Internet Governance and the Caribbean

- Introduction
- Telecommunications Foundation
- The Internet Phenomenon
- Background to Internet Governance
- A Wider Regional Perspective
- Some Caribbean Perspectives
- Priorities for the Caribbean
- Summary

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Acknowledgements

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Origin and Mandate of the WGIG

- Established by UN SG pursuant to a request from WSIS I
- Investigate and make proposals for action, as appropriate, on the governance of the Internet
  - Develop a working definition of Internet governance
  - Identify the public policy issues that are relevant to Internet governance
  - Develop a common understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of governments, intergovernmental and international organizations and other forums as well as the private sector and civil society from both developed and developing countries
  - Prepare a report for presentation, consideration and appropriate action at the second phase of WSIS
Composition of the Working Group

- 40 members
  - Government (17)
  - Private sector (8)
  - Civil society (13)
  - Other (2)
- Chair: Nitin Desai (UN SG WSIS Rep)
- Latin America (5), Caribbean (3)
What does WGIG mean by Internet Governance?

- Principles, norms, rules, and mechanisms – whether intergovernmental, non-governmental, or multi-stakeholder – that make “hard” or “soft” decisions about
  - Issues related to physical infrastructure (i.e. ITU-related issues)
  - Issues related to logical infrastructure (i.e. ICANN-related issues)
  - Issues related to use and misuse of the Internet (e.g. spam, information and network security)
  - Issues with Internet-related aspects, but much broader in scope (e.g. IPR, trade, privacy, freedom of expression)
  - Development-related issues (e.g. human, financial and technical capacity-building)
“Internet governance is the development and application by governments, the private sector, and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.”

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Governance means more than governments and involves all stakeholders.
Who Should Govern and Why?: WSIS Frameworks

Internet Governance
Institutional Framework

“The international (governance) of the Internet should be:
• multilateral
• transparent
• democratic
• with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations”

Internet Governance
Policy Framework

Goals
• An equitable distribution of resources
• Facilitate access for all
• Ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet
• Multilingualism

Roles
• States: public policy
• Private sector: technical & economic development
• Civil society: community development
• Intergovernmental orgs: facilitating coordination of public policy issues
• International orgs: development technical standards and relevant policies

Information Society
Principles

• Partnership among all stakeholders
• Access to infrastructure and services
• Access to information and knowledge
• Capacity building
• Confidence and security in the use of ICTs
• Enabling environment
• Social and economic applications
• Cultural and linguistic diversity
• Freedom of communication media
• Ethical dimensions
• International and regional cooperation

http://www.wgig.org
One cross-cutting WGIG priority: development

- WGIG to be placed in WSIS and MDG context.

- Two aspects:
  - Effective and meaningful participation in Internet governance arrangements;
  - Building of capacity to address Internet governance issues.
Identifying Public Policy Issues

- Broad approach, no potentially relevant issue excluded.
- Issues grouped into four key public policy areas.
- Report brings list of highest priority issues to the attention of the WSIS, such as:
  - Administration of the root zone files and system;
  - Allocation of domain names;
  - IP addressing; Interconnection costs;
  - Internet stability, security and cybercrime; spam;
  - Privacy rights; consumer rights; IPR
  - Freedom of expression;
  - Developmental priorities: capacity building and meaningful and effective participation.
The different roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders

- Roles and responsibilities can vary according to issue or function of the problems that are being addressed.
- “…each group will have different interests, roles and participation, which in some cases will overlap”.
- The academic and technical communities “make a permanent and valuable contribution to the stability, security, functioning and evolution of the Internet.”
- “The WGIG also […] noted that there is scope to improve coordination…” between IGOs and other institutions.
Recommendations (1): Forum function

- Report identifies a vacuum within the context of existing structures
- Proposal to create a space for dialogue among all stakeholders to address Internet related issues that:
  - are cross-cutting and multi-dimensional, as well as emerging issues;
  - either affect more than one institution, are not dealt with by any institution, or are not addressed in a coordinated manner.
Recommendations (2): Oversight function

- Further internationalization based on WSIS principles: Multilateral, democratic, transparent.
- No interference in day-to-day operations.
- Four options for oversight arrangements with varying degrees of government involvement:
  - No new government oversight organization (1);
  - Internationalized, limited oversight (1);
  - Strengthened government oversight (2).
Recommendations (3): Institutional coordination

- Improve coordination between existing institutions at all levels:
  - Intergovernmental organizations such as ITU, WIPO, UNESCO;
  - Internet institutions, such as ICANN, ISOC / IETF, W3C, NRO, RIRs, CENTR.
Recommendations (4): National policies

Importance of national policies and coordination among all stakeholders.

> relationship between ccTLDs and governments;
> shaping of “Internet friendly” policies;
> models for national Internet governance arrangements (Internet Steering Committees);
> Methods: peer review and best practices.
Other Recommendations

To address internet-related priority issues:
- some addressed to the various Internet governance mechanisms,
- some not attributed to any specific institution.

Issues such as:
- Administration of the root zone files and root server system of the domain name system;
- IP addressing; Interconnection costs;
- Internet stability, security and cybercrime; spam;
- Freedom of expression;
- Meaningful participation in global policy development;
Some Wider Issues

- US Government Oversight
- No One Government
- UN/Government Bureaucracy Restrictive
- It is Working Well, Why Change
- Leave it to the Scientists, Private Sector
- ICANN’s Legal Position
- Developing Countries can Participate in ICANN Activities
Latin America & Caribbean

- Hemispheric Cooperation
- Summit of the Americas
- WSIS Regional Conference – Jun 2005

- WGIG recommends need for coherence between regional, sub-regional and national level policies.
Brazil’s Governance Structure

- Multistakeholder Management
- Domain Name Registration
- Dispute Resolution
- Emergency Response
- Open Discussion of Public Policy Issues
Some Caribbean Perspectives
(The Context)

- Developing Countries lagging Behind
- Resource Poor
- No need to “Reinvent the Wheel”
- Great Value in Collaboration
- Exploit Niches, Especially in S/W
- Use the Enabling Technology
- Understand the Role of Governance
- Press on Regardless
Some Priority Issues For Caribbean

- Regional Governance Structure
- Review Legal Framework
- Advance Competition Policy
- Make the Tools Affordable
- Assess the Different Governance Models
- Technical Assistance, Transfer of Technology, Capacity Building