WSIS

World Summit on the Information Society

Mirjam Kühne, ISOC

Internet Society – Who we are

- Founded 1991 by Internet Pioneers

- International, not-for-profit, membership org.
    - 150+ organization members
    - 17,000+ individual members
    - 80+ Chapters, 50+ Chapters forming

- Organization members fund activities in
    - Standards
    - Education
    - Public Policy

ISOC – Activities

- Support for Standards (IETF)

- Transfer of technical knowledge

- Education in technologically emerging countries

- Education of policy & decision makers

- Manage subsidiary to run .org

- Building active global community of knowledgeable members & chapters

WSIS – Background

- 2001 UN decided to hold a world summit in two phases:
  - 10.-12.12.2003 Geneva & 16.-18.11.2005 Tunis
- Open-ended inter-governmental Preparatory Committee to define agenda
- Participation by various stakeholders was encouraged
  - gov's, inter-governmental orgs, international orgs, civil society, private sector

ISOC's Involvement in WSIS

Preparatory meetings

- First observing/monitoring
  - 1 BoT member + VP PubPol appointed to follow process

- Later more active participation
  - 1 ISOC BoT member appointed to lead ISOC's efforts
  - formal response to WSIS draft declaration in May 2003
  - concerns regarding "Internet Governance" issues

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

  - Numerous publications/briefings

Joint Efforts

- Increased cooperation with other orgs
  - both with businesses and civil society
    - CCBI, RIR's, ICANN, CENTR, root server operators…

- Joint publication and distribution of papers
  - "The genius of the Internet"
  - "Governance is a misnomer"
  - "Internet works through coordination and open consensus"

    http://www.isoc.org/news/

Internet Society

ISOC Workshops – WSIS 9 Dec. 2003

- **"The Internet: How it works, Why it works, Who makes it work"**

    Introduction (Tarek Kamel, Ministry of Communications, Egypt)

    Internet & Internet Standards (Lynn St.Amour, ISOC)

    The Root Server System (Joao Damas, ISC)

    The RIR System (Raul Echeberria, LACNIC)

    ICANN (Theresa Swineheart, ICANN)

- **ISOC IPv6 workshop with EC and IPv6 Task Force**

    Rosa Delgado

    IPv6 Task Force Representatives

    http://www.isoc.org/isoc/conferences/wsis/workshop.shtml

ISOC Workshop – Key Points (1)

Internet Coordination Process

- Coordination required at three main levels:
  - Agreement on Internet standards
    - IETF, W3C, ITU-T, IEEE, etc.
  - Allocation of Internet resources
    - ICANN, RIRs, Root Servers, TLD registries etc.
  - Policies & Technology preventing misuse
    - all of the above, with Governments & policy makers

ISOC Workshop – Key Points (2)

"Internet Governance" is a Misnomer

- Much misunderstanding & misrepresentation

- Internet is not a single entity to "govern"
  - no single body can oversee all Internet aspects
  - does not reflect how Internet developed & operates
  - requires coordination & expertise of many

- No clear definition of the term "governance"

Internet Society ™

ISOC Workshop – Key Points (3)

What works well today

- Technical aspects of Internet

  – standards evolution

- Bottom-up, open, inclusive, international consensus-based processes

  – phenomenal growth and stability

  – little to no barriers to participate

- Good coordination across Internet Community

- Innovation in services

ISOC Workshop – Key Points (4)

What needs more attention

- Public Policy Issues
  - Cybercrime, Privacy, Security, Spam
  - Digital Divide issues,
  - Intellectual Property Issues

- Does not only affect technical bodies

- Requires cooperation with govs., industry, civil society, policy makers, etc.

WSIS
Declaration of Principles
&
Plan of Action

Geneva, December 2003

http://www.itu.int/wsis/

WSIS – Key Principles (1)

- Ability to access infrastructure and information

- Possibility to use different SW models

  – e.g. proprietary, open-source, free

- Capacity building

  – education & knowledge transfer

- Confidence & security in the use of ICTs

  – network security, authentication, privacy, consumer protection, anti-spam

Internet Society

WSIS – Key Principles (2)

- Enabling environment should be
  - supportive, transparent, pro-competition, technology-neutral

- Develop and adopt international standards

- Support cultural diversity

- Cooperation & partnerships
  - among all stakeholders
  - regionally & internationally

WSIS – Key Principles (3)

Internet Governance

- International mgmt. of the Internet should be
  - multilateral, transparent, democratic
  - full involvement of all stakeholders
    - govs., private sector, civil society, international orgs.

- Equitable distribution of resources

- Access for all

- Stable & secure functioning of the Internet

WSIS – Key Principles (4)

Digital Solidarity Agenda

- Some support voluntary "Digital Solidarity Fund"

- Some want to first evaluate
  - existing mechanisms
  - efficiency and feasibility of such a fund

WSIS – Actions (1)

Internet Governance

- UN Secretary General to set up a WG
- Open and inclusive process
- Full and active participation of all stakeholders
  - develop a definition of Internet Governance
  - identify relevant public policy issues
  - develop common understanding of the roles of all stakeholders
  - prepare a report in Tunis in 2005

WSIS – Actions (2)

Governments are invited to

- facilitate national & regional <u>Internet Exchange Centres</u>

- manage or supervise ccTLDs

- promote awareness of Internet

- promote <u>regional</u> root servers & IDNs

- ….

- and a whole lot of other things

WSIS – Actions (3)

Digital Solidarity Agenda

- UN Secretary General to set up a TF
  - review adequacy of existing mechanisms
  - present results in December 2004

ISOC's Assessment of WSIS

ISOC's views on WSIS – Pro's

- Opportunity to promote Internet Coordination

- Good cooperation with other organisations

- Many parts of the WSIS Plan of Action support the development of an open Internet and echo ISOC's Principles & Purpose

ISOC's views on WSIS – Con's

- **Difficult to fully participate**
  - "observers" often not allowed in WG's
- **Governance debate without understanding of term**
- **Many different 'agendas'**
  - developing countries, developed countries
  - emphasis on raising funds rather than coordination of existing resources
- **Too broad, hard to focus**
  - IPR, freedom of press, Internet Governance,..
- **Not enough representation of Internet community**
  - those who know the Internet and who make it work

Internet Society

Next steps for ISOC

- Participate in UN WG on Internet Governance

- Facilitate debate involving all parties needed

  - "Internet Governance" track at INET 2004, Barcelona, 10–14 May 2004

- "Digital Solidarity Agenda"

  - ISOC has long history of training and knowledge transfer for developing countries

- Extend and strengthen coordination efforts