

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Octopus Interface Conference
Cooperation against cybercrime

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Convening a new Forum

- WSIS invited the UN Secretary-General to “convene a new forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue” – the IGF.
- A space for a dialogue – to bring all interested parties together:
 - Governments and Intergovernmental Organizations;
 - Internet institutions;
 - Private Sector;
 - Civil Society;
 - Academic and Technical Communities.

One cross-cutting priority : development

- Internet governance to be placed in WSIS and MDG context ('digital divide').
- Two aspects:
 - Effective and meaningful participation in Internet governance arrangements;
 - Building of capacity to address Internet governance issues.

The IGF is an experiment in international cooperation

Broader context:

- Adapting global governance to the needs of the 21st Century;
- Search for new forms of international cooperation;
- Recognition of non-State actors in international cooperation;
- The Secretary-General in his message to the first meeting called the IGF “a move into uncharted territory”.

The essence of the IGF

No power of (re)distribution, but:

Power of recognition:

- The IGF can
 - identify issues of concern;
 - draw attention to an issue;
 - put an issue on the agenda of international cooperation.
- = > the IGF has soft power.

Benefits of the IGF

The IGF can:

- shape public opinion and decision-making processes in other institutions;
- prepare the ground for negotiations;
- plant the seeds for decisions to be taken by other institutions;
- provide a platform for reaching out to all stakeholders;
- bring in different stakeholder perspectives into public policy debate (user perspective).

IGF Annual Meetings

- Annual meeting of four days.
- 1300+ participants
- Four meetings so far:
 - Athens 2006;
 - Rio de Janeiro 2007;
 - Hyderabad 2008;
 - Sharm El Sheikh 2009.
- Fifth meeting:
 - Vilnius, Lithuania, 14-17 September 2010.

The Vilnius agenda

- Overall theme:
“IGF 2010 – developing the future together”
- Agenda:
 - Managing critical Internet resources;
 - Security, Openness and Privacy;
 - Access and Diversity;
 - Internet Governance for diversity;
 - Taking stock of Internet governance and the way forward;
 - Emerging issues: cloud computing.

Main discussion threads

- The relationship between national regulations and the borderless Internet
- Balances between...
 - privacy rights and security
 - between citizens' right to information and the rights of copyright and IPR holders.
- The role of governments in ensuring
 - an enabling environment
 - Regulatory frameworks tailored to local conditions;

Policy Coherence

- 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.
 - Need for policy coherence at all levels:
 - International
 - Regional
 - National
- => International coordination needs to build on coordination at the national and regional levels

Dynamic Coalitions

Dynamic Coalitions emerging from the workshops:

- Stop Spam Alliance (ITU, OECD,APEC...);
- Open Standards (Brazil, W3C, Sun..);
- Privacy (France, World Bank, AI...);
- Internet Bill of Rights (Brazil, ISOC Italy, IP Justice...);
- A2K@IGF (Google, CoE, FSFE, EFF).
- FOEonline (Freedom of Expression and the Media)
- Child online Safety (ECPAT, Save the Children, Childnet International)

National and Regional IGFs

Emerging interest in creating national and regional IGFs.

- LAC region
- Caribbean IGF
- East Africa IGF
- West Africa IGF
- EuroDIG
- Commonwealth IGF
- UK
- USA
- Italy
- Denmark

2010:

- IGF Asia Pacific in Hong Kong
- Russia

The IGF Mandate

- IGF mandate provisional for 5 years, subject to review.
- UN Secretary-General requested to hold “formal consultations with IGF participants on the desirability of a continuation of the Forum.”
- Consultations took place at 4th IGF Meeting in Sharm EL Sheikh.
- Based on consultations, Secretary-General will make recommendations to UN Membership.
- Decision by UN General Assembly on whether or not to extend the IGF Mandate in December 2010.

However...

- A final decision on whether or not to continue with the IGF will be taken by UN Member States.
- Not a foregone conclusion:
Not all governments are convinced that multistakeholder cooperation is the best approach towards Internet governance!
- Some would prefer having public policy discussions related to the Internet in a classical UN setting.

Ways to take part

- IGF encourages in depth discussions on prevention, combating, investigation and prosecution as a means to establish international standards for cybercrime.
- Invites for workshop proposals and best practice requests dealing with cybercrime and other interlinked public policy issues.(deadline **15 April**)
- Joining a Dynamic Coalition

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