

**‘The Road to Rio’ and Beyond**  
**Current status of Internet Governance**  
**Discussions**

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# What is ISOC?

- Mission and purpose
  - "To assure the open development, evolution and use of the Internet for the benefit of all people throughout the world."
- Not-for-profit charitable organisation
  - Global membership, but with a local perspective
    - 80+ ISOC Chapters worldwide
    - 26,000+ Individual members, 150+ Organisational members
- Sole focus is the Internet
  - Education, Policy and Standards

# What is Internet Governance?

- Definition
  - Definition problematic for some
- Tunis Agenda
  - “Internet Governance” includes more than Internet naming and addressing
    - Also public policy issues: critical Internet resources, security & safety of the Internet, developmental aspects & issues
  - “Critical Internet resources”
    - Undersea cables, Internet exchange points, Broadband service, Metropolitan wireless, Public access points, Multilingual content
    - And.. IP addresses and Names

# World Summit Information Society beginnings..

- Intergovernmental summit hosted by UN
  - UN resolution in 2001, met 2003, concluded in 2005
- Purpose
  - Tackle the “digital divide”
    - “..commitment to build a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society, where everyone can create, access, utilize and share information.. “
  - Everyone has a role
    - “To harness the potential of ICTs to drive economic & social development..”
- 3 key areas
  - Internet Governance, financing strategies, ICT development & capacity building

# WSIS conclusions Tunis 2005 and IGF

- Kofi Annan, opening statement WSIS Tunis
  - *“(This summit).. must generate new momentum towards developing the economies and societies of poor countries, and transforming the lives of poor people”*
- Concluding docs
  - A “multi-stakeholder” forum for dialogue called the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
  - “Enhanced Cooperation” in the development of globally applicable principles on public policy issues

# IGF Mandate

- IGF forum should
  - Be a place for “multi-stakeholder policy dialogue”
  - Discuss cross-cutting policies and issues that do not fall within the scope of any existing body
  - Have no oversight function and not replace existing arrangements, mechanisms, institutions or organisations
  - Have no involvement in day-to-day or technical operations of the net
  - Be a neutral, **non-duplicative** and non-binding process, etc.
- <http://www.intgovforum.org>

# ISOC Expectations for IGF

- ISOC's expectations
  - Focus on development areas that impact access and availability of the Internet
    - Getting the next billion online
  - Multi-stakeholder participation
  - Clear, focused agenda
  - Inform, collaborate & promote “best practice” & expertise sharing
  - Leverage existing organizations & knowledge to avoid new structures & duplication

# IGF Structure

- IGF Chair Nitin Desai (UNSG)
  - For Rio – Brazilian co-Chair
  - Small secretariat in Geneva (Kummer)
- IGF Advisory Group (AG) appointed by UNSG
  - +/- 47 Representatives of business, government, civil society & technical (Internet) community
  - +Guests from international organizations
  - +Special advisors to the co-Chairs
- IGF AG's role
  - Assist in drafting the agenda, shape the focus, propose speakers, address logistics etc
  - Composition & structure likely to change after Rio



# First IGF - Athens

- Focus areas
  - Openness, diversity, security, access
  - “Emerging Issues” in Internet governance
- 35+ workshops
  - ISOC/GIPI “Building local access” workshop
  - ISOC/Internet community “participation” workshop
- Who was there?
  - Wide-ranging subset of WSIS Tunis
    - Gov’ts, Business, civil society, Internet community, ISOC Ambassadors, ISOC members....

# IGF Athens: success or “outstanding” success?

- Truly multi-stakeholder and a meeting of equals
  - A completely different animal
  - Balanced discussion on range of issues
- Dialogue, experience sharing & collaboration
  - Workshops, dynamic coalitions.....
- Real focus on capacity and community building
  - Less of a focus on the more “political” issues
- Still some concerns about the lack of “results”, over structure, etc.
  - AND the real impact that the IGF is having at the local level
    - “Localising” the debate is seen as critical

## Second IGF: Rio - what is different?

- Athens worked surprisingly well, but key concerns from Athens....
  - Costs/difficulties for developing country participation
  - Do developing countries feel their concerns & needs were addressed?
- Post Athens consultations
  - Continued emphasis on capacity building & training
  - Emphasised the need (for some) to discuss “Critical Internet resources”
    - Resulted in a 5th main focus session for Rio
    - Seen all stakeholders assert themselves more in process..
- Other forces at play.....

# “Enhanced Cooperation” - Challenges

- Enhanced co-operation (Tunis agenda)
  - “Governments, on an equal footing, ... carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet”
  - N. Desai, IGF Chair, consulted informally on what ‘enhanced cooperation’ is & what can be done to increase cooperation among Governments & relevant stakeholders
  - Despite the desires of many to see the IGF and “enhanced co-operation” as separate and distinct, they continue to blur and pose challenges

# Road to Rio – Challenges

- IGF Rio 12–15 Nov 2007
  - The road to Rio is just as arduous as Athens
  - Logistical and organisational aspects challenging
    - Main sessions still to be finalised, speakers to be invited
  - How do we ensure “value” to participants?
  - AND the “political” pressures will be greater
  - Critical Internet resources
    - Important to ensure a broad and meaningful interpretation

# ISOC and IGF Rio

- Preparatory work since Athens
  - Contributions from ISOC to the IGF consultations
  - Participation in regional IG workshops, roundtables
- Rio engagement
  - ISOC members and Chapters
    - ISOC Ambassadors program
  - Workshops
    - ISOC and other partners have proposed workshops covering IPv4-v6, the root server system, IXPs...
- Capacity building & access remain at forefront
- Focus on sharing experiences & best practices