

WSIS

World Summit on the Information Society

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Overview

- What is ISOC
- What is WSIS
- ISOC's involvement in WSIS
- WSIS Declaration and Plan of Action
- Assessment of WSIS
- Next steps

Internet Society – Who we are

- Founded 1991 by Internet Pioneers
- International, not-for-profit, membership org.
 - 150+ organisation members
 - 17,000+ individual members
 - 80+ chapters, 50+ chapters forming
- Organisation members fund activities in
 - Standards
 - Education
 - Public Policy

ISOC – Mission

"To assure the open development, evolution and use of the Internet for the benefit of all people throughout the world."

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 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/>

ISOC Workshops – WSIS 9.12.2003

- **“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 (3)

What works well today

- Technical aspects of Internet
 - e.g. 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 gov's., industry, civil society, policy makers, etc.

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”

WSIS Declaration of Principles & Plan of Action

Geneva, December 2003

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

WSIS – Vision (1)

- Develop global partnerships to develop a more peaceful, just and prosperous world
- Use the information and communication technology for
 - eradication of hunger and poverty
 - empowerment of women and marginalised groups
 - improvement of health

WSIS – Vision (2)

- Freedom of opinion, expression, press, media
- Science has a central role
- Education, knowledge, information, communication
- Bridging the digital divide
- Fair and equitable development for all

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

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
 - gov's., 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 for Tunis in 2005

WSIS – Actions (2)

Governments are invited to

- facilitate national & regional Internet Exchange Centres
- manage or supervise ccTLDs
- promote awareness of Internet
- promote regional 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

Membership Survey on WSIS

- Many had heard of WSIS
- Diverse assessment of purpose and success
- Need to educate gov. reps. about the Internet
- Need to inform public about potential of I'Net
- No more control over DNS and IP #'s to gov's
- Overall not clear how WSIS/UN can help

ISOC's views on WSIS – Pro's

- Opportunity to promote Internet Coordination
- Good cooperation with other organisations
- Many parts of 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

Next steps for ISOC

- Participate in UN WG on Internet Governance
 - representing Internet Coordination processes
- Open debate involving all parties needed
 - ISOC will facilitate further dialogue 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