# Internet Governance Forum

**Patrik Fältström**

Internet Society

Email: paf@cisco.com

# What is IGF?

- IGF is a series of meetings that originated as a result of the discussions at WSIS in Tunis
  - First meeting in Athens 2006
  - Second meeting in Rio de Janeiro 2007
  - Third meeting in Dehli 2008
  - Fourth meeting in Kairo 2009
- Each meeting with some theme(s)
- No decision making body, just discussions
  - Part of the overall UN agenda
    - Tons of practical issues...

# What is WSIS?

- ## WSIS
  - ### World Summit on the Information Society
    - The purpose of the World Summit on the Information Society, as stated in Resolution (A/RES/56/183), is to develop a "common vision and understanding of the information society and the adoption of a declaration and plan of action for implementation by Governments, international institutions and all sectors of civil society".
    - While there are many issues associated with the dawning of the information society, the themes proposed for the Summit can be clustered into three main concerns: vision, access and applications.
  - ### Hopefully(!) many more IGF meetings before next WSIS

# IGF Structure

- **IGF Chair Nitin Desai (UNSG)**
  - Small secretariat in Geneva (Markus 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 Chairman
- **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 (not part of IGF)
  - 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….
- Internet Community's role was critical
  - Shaped event with contributions & AG participation
  - Helped drive the discussion
    - Internet community speakers brought balance to key areas
  - Reinforced cooperative, collaborative nature of the management & administration of the Internet

# IGF Athens: success or "outstanding" success?

- 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..

# "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 has been just as arduous as Athens

  - Logistical and organisational aspects challenging

    - Main sessions just finalised, speakers invited last week

    - Logistics of sessions still unclear

      - What is the "role" of the session chair (from Brazil)

  - How do we ensure "value" to participants?

  - AND the "political" pressures will be greater

  - New topic: 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

# Examples of 'Best Practices'

- ## IXPs
  - Neutral services points operated in common interest
- ## DNS registries
  - Neutral non-profit organisations, serving an open market of competitive registrars
- ## IP address registries
  - Neutral, independent industry self-regulatory bodies
- ## ISPs
  - Infrastructure & access services highly competitive, lightly regulated, subsidise to maximise accessibility
- ## Rootservers
  - Widely distributed around network density & topology

# Third IGF in India - What Next?

- Recall fundamental principles of Internet model
  - Vint Cerf description of "eco-system"
  - Every part contributes to the whole and is important
    - IP addresses are nothing without electricity..
- Dialogue, dialogue, dialogue..
  - Local multi-stakeholder approach vital
- Getting users on-line is critical
  - Development & capacity building needs stability and growth
- Showcase 'best practices'
  - Capacity building, domestic Internet infrastructure…

# IGF in India - Food for Thought…

- ## Stimulate dialogue
  - Focus on real outcomes for developing capacity
- ## Encourage experience sharing
  - APNIC/SANOG meeting is an excellent example of intersect of policy, operations, education and capacity building
- ## Support the Internet model
  - Multi-stakeholder model has been successful for 15 years in providing stability, flexibility and innovation
    - Open processes
    - Collaborative and inter-dependant environment