Internet Governance Overview

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Internet Governance, History & Principles

1 Internet Governance Definition

2 History of Internet Governance

3 Internet Governance Today

4 IGF: Intercessional activities, Best Practices Forums, Dynamic Coalitions

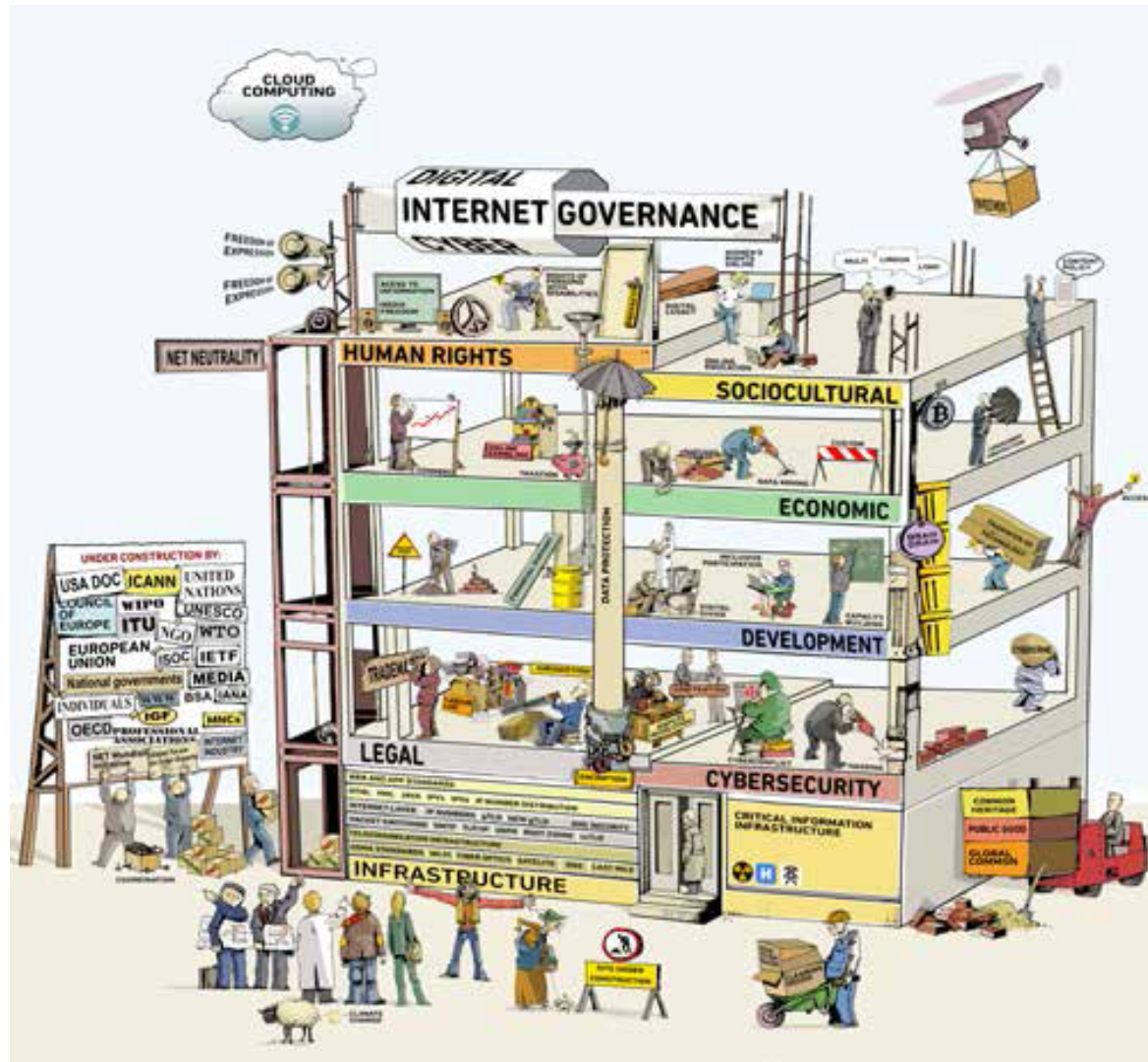**5** Various organizations ISOC / IAB / IETF ITU / W3C / IGF UN / I&J / ICANN

6 Your Questions

Internet Governance Definition

Internet Governance Definition

- *Internet governance is the development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that shape the evolution and use of the Internet*

History of Internet Governance

- **First reference to Internet Governance was at the 1998 Plenipotentiary Conference held in Minneapolis.**

- **It is here that other countries first pushed to have the ITU recognize the need of the private sector and other governments to adopt resolutions on governance of the Internet**

- **The Conference adopted a resolution calling for the creation of a World Summit on the Information Society and asked the ITU Council, the governing body of the ITU, to authorize the Summit.**

History of Internet Governance:1998 Plenipot

- **This Conference also called for greater ITU participation in the evolution of the Internet**

- **The Conference adopted Resolution 73 which created a World Summit on the Information Society and put forward it to the United Nations.**

- **On 21 December 2001, the United Nations General Assembly approved Resolution 56/183 endorsing the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to discuss on information society opportunities and challenges**

UN Resolutions

- It also emphasized that the conveners of the WSIS use a multi-stakeholder approach including civil society, technical communities, the private sector, beside just governments.

- The ITU was given the leading role to organize the event in cooperation with other UN bodies and other international organizations. They recommended that preparations for the Summit take place through an open-ended intergovernmental Preparatory Committee – or PrepCom Declaration of Principles and the draft Plan of Action

- In 2001, the ITU Council decided to hold the Summit in two phases, the first from 10 to 12 December 2003, in Geneva, and the second from 16 to 18 November 2005 in Tunis

Creation of WSIS

- The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) was a two-phase United Nations-sponsored summit on information, communication and, in broad terms, the information society that took place in 2003 in Geneva and in 2005 in Tunis.

- One of its chief aims was to bridge the global digital divide separating rich countries from poor countries by spreading access to the Internet in the developing world.

- The conferences established 17 May as World Information Society Day.

FIRST WSIS 2003

- **The first WSIS was held in 2003 in Geneva,**

- **Delegates from 175 countries took part in the first phase of WSIS where they adopted a Declaration of Principles.**

  - They also adopted an Action plan, along with goals and objectives
  - The plan did not spell out any specifics of how this might be achieved.

- **The Geneva summit also left unresolved more controversial issues, including the question of Internet governance and funding.**

Working Group on Internet Governance

- After the 2003 summit failed to agree on the future of Internet governance it created a Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) and tasked it to work on these issues and report back to the main body.

- The main activity of the WGIG was to investigate and make proposals on the governance of Internet by 2005.

- The WGIG was also asked to present the result of its work in a report "for consideration and appropriate action for the second phase of the WSIS in Tunis 2005

WGIG (continued)

- **The WGIG had 40 members drawn from Governments, private sector, and civil society, who all participated on an equal footing and in their personal capacity.**

- **They had three objectives**

  o **Develop a working definition of Internet Governance;**

  o **Identify the public policy issues that are relevant to Internet Governance;**

  o **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**

WGIG Continued

- The WGIG held four meetings in Geneva: 23-25 Nov. 2004; 14-18 Feb. 2005; 18-20 Apr. 2005; and 14-17 June 2005.

- While there was a common understanding of the Internet, there was not a shared view of Internet governance, hence the mandate from the WSIS for the WGIG to develop a working definition of Internet governance.

- The WGIG considered five criteria in crafting a definition
  - *adequate*, *generalizable*, *descriptive*, *concise* and *process-oriented*.
- Second, group looked at a wide range of governance mechanisms both public-sector, private-sector and multi-stakeholder that currently exist.
- Finally, the WGIG assessed a number of alternative definitions proposed by various parties in the course of the WSIS process and related international discussions.

Internet Governance Definition

- *Definition: Internet governance is the development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.*

  - This definition reinforces the concept of inclusiveness of Governments, the private sector and civil society in the mechanisms of Internet governance. It also acknowledges that with respect to specific issues of Internet governance each group will have different interests, roles and participation, which in some cases will overlap.

  - Internet governance includes more than Internet names and addresses, issues dealt with by Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN): it also includes other significant public policy issues, such as critical Internet resources, the security and safety of the Internet, and developmental aspects and issues pertaining to the use of the Internet.

Problems with Definition

- Early on controversy arose over the term 'governance' and its various interpretations.

- Many languages do not have a translation for the word governance and in many cases governance is synonymous with government.

- In the early WSIS process, many national delegations thought that Internet governance should be the business of governments and consequently addressed at intergovernmental level with the limited participation of other, mainly non-state actors.

- These interpretations clashed with a broader meaning of the term 'governance', which includes the governance of affairs of any institution, including non-government ones. This was the meaning accepted by the Internet community.

Goals of the Working Group on Internet Governance

- **One of the main aims of the WGIG was to foster full participation in Internet governance arrangements by developing countries.**

- **The WGIG placed this aim in the context of one of the priorities it had identified in the course of its work, namely, capacity-building in developing countries.**

- **This is what lead to the creation of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**

- **The IGF's Mandate comes from Paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda**

Internet Governance Forum

- **The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) serves to bring people together from various stakeholder groups as equals, in discussions on public policy issues relating to the Internet.**

- **While there is no negotiated outcome, the IGF informs and inspires those with policy-making power in both the public and private sectors.**

- **At their annual meeting, delegates discuss, exchange information and share good practices with each other.**

- **The IGF facilitates a common understanding of how to maximize Internet opportunities and address risks and challenges that arise.**

IGF

- The first IGF was in Athens Greece and, in many respects, it was an experiment in multilateral diplomacy. It was truly multistakeholder. All players – states, businesses, academic and technical communities, and civil society – participated on an equal footing. It also had an interesting organizational structure for its main events and workshops.

- Since then there have been 11 other IGFs
  - 2007-Rio de Janeiro
  - 2008-Hyderabad
  - 2009- Sharm El Sheikh
  - 2010- Vilnius
  - 2011- Nairobi
  - 2012-Baku
  - 2013-Bali
  - 2014-Istanbul
  - 2015-Joao Pessoa
  - 2016-Jalisco
  - 2017- Geneva

WSIS Second Phase

- **The second Phase of WSIS in November 2005 in Tunis resulted in agreement on the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society.**

- **This phase also codified the definitions created by the WGIG and also created the IGF.**

- **It also created the WSIS Action Lines**

WSIS Action Lines

- **C1. The role of public authorities & all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development**
- **C2. Information and communication infrastructure**
- **C3. Access to information and knowledge**
- **C4. Capacity building**
- **C5. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs**
- **C6. Enabling environment**
- **C7. ICT Applications:**
  - o **E-government, E-business, E-learning, E-health, E-employment, E-environment,**
  - o **E-agriculture, and E-science**
- **C8. Cultural diversity and identity, linguistic diversity and local content**
- **C9. Media**
- **C10. Ethical dimensions of the Information Society**
- **C11. International and regional cooperation**

WSIS Stocktaking Process

- The WSIS Stocktaking Process is a follow-up to WSIS. Its purpose is to provide a register of activities carried out by governments, international organizations, the business sector, civil society and other entities, to highlight the progress made in meeting the action lines.

- The ITU has been maintaining the WSIS Stocktaking database as a publicly accessible system providing information on ICT-related initiatives and projects related to the 11 WSIS Action Lines.

- The purpose of the regular reports is to update stakeholders on the various activities related to the 11 Action Lines identified

Commission on Science, Tech & Development

- **Since 2006, the CSTD has been mandated by ECOSOC to serve as the focal point in the system-wide follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the information Society (WSIS) and advise the Council on any recommendations aimed at furthering the implementation of the Summit outcomes.**
  - **The Commission on Science, Technology, and Development (CSTD) a subsidiary body of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) was charged by the United Nations to provide the General Assembly and ECOSOC with high-level advice on relevant issues through analysis and appropriate policy recommendations or options to enable those organs to guide the future work of the United Nations, develop common policies and agree on appropriate actions.**

CSTD (Continued)

- **The CSTD has forty-three member states elected by ECOSOC for a term of four years.**
  - o **Experts nominated by their governments are supposed to possess the necessary qualifications and knowledge.**
  - o **There are eleven members from African States, nine members from Asian States, eight members from Latin American and Caribbean States, five members from Eastern European States, and ten members from Western European and other States**
- **Along with its Mandate the CSTD convened two working groups.**
  - o **Working Group on Internet Governance Forums**
  - o **Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation**

CSTD Working Group on the IGF

- In 2012 the CSTD convened a Working Group to discuss improvements to the Internet Governance Forum

- This Working group held five meetings and these discussions covered:
  - How to develop more tangible and robust outputs to the IGF
  - How to Improve the visibility of IGF Outcomes and their accessibility
  - How to improve the outreach and cooperation with other organizations and fora dealing with Internet governance issues
  - How to improve working modalities of the IGF, through open consultations, improvements to the MAG and the Secretariat
  - How to improve Funding of the IGF
  - How to broaden participation
  - How to Link the IGF to other related processes/bodies

CSTD-Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation

- **In 2012, the CSTD also created a working group on enhanced cooperation to examine the mandate of the World Summit on the Information Society regarding enhanced cooperation as contained in the Tunis Agenda;**
  - **The group was composed of 22 Member States (four per regional group, plus the two that have hosted the World Summit on the Information Society); five from the private sector; five from civil society; five from the technical and academic communities; and five from intergovernmental and international organizations.**
  - **This group met four times and was supposed to report its progress the the CSTD group in 2014.**
  - **However, in 2014, it was unable to offer any recommendations to the full group**

Enhanced Cooperation (Continued)

- **In 2014, the Chair re-authorized this group for another four years in the hopes that it would be able to come to some conclusions and provide recommendations.**
  - **The group met five times over the four years and their last meeting was held in January 2018**
  - **At the 2018 meeting the group has been unable to agree on any outcomes, but their report is not out yet.**

WSIS +10 Review Process

- **The Tunis Agenda called upon the UN General Assembly (UNGA) to conduct an overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes in 2015**
  - The WSIS+10 Process marked the ten-year milestone since the 2005 Summit.

- **In 2015, the stocktaking process culminated with a High-Level meeting of the UN General Assembly in December in New York.**

- **In December 2015, the UNGA reviewed whether sufficient progress has been made to achieving the WSIS goals over the past 10 years. They also decided on the future of the WSIS process beyond 2015**
  - They reviewed the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes and provided a vision on a post-2015 WSIS agenda
  - the discussion focused on the benefits and challenges of the multistakeholder approach in implementing the WSIS Action Lines.

WSIS + 10 Review

- **The WSIS+10 overall review provided an opportunity to revisit the outcomes of WSIS, assess the progress made, and look ahead at challenges to be focused on in the coming years.**
  - **Just as WSIS sought to address pressing internet issues of the day, WSIS +10 addressed the current challenges facing today's global community.**

- **Two of the lead UN agencies identified to implement the Tunis Action Plan are the ITU & the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).**

- **The CSTD also continues to play a key role, having been tasked with assisting the UN's ECOSOC as the focal point for the system-wide follow-up of WSIS.**

- **In the run up to the WSIS review several agencies held their own review process and provided these outputs to the UNGA**

WSIS + 10 Review Process

- UNESCO, in collaboration with the ITU and other UN agencies, held the first WSIS+10 event in Paris in early 2013

- The ITU, in collaboration with UNESCO and other UN agencies, hosted a WSIS+10 High-Level Event from 9 to 13 June 2014 in Geneva.

- During 2014, the CSTD collected inputs from all WSIS Action Line facilitators and stakeholders about the progress made in the implementation of WSIS outcomes. The results were collated into a final report, which was presented at the CSTD's 18th Session in May 2015, and then presented to the UNGA:

- All three of these processes have been open to contributions from all stakeholders in the WSIS process.

- Collectively, these preparatory activities in the lead-up to the final UNGA WSIS+10 review are known as the "WSIS+10 process".

WSIS + 10 Review

- One of the successes of the WSIS +10 review by the different UN bodies was that the Outcome Document produced shows that there is no longer an issue of Internet governance being only -Governments only (multilateral) but is now understood to include all stakeholders-- *multistakeholder.*

- The WSIS+10 process recognized the "Internet as a global facility that includes multilateral, transparent, democratic and multi-stakeholder processes, with the full involvement of Governments, the private sector, civil society, international organizations, technical and academic communities"

- This is an evolution from the 2005 Tunis Agenda, which used the terms "international management of the Internet", and was specific that it should be "multilateral, transparent and democratic."

WSIS- IGF

- In 2003, at the beginning of the WSIS process, most countries addressed Internet governance issues through telecom ministries and regulatory authorities – which meant the ITU

- However, the growing impact of the Internet on the political, social, economic fabric of modern society leading to other government departments being involved in Internet governance along with civil society, technical institutions, academia, the private sector, international organizations, and individual end-users and consumers

- Today the groups working on Internet Governance are very diverse.

- The IGF has also grown and now there are national IGFs in over 70 countries. There are 17 sub-regional and regional IGFs, 9 Youth IGFs, organized on national or regional levels.

Map of the National- Regional Initiatives

National & Regional Initiatives of the IGF

- National and Regional IGF initiatives (NRIs) are independent groups of people that have come together to discuss issues pertaining to Internet Governance from the perspective of their respective communities

- A shared objective for all NRIs is adhering to the core values of the IGF, and contributing to Internet Governance related matters, nationally, regionally, and globally.

- Youth IGFs are specifically organized Forums that discuss the issues pertaining to the Internet arena from the youth point of view.

- All NRIs are required to support the main IGF criteria and principles to be listed on the IGF website.

IGF

- **As a result of the review process, the UNGA then re-authorized the IGF for ten years**
  - This was a big victory for the IGF as previous renewals of the IGF mandate were had been only for five years
- **Today the IGF has grown from when it was first created 12 years ago**
- **Many countries use national IGF initiatives as a way to engage the various stakeholder groups in Internet governance and digital policy processes**
- **IThe IGF created Dynamic Coalitions as a way to continue the discussion on a variety of topics through out the year**
  - The concept for Dynamic Coalitions first emerged at the IGF's inaugural meeting in Athens, with a number of coalitions establishing themselves at that time. The coalitions are informal, issue-specific groups comprising members from various stakeholder communities.

IGF: Dynamic Coalitions

- Once established, Dynamic coalitions must follow three basic principles of inclusiveness and transparency for carrying out their work: open membership, open mailing lists, and open archives. They must also ensure their statements and outputs reflect minority or dissenting viewpoints

- In 2015, in response to the CSTD work on enhancements to the IGF, the IGF created a series of Intercessional work in an effort to provide more tangible outputs to the IGF.

- The IGF intercessional work focused on Connecting and Enabling the Next Billions.

Intercessional Work

- **Since 2015 there have been three phases to this work on Connecting the Next Billion and three reports published**

  o **In 2015 the work and the report was called Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion**

  o **In 2016 the work focused on Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion**

  o **In 2017 the work continued its focus on Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billions.**

  o **All of these reports can be found on the IGF Intercessional page, https://tinyurl.com/y9vbjs9c**

Best Practice Forums

- **In 2016, the IGF created Best Practice Forums (BPF) in response to the CSTD work on enhancements to the IGF.**
  - BPFs offer substantive ways for the IGF community to produce more concrete outcomes.
  - BPFs have the freedom to define their own methodologies; tailored to each theme's specific needs and requirements.
  - Each year the MAG agrees on the different themes for the BPFs

Multi-stakeholder Form of Governance

- Multi-stakeholderism is a type of governance structure that brings together all stakeholders to participate in the dialogue, decision making, and implementation of solutions to common problems or goals.

- A stakeholder refers to an individual, group, or organization that has a direct or indirect interest or stake in a particular organization, these may be businesses, civil society, governments, research institutions, and non-government organizations.

- The principle behind this is that if enough input is provided by all actors involved in a question, the eventual consensual decision will gain more legitimacy, and therefore better reflects a set of perspectives rather than a single source of validation.

Stakeholders in Internet Governance

- **Stakeholders involved in Internet Governance**
  - Technical Groups: I* Organizations ISOC, IANA, IETF, W3C, IEEE, ICANN, IAB, RIRs, ASOs/NROs
  - Governments & International Organizations such as the UN, ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD- CSTD, OECD, Council of Europe,
  - Private Sector & Associations: ICC, WEF, CCIA, companies like Apple, Google, Amazon, etc
  - Civil Society, APC, Public Knowledge, Access Now, Article 19, EFF, IGC, Best Bits, AT Large, NCSG
  - Academia
  - Individual Consumer groups.

Conclusions

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5 Various organizations ISOC / IAB / IETF ITU / W3C / IGF UN / I&J / ICANN

6 Your Questions

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Thanks
Questions, Comments, Suggestions

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