COMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT (CSTD)

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Submissions from entities in the United Nations system and elsewhere on their efforts in 2013 to implement the outcome of the WSIS

Submission by

Internet Governance Forum

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 17th 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.

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Input to CSTD Report 2013

Prepared by the IGF Secretariat

December 2013

Introduction

In the third year of its second five year mandate, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) continued to carry out its mandate as the global multi-stakeholder platform for policy dialogue on Internet governance. The 8th IGF was held from 22-25 October 2013 in Bali, Indonesia. The main overarching theme for the 8th IGF was 'Building Bridges - Enhancing Multi-stakeholder Cooperation for Growth and Sustainable Development'. The various sub-themes for the 8th IGF included: Access and Diversity - Internet as an Engine for Growth and Sustainable Development; Openness - Human rights, Freedom of Expression and Free Flow of Information on the Internet; Security - Legal and other Frameworks: Spam, Hacking and Cybercrime; Enhanced Cooperation; Principles of Multistakeholder Cooperation and Internet Governance Principles. 135 focus sessions, workshops, open forums, flash sessions and other meetings took place over the 4-day event.

More than 2,000 participants representing 111 different countries convened in Bali either physically or remotely.[1] As was the case in Baku at the 7th IGF, civil society was the highest represented stakeholder group at the forum. The entire meeting was webcast and remote participation again increased the active participation. Real time transcription was also available to lift the overall participatory experience for those in Bali and following around the globe. Over 25 000 tweets were sent out mentioning the IGF (under #igf2013, #igf, etc.); with a total reach of 10 000 000 followers[2]. interested individuals followed the proceedings on Twitter enabling the discussions to begin prior to the start of the meeting, continue between meeting rooms and during breaks throughout the week, and to continue after delegates left Bali to return home.

While maintaining the traditional IGF thematic discussions the 8th IGF introduced new formats and refocused some of the forum's traditional issues, in an attempt to keep the IGF in line with the evolving landscape of Internet governance discussions. The 8th IGF for the first time featured a focused plenary session dedicated to human rights on the Internet and also included cross-cutting discussions on principles of Internet governance and the multistakeholder governance model of the Internet, principles championed by the IGF and inspired by the Tunis Agenda. The 8th IGF also strived to produce some more tangible outcomes or 'take-aways' for participants, including those following remotely. Each of the plenary sessions addressed specific policy questions and aimed to analyze both convergent and divergent views on the various topics.

A comprehensive capacity building track was built into the schedule for those participants who wanted to participate in sessions geared towards capacity building specifically helping make the IGF a 'one-stop-shop' on Internet governance issues. National and regional IGF initiatives were also integrated into the program of the Bali IGF. The views and themes emerging from these initiatives were captured in the workshops and focus sessions

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[1] Approximately 1,704 connections were made to the meetings remotely from participants from 83 different countries. All the web-casted videos were immediately uploaded to YouTube right after the sessions ended allowing for full public viewership. There were approximately 25 remote hubs and more than 100 remote presenters joined main sessions and workshops. The number of participant badges issued at the meeting was 1473.

[2] Based on tweeter's statistics trending terms report

throughout the week, as well as into inter-regional dialogue meetings dedicated to creating bridges and encouraging exchanges of views between the various initiatives.

The preparatory process

Preparations for the Bali meeting began immediately after the 7th IGF in Baku ended in November of 2012. The IGF Secretariat, together with the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), took stock of the 7th IGF meeting and consulted with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that the IGF continued to improve and evolve. The IGF Secretariat collected suggestive contributions from all stakeholders following the Baku meeting on how the next meeting could be improved and enhanced. These inputs were then integrated into the larger planning process, which takes year-round online and is highlighted by open, participatory consultations of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and other relevant stakeholders. The recommendations of the Working Group on Improvements to the IGF (WGIGF) were also taken into consideration and implemented were possible.

The first open consultation and MAG meetings took place in Paris, France from 28 February to 1 March at UNESCO headquarters. Both meetings were appropriately held after the WSIS+10 review meeting, hosted by UNESCO, at the same location. These meetings focused on taking stock of the 7th IGF and also began the substantive and logistical preparations for the 8th IGF in Bali.

The second open consultations and MAG meetings were held from 21 to 23 May at the European Broadcasting Union, Geneva, Switzerland. These discussions focused on setting the substantive agenda for the annual meeting in Bali as well as the selection of workshops and other events.

All of the discussions held during these meetings were web-casted and transcribed, allowing interested stakeholders to participate remotely. The proceedings are archived on the IGF website and summary reports were made available as well.[3]

From the close of the second open consultations and MAG meetings up until the 8th IGF in Bali in October (June-October 2013) the IGF Secretariat convened a series of virtual online MAG meetings to continue preparations for the annual meeting. These (bi-monthly, monthly) meetings, allowed the IGF Secretariat and respective MAG working groups to update one another on work being done towards preparations for the annual meeting. Reports of these meetings were made available on the IGF website.

Key trends and development in the Information Society

2013 was an eventful year for global Internet governance policy and the many emerging issues were reflected throughout the IGF discussions. In the context of the recent revelations about government-led Internet surveillance activities, IGF 2013 was marked by discussions about the need to ensure better protection of all citizens in the online environment and to reach a proper balance between actions driven by national security

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[3] http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/preparatory-process

concerns and the respect for internationally recognized human rights, such as the right to privacy and freedom of expression. Several focus sessions and workshops at the 8th IGF touched upon these issues, thus generating a truly multistakeholder dialogue, in the spirit of the IGF. Discussions focused on the need to rebuild the trust of Internet users, which has been seriously affected by these actions.

It was underlined that any Internet surveillance practices motivated by security concerns should only happen within a truly democratic framework, ensuring their adequacy, proportionality, due process and judicial oversight. The value of finding common ground amongst all stakeholders of certain cyber-ethics that place value on respecting local cultures online was also emphasized.

Stakeholders discussed the importance of ensuring that our global Internet is one that promotes peace and security, enables development and ensures human rights. It was said that as the international community strives to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by 2015, and as it shapes the Post-2015 Development Agenda that focuses on sustainable development, expanding the benefits of ICTs, through a global, interoperable and robust Internet, will be crucial.

Safeguarding human rights, especially when it came to ensuring freedom of expression and emphasizing the role of the Internet in accelerating social and human development efforts remains a high priority of the IGF. In that regard it was agreed that civil society needs to participate as an equal member of the multistakeholder community, representing the voices of many around the world that are unable to participate in the many fast-moving Internet governance processes.

It was said that many governments are embracing multistakeholder models in order to make the Internet a better place. While this was certainly seen as a positive development, it was also underlined that a delicate balance must be struck. Governments alone cannot govern the Internet; rather they must earnestly partner with all stakeholders, on an equal basis, in the spirit of the IGF and the Tunis Agenda. The Internet belongs to no single country or entity, but should be a global and inclusive springboard for human development worldwide that launches innovation and opportunities.

Implementation and follow-up on WSIS Action Lines

As one of the outcomes of the WSIS process, all of the work of the IGF Secretariat strives to ensure that the IGF facilitates implementation of the agreed action lines.

- C1: The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development

The main overarching theme for the 8th IGF was 'Building Bridges - Enhancing Multistakeholder Cooperation for Growth and Sustainable Development'.

In 2013 public governance authorities continued to use the IGF platform to engage with one another and all stakeholders in discussions on how to best promote the use of ICTs in development activities. The 8th IGF concluded that there is a need to strengthen the

presence of ICTs within the post-2015 process, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals. Two additional clear takeaways from the meeting were the need to promote the collection and dissemination of new data and to share success stories and good practices. An important lesson from the MDG process was the need to be more concrete in the formulation of goals, so as to be able to measure progress. It must be made clear that money goes where the goals are, and that when targets are not met there must be transparency about the outcome. Important questions were raised about data collection and how best to collect, analyze and share data in the future. This area, amongst others, is somewhere where the Internet has clear strengths and where it can contribute to accomplishment of the wider development objective.

- C4: Capacity building

A comprehensive capacity building track was built into the schedule of the 8th IGF for those participants who wanted to participate in sessions geared towards capacity building specifically helping make the IGF a 'one-stop-shop' on Internet governance issues.

The IGF facilitated the travel and provided full or partial funding from the IGF trust fund to a number of MAG members to participate in the 2013 meetings of the IGF. 10 members were funded for the February open consultations and MAG meetings, 15 for the May meetings and 14 for the 8th IGF in Bali bring it to a total of 39 funded participants in 2013. Preference was given to those participants from developing countries.

- C11: International and regional cooperation

Increasing and enhancing International and regional cooperation on Internet Governance is also a primary goal of the IGF community. The increasing number of bottom-up, multi-stakeholder National and Regional IGF initiatives lead the IGF's efforts to promote international and regional dialogue on Internet governance related public policy issues. More than 25 National and Regional IGFs were held throughout the world in 2013. The highly successful, bottom-up organized national and regional IGF initiatives were carefully integrated into the program of the Bali IGF. The views and themes emerging from these initiatives were captured in the workshops and focus sessions throughout the week, as well as into inter-regional dialogue meetings dedicated to creating bridges and encouraging exchanges of views between the various initiatives.

Follow-up and implementation of the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF

Attached as annex to this report is a supplemental report noting some of the actions taken by the IGF Secretariat in response to the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF.