



The Internet Governance Landscape

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Global Internet Policy at the Crossroads

In recent years we note two contradictory trends:

- Increased recognition of the Internet model (multistakeholder, bottom-up collaboration);
 - Increased efforts of governments to control some aspects of the Internet (security!) that could affect the very nature of the Internet;
- There is a risk that precipitous decisions could hamper the Internet's full potential as an engine for innovation and and growth.

The reason behind the success of the Internet

The Internet is successful in large part due to its unique model of development and deployment:

A common set of values and processes:

- Open technical standards
- Shared global ownership – no central control
- Collaborative engagement models – researchers, business, civil society, government – expertise driven
- Freely accessible processes for technology and policy development
- Transparent and collaborative governance based on multi-stakeholder involvement (the “Internet Ecosystem”)



The changing shape of the Internet

- We have 2 billion connected, 4 billion more to come online.
- Those yet to be connected will create both new opportunities and new challenges for the Internet as we know it.
- The majority of the growth will come from the non-English speaking world: (China, India, Russia, Brazil, Africa).

The Internet of the future

The Internet will be more multilingual:

- Domain names based on non-western characters

The new Internet users will have different cultural and societal views and values:

- This will influence the global policy debate and policy making

Technological challenges:

- The huge growth in scale and the growing prevalence of mobility

Internet governance: historic overview

Key year: 1998

Hands-off approach:

- OECD: Ottawa Ministerial
- WTO Ministerial
- Incorporation of ICANN

Governmental approach:

- ITU Plenipotentiary in Minneapolis: decision to hold a World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

2003:

WSIS-I: Government take-over bid failed, instead agreement to do some fact-finding --> Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG)



Internet governance after WSIS

- WSIS II in 2005 validated the Internet model - “yes, but” : conclusion: there is room for improvement...
- Two tracks:
 - “Enhanced cooperation”
 - Platform to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet: The Internet Governance Forum (IGF).
- Six IGF meetings so far. Successful model of multistakeholder cooperation in building a common understanding of potential problems and possible solutions!
- Regional & national IGF initiatives in all continents help spread understanding for the multi-stakeholder model.

IGOs adapting to the Internet model

- 2008: OECD Seoul Ministerial Meeting:
Endorses multistakeholder model and opens meetings for civil society and the Internet technical community.
- 2009: Council of Europe Reykjavik Ministerial meeting:
Embraces multistakeholder model for its future work on Internet governance.

Internet governance: recent developments

- 2010:** - UNGA renews IGF Mandate
- CSTD WG on IGF improvements

High level principles supporting the Internet model endorsed by:

- 2011:** - Deauville G8 Meeting / Declaration
- OECD High-Level Meeting
- London Conference on Cyberspace
- Hague Ministerial Conference on Internet Freedom
- 2012:** - UNHRC Special Session on Human Rights and the Internet
- Council of Europe Ministers adopt Internet Governance Strategy

Internet governance 2012

Six tracks:

- Three cross-cutting tracks of politics trying to come to terms with the new medium:
 - General (UN/IGF)
 - Security (UN/NATO/Interpol/CoE/ITU)
 - Human Rights (UNHRC)
- Three tracks where the Internet challenges existing business models:
 - Regulatory (ITU)
 - Architecture (IETF/ITU)
 - Digital Content (ACTA/WIPO)

Internet governance 2012 - General

WSIS Follow-up:

- UN GA Second Committee/ECOSOC
- CSTD; CSTD WG on IGF
- IGF
- Enhanced cooperation
- Proposal by India to create a UN Committee on Internet Related Policy (CIRP)
- India/Brazil/South Africa (IBSA) “...an appropriate body is urgently required in the UN system to coordinate and evolve coherent and integrated global public policies pertaining to the Internet.”



Internet governance 2012 - Security

- **UN GA Second Committee: Security**
 - Intergovernmental Group of Experts
- **International Code of Conduct for Information Security** proposed by China, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan;

Commitment to “curbing the dissemination of information that incites terrorism, secessionism, or extremism, or that undermines other countries’ political, economic, and social stability, as well as their spiritual and cultural environment”.

- Russia plans to socialize its proposal at the Budapest Conference on Cyberspace in 2012.

Internet governance 2012 - Human Rights

- 2011 Report by UN Special Rapporteur Frank La Rue (“Right to freedom of expression and the Internet”).
- UN HRC Special Session on Human Rights and the Internet on 29 February 2012.
- Stockholm Internet Forum on Internet Freedom for Global Development -18-19 April 2012.
- Council of Europe Internet Governance Strategy 2012-2015, based on democratic values and human rights.

Internet Governance 2012 - Regulatory Environment

International Telecommunications Regulations (ITRs) will be revised this year.

The last revision of the ITRs in 1988 paved the way to the liberalization of the telecommunication markets.

Main questions to be considered:

- Obligations of Member States, Interconnection, ITU Recommendations.
- Should provisions be added to cover new issues?
- Misuse, Content, Cybersecurity, Spam, Fraud, IP Addressing.
- Enforcement.

Internet Governance 2012 – Architecture

- The **World Telecommunications Standardization Assembly Governments (WTSA)** is to adopt the work program for the ITU-Telecommunications Standardization Sector (ITU-T).
- Proposed WTSA Resolutions could impact the Internet Architecture – they imply:
 - That the Internet is just like the public switched telecommunications network (PSTN), so that all associated regulation and international settlements apply.
 - That ITU Recommendations (Standards) are globally recognized with need for mandatory compliance and ITU enforcement
 - That addressing “misuse” must be facilitated by the ITU and contained by National Governments.



Digital Content

SOPA/PIPA/ACTA: Clash between borderless technology and a traditional business model. Ongoing process.

Bottom line: need to ensure that we can maintain the elements that have made the Internet such a success to date:

- It is user-centric and user-driven – the user shapes the Internet
- It allows for innovation without permission.

The next billions need the same opportunity to innovate as the first billions.



Conclusion

- Change is inevitable, as more billions come online.
- The increased importance of the Internet for all countries makes the increased involvement of governments inevitable.
- The economic weight of the Internet will lead to increased economic pressures.
- Not all governments, not all corporations are comfortable with the Internet as it is.
- While changes will happen, our mission is to defend the essential characteristics of the Internet:
 - its open architecture; and
 - its open and collaborative governance model.
- These characteristics have served the Internet well and are in the long-term interest of all Internet users.



Conclusion

Don't take the Internet for granted.

The users are the Internet and they are ready to speak up for the Internet they want!



the Internet is for
everyone

THANK YOU

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