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**Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in 2011 to
implement the outcome of the WSIS**

Submission by

IGF SECRETARIAT

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 15th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

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The Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Annual Report 2011

Prepared by the IGF Secretariat

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Introduction

The United Nations General Assembly renewed the mandate of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) for another five years in its resolution 65/141 of 20 December 2010. The core elements of the mandate remained unchanged, and IGF remained as a forum to provide a venue for discussions on public policy issues and facilitate discourse and exchange of information between diverse stakeholders Internet Governance issues.

The main activity of the IGF in 2011 was the sixth Internet Governance Forum annual meeting was held in Nairobi, Kenya on 27 – 30 September 2011. The meeting was the largest attended to date with more than 2100 participants, 42 remote hubs and 110 workshops. The meeting received great attention from the international community; in the print media alone there were at least 1 244 articles from 35 countries around the world. This annual report includes information on the preparatory process of the IGF meeting, the actions that were taken place to enhance multi-stakeholder participation at the Internet Governance Forum, some concrete outcomes of the IGF and the themes that were discussed at the meeting. A detailed statistical analysis of attendance is included in the annex.

The preparatory process of the Sixth IGF annual meeting

As in previous years, the IGF annual meeting was prepared by an open multi-stakeholder consultative process. The IGF Secretariat issued a call for comments and contributions. A synthesis of inputs, ideas and comments received in response to the call were published on the website¹. The Open Consultations followed by Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) meeting were held on 23-24 February. The comments and inputs were to be considered by the MAG members, in meetings open to observers, and these discussions were an input into a 'Programme Paper' that was a rolling document that outlined the programme of the Nairobi meeting. This programme paper was updated periodically to reflect new inputs received.² A summary report of the MAG meetings was provided on the website.³ A call for submitting workshop proposals was issued and around 113 workshop proposals were submitted on the website.

The second Open Consultations and MAG Meeting were held on 18-19 May respectively. Workshop proposals were assessed by the MAG, taking into account the quality of workshops content, their relevance to Internet Governance issues and criteria such as multi-stakeholderism, participation from developing countries and gender balance in the proposed panellists lists. The inputs received at these meetings were also compiled⁴ and the Programme Paper was updated accordingly.

The Web cast and transcription links for all the meetings were made available on the website.⁵

¹ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/2011/programmepapers/SynthesisPaper.110218a.pdf>

² <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/schedule-a-programme-2011>

³ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/2011/summaries/MAG.Summary.final.pdf>

⁴ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/2011/summaries/MAG%20summary%20Report.19.May.2011.pdf>

⁵ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/nairobipreparatory>

The proceedings of the previous years IGF meeting in Vilnius were published in a book entitled “Developing the future together” and distributed in the delegate bags; additionally the book is available on the website.⁶

The official invitation to attend the Sixth IGF Meeting in Nairobi was issued by Under-Secretary-General Sha Zukang 17 June 2011.

The Nairobi Meeting

The theme of the sixth IGF annual meeting was “Internet as a catalyst for change: access, development, freedoms and innovation”. The key sub themes were as follows:

- Internet Governance For Development (IG4D)
- Emerging Issues
- Managing Critical Internet Resources
- Security, Openness and Privacy
- Access and Diversity
- Taking Stock and The Way Forward

The agenda added emphasis on the role of Internet governance in development, hence as well as having a ninety minutes session on Internet Governance for Development, the focus on development was cross-cutting in each of the other key themes.

IG4D

During the IG4D Main Session, the importance of IG policies for development was highlighted – the use of the Internet is inextricably bound into many policy initiatives addressing the MDGs and hence the importance of IG issues at international and national level is critical. The importance of multi-stakeholder approaches in shaping policies for development was stressed by all stakeholders. . Access to the Internet and to the information accessible through the Internet was recognised as a human right due to the power of Internet in enabling economic and social growth.

The debate concluded by highlighting the significance of Internet governance for development, not as a fringe activity but as a core element of the development agenda linking new forms of access, economic developments, innovations and new freedoms and human rights

Emerging Issues

The Main Session on Emerging Issues focused on the governance issues related to mobile Internet – the platform by which most people in the world access the Internet. Mobile communications and the Internet are playing a critical role in fostering new skills, harnessing entrepreneurship and economic development and hence raising new issues. There was a common understanding that mobile Internet will increasingly provide life-critical systems, such as in health care and disaster relief. Hence, mobile Internet applications should be designed with resilience to failure along with the ability for fast recovery. It was suggested that an active wireless spectrum policy management that favours competition, makes available ample spectrum in usable ‘blocks’ , as well as new types of devices that use available bandwidth more efficiently. This could generate more competition thus more affordability. Moreover it was acknowledged that top-down regulation could slow innovation and prevent multi-stakeholder policy making.

⁶ http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/2011/book/IGF_2010_Cover.pdf

It was also recognised that understanding access to the Internet as a human right would bring new and important issues to the fore. Internet access as a human right was not seen just in terms of access to the physical infrastructure but to the knowledge and use of the knowledge that the Internet provides.

Managing Critical Internet Resources

During the Main Session on Managing Critical Internet Resources the discussions centred on the role of stakeholders in managing the Internet Resources, promoting capacity building in critical Internet resource and the IPv6 transition, and its affect on developed and developing countries. An important element of the debate focused on the new generic top level domain regime. Here issues such as the high cost of new gTLDs regime were also discussed, its role in innovation and its possible adverse impact on businesses in their intellectual property and trademark defences were discussed..

Security, Openness and Privacy

The issue of human rights was of prominence in the Security, Openness and Privacy Main Session. The role of law enforcement and cyber security centres in combating the cyber – attack and cybercrime was discussed. Moreover, the impact of actions taken to cut access to the Internet for individuals, groups or entire countries especially during the Arab Spring was considered. It was generally agreed that the State must be able to protect the citizens however safety measurements on Internet should not infringe on basic human rights such as the freedom of expression. In addition, it was noted that service providers and other intermediaries must protect user safety and freedom of expression following the rule of law.

Access and Diversity

In the Main Session on Access and Diversity, the right of access to the Internet as a basic human right was insisted upon. Notably, the UN rapporteur on Human Rights called for access to the Internet to be considered a universal human right. The correlation of access and accessibility and its effect on people with disability, affordability, issues beyond access such as freedom of expression and association, access and language were discussed and the importance of inclusive and multi-stakeholder debate was stressed.

Taking Stock and the Way Forward

At the Taking Stock and the Way Forward Main Session, the participants commented on the IGF meeting in Kenya.

At this session the Sixth Annual meeting of the IGF in Kenya was recognized as the largest and most well attended meeting so far with an increase in the participation of developing countries. For some the focus on Internet Governance and development within the IGF naturally lead to the need for more attention to be given to issues of human rights. It was suggested that this linking of development and human rights was a key debate throughout the IGF meeting and again showed the importance of the IGF as a place for open dialogue.

It was noted that each year the number of remote participation increased which greatly contributed to the quality of discussions.

There was a discussion on how the CSTD and ECOSOC suggestions can be implemented at the IGF. The importance of enhancing developing countries participation at the IGF meetings was emphasized and it was noted that African countries have been very active at national, regional and

global IGF. It was also recommended to enhance the participation of developing countries it was advised that the issues being discussed at the IGF should relate more to the developing countries.

The openness of IGF meeting was praised and it was suggested that the questions from the participants can be sent in the form of text messages. IGF was recognized as a process rather than an event. The importance of knowledge management and knowledge exchange was stressed and enabling an effective participation of different stakeholders in shaping policy was emphasized.

Over all through all the Main Sessions the multi-stakeholder nature of the IGF was praised and the importance of the multi-stakeholder approach in Internet policy making was viewed as vital to a continued progress and development in the growth of Internet

During the closing ceremony calls were made by the speakers for the host country to inform the United Nations Secretary-General and the General Assembly of the need to ensure that all stakeholders, on an equal and collaborative footing, are integral to any process on the future of Internet governance. Further, it was seen that the Tunis Agenda should continue to be the reference point and guide to the responses of the UN to issues of Internet governance.

The proceedings of the Kenya meeting were reflected in Chair's summary report.⁷

Bilateral meetings

Other than workshops, more than 40 bilateral meetings were held during IGF Nairobi meeting. A Ministerial meeting was held on 26 September. A day before the start of the IGF meeting which was attended by various governments officials and stakeholders from intergovernmental organizations, business, the Internet community and civil society. Internet Governance related award ceremonies and round tables were also held.

National and Regional IGF Initiatives

National and Regional IGF initiatives have continued to spring up bringing the total to 17 national IGF and 11 regional Internet Governance Fora. This year saw the formation of the Southern African IGF, Rwandan IGF and the Canadian IGF initiatives. During the Sixth meeting of the IGF in Nairobi Kenya, various meetings were held by the regional and national initiatives around the world.

At the Sixth IGF annual meeting, regional and national IGF initiatives engaged in a constructive dialogue, sharing their experience and development with other regional and national IGF initiatives. Their dialogue was based on their experience of in the past year at the national and regional levels and highlighted issues such as Critical Internet Resources, Security, Openness and Privacy and Internet Governance for Development. They also critically discussed their future concerns and emerging issues.

The Dynamic Coalitions

Nine Dynamic Coalitions had meetings during the IGF in Nairobi. They discussed current Internet governance issues and the challenges of protecting human rights on Internet. Issues such as copyright and human right, child online safety, freedom of expression and means of enforcement of such right, disability and accessibility and right of access and climate change were among the topics that were discussed in these meetings.

Open Fora

⁷ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>

Open fora meetings at the IGF provide the organizations that carry out Internet related activities an opportunity to hold and share information about their activities. ICANN, ISOC, European Commission, OECD and Council of Europe held open fora at this year IGF.

During the ICANN Open Forum participants were updated on new gTLDs, IDNs and DNSSEC, European Commission had a meeting on global principles for an open Internet. ISOC discussed the Internet Standards and the role of IETF in providing such standards. UNESCO and Council of Europe discussed their activities related to human rights issues such as freedom of expression on Internet, democracy and access on Internet and effective cooperation against cybercrime.

Remote Participation

A great deal of emphasis was placed on improving the remote participation tools in 2011 in order to enhance participation and provide an opportunity for those who could not attend at and contribute to IGF meetings physically, to do so virtually. These tools were provided during the open consultations and MAG meetings held in Geneva and also during the IGF meeting in Kenya.

Remote hubs were established in 47 locations. More than 823 people who could not travel to the meeting participated remotely actively in the forum and were able to contribute to discussions.

There were also around 38 remote panellists and approximately 2,500 connections were made throughout the week from 89 countries.

All sessions were webcast, with video streaming and online realtime text transcription provided from all workshop-meeting rooms. Archives of the transcripts are available on the IGF and video of the main sessions and some of the workshops were made available through the IGF Website. This arrangement allowed remote participants to interact with the meeting in real time. All main sessions had simultaneous interpretation in the six UN languages.

Capacity Building and outreach

The IGF Secretariat continued its capacity building and outreach activities through its fellowship and internship program, which has seen 30 people pass through it since inception. This year the Secretariat had participants from Ghana, Italy, Iran and the USA. Also the IGF Secretariat participated in several of the regional and National IGF initiatives such as the Asia Pacific Regional IGF (APrIGF), European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDig) and the Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum.

Conclusion

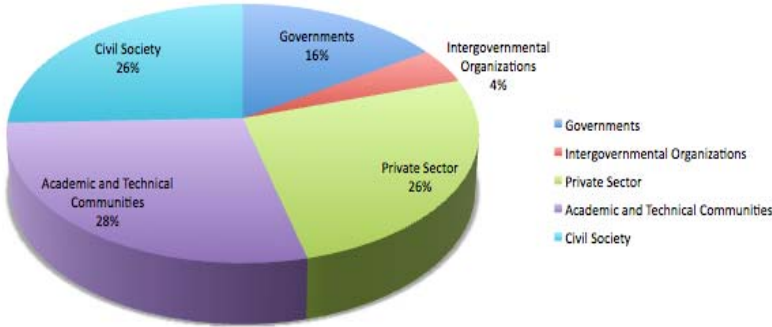
The IGF has played a significant role in providing a neutral platform for the multi-stakeholders to exchange knowledge and ideas and discuss a broad range of Internet governance public policy issues. IGF is an effective process that assists shape domestic and international public policy and other key Internet decisions. The IGF has helped with initiating ideas, creating bodies that carry out Internet -related activities such as regional and national IGF and has lead to the actualizing of efficient multi-stakeholder coalitions.

Diverse Internet communities and Internet related institutions have a great presence at the IGF. Governments have taken a great interest in the IGF and their participation has been increasing with time. Civil society, the academic and technical community, intergovernmental organizations, and the private sector have actively contributed to the IGF and their collaboration has increased since the creation of IGF.

Although there are some concerns about the level of participation of developing countries at the IGF, Nairobi meeting was seen as a great success by participants and had one of the highest percentages of participants from developing countries for the last 5 years. However, moving forward, the IGF could more adequately fulfil its mandate by implementing to encourage developing countries to participate and contribute actively o the IGF.

Statistical Annex

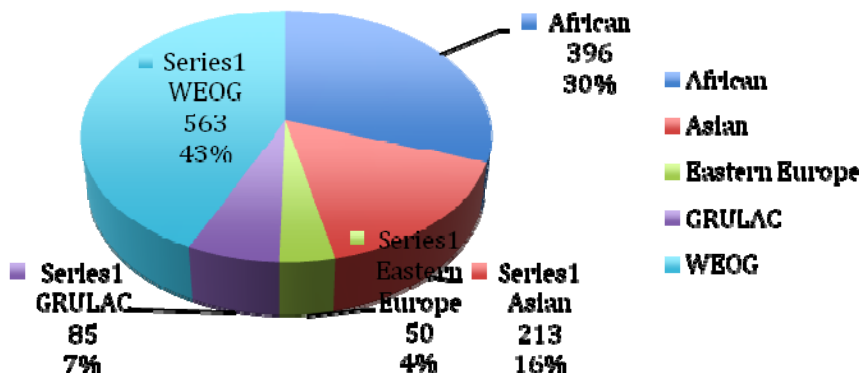
Stakeholders representation in Nairobi



IGF Nairobi meeting enjoyed a more balanced participation of multi-stakeholders compare to the previous meetings. Civil Society, Private sector and Academic and Technical Communities had the highest ratio of participants, while the Intergovernmental Organizations had the lowest attendance ratio.

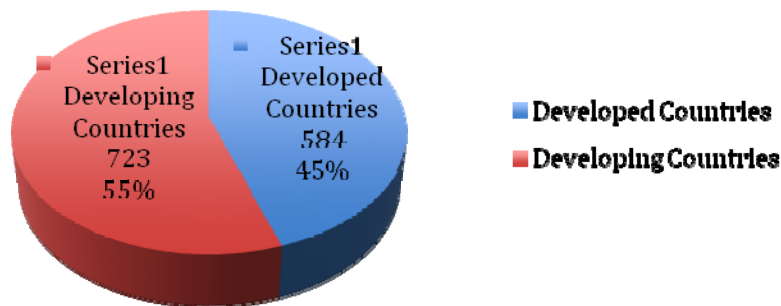
The participation of Academic and Technical Communities at the IGF meeting increased by 6% compare to last year’s meeting, and had the highest ratio of stakeholder attendance.

Overall representation in Nairobi by region



The participation of Africans at the meeting was impressive, compare to the previous years' meetings, with 30% of participants from Africa, the participation of Africans had gone up more than 15 %. This increase was in part due to the fact that the meeting was held in Kenya. With 43% of the participants from Western Europe and Other Groups (WEOG), WEOG had the largest turnout at the IGF meeting. 7% of the participants were from GRULAC and 4% from Eastern Europe.

Overall representation in Nairobi by developing and developed countries



In comparison to the last year's meeting, there was an impressive increase of 23% in the participation of developing countries. The Nairobi meeting had one of the highest percentages of participants from developing countries during past five years.