

Aide-memoire for Chapter Delegates and Members

Preparing for IGF 2011

27 – 30 September 2011, Nairobi

Introduction

IGF was formed as an output of the 2005 United Nations World Summit on the Information Society. It resulted from lengthy and difficult negotiations that took place over three years leading up to the Tunis event. Its purpose, mandate and the basic ground rules for IGF are spelled out in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (see http://www.itu.int/wsis/documents/doc_multi.asp?lang=en&id=23160).

The Tunis Agenda calls for the IGF to be multilateral, multi-stakeholder, democratic and transparent, with all stakeholders playing their appropriate roles. And most importantly, IGF is not a negotiating forum or a decision making body. Instead, the idea is for the IGF to be constituted as a neutral, non-duplicative and non-binding process. It has no involvement in day-to-day or technical operations of the Internet. In short, it is to be a place where issues can be explored in an open environment by Internet technical and policy experts, academics, civil society groups and governments interacting freely. In practice, the IGF has proven to be a place where issues are “conditioned” through a developmental process. Or as Nitin Desai, the first Chair of the IGF multi-stakeholder advisory group (MAG), has said: “The IGF is a place where people who do not ordinarily talk to one another can come to talk.”

ISOC has participated at all stages of WSIS and the follow-on IGF, and ISOC has been a leading non-governmental organization in the global debate about Internet Governance from beginning of the WSIS in 2003.

<http://www.isoc.org/isoc/conferences/wsis/>

In this process we have succeeded in gaining significant recognition for our positions which support an open and globally accessible Internet. Much of this has been

achieved through cooperation with our Chapters, members, and partner organizations from around the world.

- ISOC was closely involved in **preparations for all IGF** meetings; ISOC facilitates participation of all stakeholders
 - Participation to Open Consultations, agenda setting, workshops, influence on themes
 - Presence on MAG (Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group): Staff: Bill Graham + Board Chairman: Raúl Echeberría
- **ISOC Ambassadors Program**
 - Including actors all across the Internet Ecosystem
- **ISOC Booth**
<http://www.isoc.org/isoc/conferences/wsis/IGF.shtml>

0 - Recent developments regarding the IGF:

The first five year term for the WSIS called for in the Tunis Agenda came to an end in 2010. The Forum has earned its place as an important educational and policy discussion event, which has led the United Nations to extend its mandate for an additional five years. But the 2010 extension came with a call for unspecified improvements to the forum, to be discussed by a Working Group convened by the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD). The Working Group met twice, but in its report to the CSTD in May, requested an extension to have more time to consider the wealth of information available to it. This recommendation was accepted by the CSTD in May and the ECOSOC in July, so it remains unknown if there will be significant changes to the IGF (MAG designation, location of the IGF Secretariat, supporting mechanisms, etc.) in its second mandate. This issue will almost certainly be discussed in Nairobi.

I - 2011 IGF THEME

IGF #6: Nairobi, Kenya on September 27-30, 2011

- Held at the United Nations Conference Centre at Nairobi.
- Registration open until 9 September.
- **Main theme:** “Internet as a catalyst for change: access, development, freedoms and innovation”.
- The program of the meeting is available on the IGF website.

Sub-themes:

- IG4D / Internet governance for development (IG4D): What are examples of specific global Internet governance issues that may have particular relevance to development?
- Emerging Issues: “Is governance different for the mobile Internet from the wired Internet?”
- Managing critical Internet resources: including roles of stakeholders, promoting capacity building, IPv4-IPv6 transition in developing and developed countries
- Security, openness and privacy (this year, inter alia: implications of efforts to block whistleblowers; blocking websites; filtering networks; political actions to cut Internet access.)

- Access and diversity: “Internet access as basic human right: What challenges and opportunities does this pose for policy makers and the broader Internet community?”
- Taking stock and the way forward: Questions about IGF contributions to the development agenda and capacity building, how to organize for 2012 IGF?

The **Development agenda** will be considered as a cross—cutting focus in each of the key themes:

- What are the development issues/concerns that to-date have not received sufficient attention?
- What are the current substantive policy outputs of governance arrangements vis-à-vis developing countries interests?
- What are the institutional processes vis-à-vis equitable participation of developing countries?
- How can an IG4D agenda be explored within IGF and moved forward to other international settings?

II - ISOC ACTIVITIES

ISOC staff highly visible this year, to contribute to the IGF’s success

- Speech in the Opening session (tbc)
- ISOC workshops on: IPR (with WIPO), Blocking, IGF Improvements (with ICC, ICANN and Netnod), Economic aspects of local content creation (with UNESCO and OECD), Scenario Summit (with IISD, Marilyn Cade)
- Organization (S&T) of an ISOC Open Forum on Standards

Conducting on-site **engagement plan with Members and Ambassadors:**

- Prep calls, on-site briefing, reception in Nairobi (see below), ISOC booth

Leading the **ISOC IGF Ambassadors programme**; ambassadors are involved in ISOC workshops and activities.

- First time ambassadors
- Returning ambassadors

Participation of ISOC in most important IGF Main Sessions

- Security Openness and Privacy (Christine Runnegar)
- Emerging Issues (Sebastian Bellagamba)
- IG4D
- Critical Internet Resources (Andrei Robachevsky)
- Access and Diversity (Dawit Bekele)
- Taking stock and the way forward (Markus Kummer)

ISOC events

Monday, 26 September

13:30-17:00 ISOC Members Briefing (Venue: UNON, Conference Room 14)

Tuesday-Friday, 27-30 September

09:00-18:00 Internet Society Booth (Venue: UNON, IGF Village)

Tuesday, 27 September

18:30-21:30 ISOC Welcome Reception for Ambassadors and Members (Venue:
Tribe Hotel - pool area)

III - Useful links

[IGF \(UN\) Site](#)

[IGF Host Site](#)

[UNON \(Venue\) Site](#)

[Kenya Visa Information](#)