

United Nations and The Governance of Internet

Internetdagarna 2011

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IGF History

- Born out of WSIS 2005
 - Tunis Agenda
- 2006 IGF: Athens, Greece
 - 'Internet Governance for Development'
- 2007 IGF: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
 - 'Internet Governance for Development'
- 2008 IGF: Hyderabad, India
 - 'Internet for All'
- 2009 IGF: Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt
 - 'Internet Governance – Creating Opportunities for All'
- 2010 IGF: Vilnius, Lithuania
 - 'IGF 2010 – developing the future together'
- 2011 IGF: Nairobi, Kenya
 - 'Internet as a catalyst for change: access, development, freedoms and innovation'

<http://www.itu.int/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html>

The nature of the IGF

- A very non-UN, UN conference
- Annual event
- Multistakeholder model
 - Civil society, technical community, private sector, international orgs, governments
 - Equal footing
- Open to all
 - No accreditation, no fee
- Non-binding, non-decision making

IGF modalities

- Chair
 - (previously Nitin Desai)
- Small Geneva-based IGF secretariat
- Executive Coordinator of the secretariat
 - (previously Markus Kummer)
- The MAG (Multistakeholder Advisory Group)
 - Representatives from all stakeholder groups
- Open Consultations
 - Open to all
 - Anyone can submit workshop proposals
- Host country
 - Co-chairs the IGF
- Remote participation to allow for greater participation
- Regional / national IGFs
 - A more recent development

IGF Mandate

- IGF 5 year mandate
 - Expired 2010
- UNGA decision 2010 to extend IGF mandate
- CSTD WG to look at improvements of the IGF
 - To deliver report to CSTD in May 2012
- CSTD WG originally only gov representation
 - Not multistakeholder
- Composition changed after much feedback
 - 5 tech, 5 business, 5 civil society, 5 Intergov orgs
- An on-going process

<http://www.unctad.info/en/CstdWG/>

How useful is the IGF?

- A unique space for governments, civil society, business and the Internet community to come together
- Share expertise & experience to inform national decision-making
- Has led to greater understanding in igov
 - Discussions have matured over the years
- Inspired discussions on national/regional level
- Remote participation radically improved

<http://www.unctad.info/en/CstdWG/>

IGF Nairobi

- Biggest IGF to date!
 - 2032 onsite attendees
 - 47 remote hubs
 - 2500 remote participant connections
 - from 89 countries
- 53% of IGF 2011 participants from Africa

IGF Nairobi

Internet as a catalyst for change: access, development, freedoms and innovation

- Maturity in discussions
 - i.e. Internet principles
 - Would not have been possible to have discussions of this nature five years ago!
 - Rich discussions on previously too sensitive topics
- More informed discussions
 - Better understanding how the different models work, better understand of basic technical principles
 - Allows for more focused, in-depth discussions

IGF Nairobi

- IBSA proposal
 - Proposing a new global Internet governance UN body
- Vivid discussion in the IGF main session
 - Would not have been possible for any non-governmental actors to comment on without the IGF!
 - Points to the strength of the IGF
 - But also shows that not everyone is comfortable with the IGF multistakeholder model
 - Some want to move processes into the UN

IGF Challenges

- To become further inclusive & accessible
 - Reach out to new stakeholders
 - Reduce barriers of participation
- Allow the IGF to evolve!
 - To stay flexible and responsive to new developments
 - Bottom-up, not Top-down!
- To remain open, inclusive, non-decision making
 - Resist efforts to move away from the multistakeholder model
- To remain relevant
 - Provide focused, in-depth discussions

Youth participation

www.netnod.se



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Academic / Tech. Comm.

5th Internet Governance Forum
Vilnius, Lithuania 14-17 Sept 2010



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ROSS

OTHERS

17-09-2010

References

- Internet Governance Forum
 - <http://www.intgovforum.org>
- EuroDIG
 - 2012 meeting in Stockholm!
 - 14-15 June 2012
 - <http://www.eurodig.org/>
- RIPE Cooperation WG
 - <http://www.ripe.net/ripe/groups/wg/coop>

Thank You

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