Internet Governance from a Government Perspective

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Our objective

- To develop IG according to WSIS principles with full multi-stakeholder participation taking into account the internet’s technical development, expansion of it’s user basis and their geographical distribution
- The Security, Stability and Resiliency of the internet
- Narrow and Broad:
  - Infrastructure vs. legal, economic, developmental and sociocultural
- Narrow: ICANN, broad: IGF is the cornerstone but there’s room for others
- No single entity can claim the broad IG for itself
Govt of Finland and IG

- WSIS Follow-up MFA/dept for External Economic Relations
- Information Society and ICT: WSIS-process and ICT Trade Policy in one package (+support from other depts and ministries)
  - National WSIS coordination
  - Finnish Internet Forum
    - To educate and engage new stakeholders
    - Influence international development on different fora
      - ICANN/GAC, IGF, UN/CSTD, ITU, EuroDIG
    - Bring the international perspective to domestic processes
Development

- Number of internet users will triple in the next 3-5 years
- Almost exclusively from developing countries using mobile devices
- Many of these countries get engaged only now
  ...and don’t trust/know any other way to participate than the UN?

- Support development themes in IG
- Support civil society development
  - Use of development funds (IGF, UNCTAD/CSTD, GAID)
UN Processes

• IG on the UN agenda since WSIS days
• Narrow or Broad IG?
  – Infrastructure vs. legal, economic, developmental and sociocultural
• UN participation is already happening at IGF, ITU, WIPO, UNESCO
  …but some want more:
  – IBSA, CIRT, China & Russia with their friends
  – …with many more proposals to come towards WSIS+10
  – …so what should we do?
UN Processes

• The ICANN model delivers, so let’s keep on improving it
  …but we’re being too silent in the UN
  …and are not looking sufficiently for common ground and provide sensible alternatives
  …but our track record is good (GA, CSTD, ITU plenipot, GAC)

• Satisfied with the current state of IG
  – Current model has made internet what it is – the cornerstone of our economies, a source of innovations and economic growth
  – Core values secured
Conclusions

• What’s working in the IGF?
  – This year showed the strength of the model
  – The fundamentals are pretty much OK, but funding and outreach/awareness could be improved

• Any new model proposed in the UN would not be multi-stakeholder
  – Not acceptable
  – UN processes are just too slow for the internet
  – Let’s focus on the real issues