

Timestamp

8/12/2013 11:34:01

The information solicited through this questionnaire will only be used in aggregate form, unless otherwise authorised by the respondent. Do you authorise us to cite/share your views individually?

Yes

Please enter your contact details:

Russia, Coordination Center for Russian Top-Level Domains, 8, Zoologicheskaya Str., Moscow, 123242, Russia; info@cctld.ru

1. Which stakeholder category do you belong to?

Non-Government

If non-government, please indicate:

Technical and academic community

If non-government, please indicate if you are:

ITU accredited

2. What do you think is the significance, purpose and scope of enhanced cooperation as per the Tunis Agenda? a) Significance b) Purpose c) Scope

2. Whilst not questioning the significance of the enhanced cooperation as one of the two major vehicles of the Internet development process, we agree with the findings of the ISOC's analysis, which hold that, "<l>t is carefully crafted diplomatic language, full of creative ambiguity There are many who share our understanding, namely that 'enhanced cooperation' is a distributed process in line with the underlying distributed technology. On the other hand there are others who think that there is a need for a central mechanism or a new body to deal with this issue". This controversy was also reflected upon, albeit in a milder modality, in the Report of the UN Secretary-General on enhanced cooperation .

3. To what extent has or has not enhanced cooperation been implemented? Please use the space below to explain and to provide examples to support your answer.

3. In the light of the above, the progress in fostering enhanced cooperation can be construed in different and somewhat conflicting ways. On the one hand there has been a substantial progress made in mapping and promoting cooperation between various stakeholders: specifically, in Russia, the government, the business community, the technical community and the civil society now have a far more distinct understanding of their respective mandates and roles, and ways to jointly promote sound policies to ensure a more robust IG ecosystem is in place. Meanwhile, a number of national governments consistently promote various options which suggest creation of a new, central body under the auspices of the UN, to control the Internet development issues, which, from our perspective, appears a fairly controversial stance, that does not meet the spirit of the Tunis Agenda, nor does it match best IG practices and, consequently, if implemented, will effectively derail the enhanced cooperation process. This stance rests upon Governments lacking trust in, and recognition of, civil society and business partners capable to collaborate on equal footing

4. What are the relevant international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet?

4. It needs to be admitted that the Tunis Agenda for Information Society has fallen short of clearly identifying an exhaustive list of relevant international public policy issues, thereby having left an ample room for interpretation and speculations. That said, the past decade has made it possible to visualize a number of the issues in question which command nation-state governments' attention, such as:

- Development and harmonization of cybersecurity policies
 - Joint efforts to counter cybercrime
 - Tackling the problem of jurisdictions in the cyberspace
 - Privacy protection
 - Net neutrality
 - IPR issues
 - IPV6 and DNSSEC deployment
 - Human capacity building
 - Narrowing digital divide by means of broadband expansion and its increasing availability, and affordability of basic services, - to name a few.
- That said, the Tunis Agenda (para. 69) wisely warns against micromanagement on the part of the Governments, which must be made aware that they should not intervene in “the day-to-day technical and operational matters, that do not impact on international public policy issues”.

5. What are the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders, including governments, in implementation of the various aspects of enhanced cooperation?

5. The Tunis Agenda (para. 71) merely asserts that, the process towards enhanced cooperation “...will involve all stakeholders in their respective roles”, thus, again, invoking deliberations and much construing. However, if, with ref. to our answer to Q 2, enhanced cooperation is understood as a distributed, multistakeholder-based process, the global community has seen the process of crystallization of different stakeholders’ roles that are unlikely to change substantially in the years to come: namely, businesses will remain a major driver of innovation demanded by the internet-user community as the consumer, with civil society advocating adherence to, and observance of, human rights in the cyberspace, and the academic community busy with taking stock of past successes and failures and conceptualizing and visualizing the future of the process and each stakeholder engaged in it. Meantime, Governments’ role will be to seek input from the other stakeholders and codify the best practices, where possible and necessary, both domestically and internationally, and to promote the global dialogue on all the issues concerned.

6. How should enhanced cooperation be implemented to enable governments, on an equal footing, to carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet?

6. Implementation of enhanced cooperation to enable governments fully realize their potential as one of major stakeholders, on equal footing, in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet should provide for a continuous multidirectional and multilateral dialogue under the auspices of a UN-mandated multistakeholder forum with the ultimate three-fold objective of:

- Promoting awareness of their respective remit under the Tunis agenda;
 - Disseminating best practices; and
 - Absorbing and capitalizing on other stakeholders’ public policy recommendations and advice
- The existing international organizations likewise should contemplate using the methodology of enhanced cooperation to shape up policies within their respective mandates
- Finally, such forums, that employ the multistakeholder model, should pay a sufficient attention to shaping consensus-based general principles of development of international public policy in the Internet area.

7. How can enhanced cooperation enable other stakeholders to carry out their roles and responsibilities?

7. Governments aside, the concept of enhanced cooperation serves to other stakeholders as a guide to help them clearly identify their role in the IG process; to be able to legitimize their presence, on equal footing, in the public policy development process; and to contribute with their inputs thereto.

The above urges one to secure an appropriate format for a multistakeholder debate of specific initiatives and their outcomes so that to ensure an adequate feedback as a vital component of the policy development process. No new appropriate mechanisms seem to

have emerged to fully implement enhanced cooperation since the adoption of the Tunis Agenda. That said, the existing ones need to be revisited to assess their viability, efficacy and proportionality. For example, it might be appropriate to review the IGF mandate to the extent of whether debate should result in specific recommendations which in turn should be examined at some later point of time for their realism and practicability, with an unsophisticated but very practical set of benchmarks established with regard to each specific public policy issue associated with coordination and management of critical Internet resources.

8. What are the most appropriate mechanisms to fully implement enhanced cooperation as recognized in the Tunis Agenda, including on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and public policy issues associated with coordination and management of critical Internet resources?

8. No new appropriate mechanisms seem to have emerged to fully implement enhanced cooperation since the adoption of the Tunis Agenda. That said, the existing ones need to be revisited to assess their viability, efficacy and proportionality. For example, it might be appropriate to review the IGF mandate to the extent of whether debate should result in specific recommendations which in turn should be examined at some later point of time for their realism and practicability, with an unsophisticated but very practical set of benchmarks established with regard to each specific public policy issue associated with coordination and management of critical Internet resources.

9. What is the possible relationship between enhanced cooperation and the IGF?

With reference to para. 8, that may further promote and solidify the relationship between enhanced cooperation and the IGF as mutually complementary activities, each taking stock of each other and propelling each other's advancement on the conceptual and organizational levels, allowing, at the same time, periodical reviews of respective activities underway.

10. How can the role of developing countries be made more effective in global Internet governance?

While it is commonly recognized that developing nations must have their voice heard in global Internet governance fora, it is hard to concoct any other activities to complement the existing ones, which can be classified into awareness-raising and educational. Specifically, the IGF and its local scions form the prime vehicle to raise awareness and "spread the word", while the European Summer School for Internet Governance, the Latin American School for Internet Governance and the likes help bolster human capacity and level of expertise. Such efforts are in need for greater coordination, though, and more exercise and funding should be made available from the private sector, international organizations, such as OECD, IBRD, etc., and "I" organizations, such as ISOC, ICANN, etc., to replicate and localize this practice and make it ubiquitous and affordable throughout the developing countries. Such concerted and consistent actions would undoubtedly increase effectiveness of the developing countries' participation in global Internet governance. As well, it would be appropriate to review international development organizations' record to date in regard to delivery of technical aid to put forward model respective projects in developing countries on the one hand, to bolster the said countries capacity in respect to articulation of their concrete needs on the other hand, and to secure organizational arrangements to have them shape local, country-specific projects in the area of ICT and Internet development

11. What barriers remain for all stakeholders to fully participate in their respective roles in global Internet governance? How can these barriers best be overcome?

Citing the list of barriers for all the stakeholders to fully participate in their respective roles in global IG seems to be a daunting exercise by its scope; however, there exist some common obstacles worth referring to in the context of the present document:

- Capacity-wise, there still exists a major barrier formed by insufficient capacity of stakeholders to engage in IG in accordance with the Geneva principles of multilateralism,

transparency and democracy ;

- Conceptually, the stakeholders have so far fallen short of visualizing their respective roles – though regularly repeated as a main rationale for each stakeholder group's actions, the mantra of multistakeholderism is construed in different, and sometimes, polar, ways;
- Clearly, in many parts of the world, civil society and user community remain nascent, thus not being capable of playing their respective roles. This upsets the balance of forces between different stakeholders and, in tandem with some governments' strive to reaffirm their mandate of a "more-equal-than-other" stakeholder, results in the former groups abandonment of the IG arena. Academia, likewise have underperformed in some countries, which further aggravates the situation. The above once again proves an urgent need for a consistent global capacity-building program for these lagging constituencies.

Last but not least, there often exists the language barrier which impedes both their awareness of local needs and their formulation on the national level.

12. What actions are needed to promote effective participation of all marginalised people in the global information society?

N/a

13. How can enhanced cooperation address key issues toward global, social and economic development?

N/a

14. What is the role of various stakeholders in promoting the development of local language content?

From the public policy perspective, clearly, it is Governments that have an upper hand as far as local-language content, and to this effect they should promote public e-initiatives, including, but not limited to, e-education, e-government, etc. which should become drivers for localized content development in a given country. As to other stakeholders, they can only play their complementary respective roles, provided Governments enable their contribution through a sound legal framework.

15. What are the international internet-related public policy issues that are of special relevance to developing countries?

n/a

16. What are the key issues to be addressed to promote the affordability of the Internet, in particular in developing countries and least developed countries?

n/a

17. What are the national capacities to be developed and modalities to be considered for national governments to develop Internet-related public policy with participation of all stakeholders?

To ensure a maximum possible degree of development of the national government's capacities with regard to development Internet-related public policies it would be appropriate to consider: encouragement of creation and an IG academic research network and development of exchange programs with a special emphasis on basic and advanced training in IG for (senior) policy makers; development of special IG classes as a part of the university and high-school curricula; promotion and widespread of IGF as a platform for a nationwide dialogue on critical IG issues; engaging civil society organizations to mobilize support of such initiatives on a grass-root level by running awareness-raising campaigns; and to crown all this, tasking a reputable international organization to collect and review best practices and create a readily available multilingual free data pool under its auspices for all the nations to

use. The modalities of the process should imply good faith, all-inclusiveness, commitment, and collaboration.

18. Are there other comments, or areas of concern, on enhanced cooperation you would like to submit?

n/a