- Item 13: Operation of network infrastructures.
- Item 15: Assignment of common resources.
- Item 16: Development and use of international standards.
- Item 22: Management of geopolitical balance.
- Item 28: Promote regional root servers in cooperation with relevant stakeholders.

We can point out that Scenario 2 is a balanced approach between national and intergovernmental management of a common resource which generates common issues,

some of which might be best resolved if dealt with through intergovernmental cooperation. Some of these issues are not technical, but linked to the legal systems, the economies and the diverse cultures existing all over the world.

Scenario 3 - **Strong intergovernmental cooperative approach**

This approach intends to draw a scheme where the main aspects of the Internet Governance are dealt with on the intergovernmental level. Intergovernmental cooperation is considered as the most common way of dealing with Internet Governance, even if some of its aspects remain under each government's sovereignty.

Policy aspects must be managed on an intergovernmental level. Intergovernmental cooperation aims to set a common way of dealing with most of the aspects of the Internet Governance. National governments can choose the way they implement the concrete details of the intergovernmental decisions, but they have to respect them. The following items of Table A can be dealt with on the national level respectful of the global rules and decisions adopted through intergovernemental cooperation. All other aspects have to be dealt with at the intergovernmental level.

"+ sensitive" :

- Item 5: Guarantee the integrity and stability of the country domain name.
- Item 25: Promote access to information and network infrastructures through active private sector involvement.

"- sensitive" :

- Item 1: Create a legal and economic framework fostering development of internet usages inducing economic growth and user satisfaction.
- Item 4: Guarantee and promote the unrestricted use of national languages for information and access procedures.
- Item 14: Name registration and management.
- Item 26: Define policies for the registration and use of domain names in national languages

We can point out that Scenario 3 considers that most of Internet Governance issues are to be managed in an intergovernmental way, because of the global scale of this medium. Though, some of the Internet management aspects remain national as they cannot be dealt with in another way. Scenario 3 would be most easily implemented in already politically integrated areas such a the European Union, but it can also be of interest for countries which consider that they will optimize their efforts through a common endeavour on a regional scale.

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        added items 26-28, in accordance with the WSIS Action Plan

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