World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

Lynn St.Amour,

Internet Society (ISOC)

ARIN XIII, Vancouver

Overview

- Brief Introduction to ISOC

- World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

  - Origins & Current Status

  - WSIS Declaration and Plan of Action

- ISOC's involvement in WSIS

- Assessment of WSIS /Next Steps

Internet Society

Internet Society (ISOC)
www.isoc.org

- Founded 1991 by Internet Pioneers

- International, not-for-profit, membership org.
  - 150+ organisation members
  - 17,000+ individual members
  - 85+ chapters, 50+ chapters forming

- Organisation members fund activities in:
  - Standards
  - Education
  - Public Policy

ISOC – Activities

- Support for Internet Standards (IETF) & RFC Publication

- Education:
  - Transfer of technical knowledge (IETF, VoIP, IPv6, etc.)
  - Network and Network Policy in technologically emerging countries
  - Focus on self-sustainability

- Policy: Educate policy & decision makers

- Manage subsidiary that runs .org TLD

- Building active global community of knowledgeable members & chapters

Internet Society

ISOC – Mission

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

ARIN XIII, Vancouver

Internet Society

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

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

ARIN XIII, Vancouver

Internet Society

WSIS – Background

- 2001 UN decided to hold a World Summit:
  - Dec. 2003 Geneva & Nov. 2005 Tunis
  - ITU responsible for 'secretariat'
- Open-ended inter-governmental Preparatory Committee to define agenda
- Participation* by various stakeholders:
  - gov's, inter-governmental orgs, international orgs, civil society, private sector
- Focus = on ICT to develop a 'better world'…..

Internet Society

… but WSIS was a difficult process and had ambitious plans

- Many different 'agendas'
- Very broad, little focus
  - IPR, freedom of press, Internet Governance, Digital Divide…
  - Difficult to participate and many not allowed in WG's/sessions
- Little representation of Internet community
  - those who know the Internet and who make it work
- "Governance" debate without understanding of term
- "Governance" became equal to ICANN
- ITU/Int'l. Org. suggested as successor to ICANN
- And this was only the beginning…

Internet Society

WSIS Declaration of Principles

Internet Governance (Article 48):

- Internet has evolved into global facility and its governance s/be core issue on Info. Soc. agenda
- The International Management of the Net should:
  - Be multilateral, transparent, democratic
  - full involvement of all stakeholders
    - gov's., private sector, civil society, international orgs.
  - Ensure equitable distribution of resources
  - Faciltate Access for all
  - Stable & secure functioning of the Internet
  - Multilingualism, Etc….

WSIS Plan of Action (1)
Article 13b

- UN SG was asked to set up a working group on Internet Governance:
  - Open and inclusive, w/participation of govt's, private sector and civil society from developed and developing countries, involving intergovernmental and international orgs. and forums to investigate and make proposals for action, on the governance of the Internet by 2005.

Internet Society

WSIS Plan of Action (2) Article 13b cont'd.

- Internet Governance WG should, *inter alia*:
  - Develop working definition of Internet Governance
  - Identify relevant public policy issues
  - Develop common understanding of roles & resp. of govt's,existing intergovernmental & int'l. orgs, civil society, private sector from dev'd & dev'g countries
  - Prepare a report for WSIS - Tunis 2005

Internet Society

WSIS Plan of Action (3)
Article 13c

- Governments were invited to (Article 13c):
  - Facilitate establishment of nat'l. & reg'l. Internet Exchange Centres
  - Manage or supervise their ccTLD's
  - Promote awareness of Internet
  - Promote regional root servers and IDN's
  - Etc.

ARIN XIII, Vancouver

Internet Society

WSIS Plan of Action (4)

Digital Solidarity Agenda

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

Internet Society

ISOC's Involvement in WSIS

- Initially observing, later active participation
- ISOC BoT member appointed to 'observe'
- Formal response to WSIS draft declaration
  - May 2003
  - concerns regarding "Internet Governance" issues
- Numerous publications/briefings
- As Sector member of ITU, participated more actively in various ITU events
- Our focus was Education

Internet Society

Joint Efforts

- Actively increased cooperation with other org's
  - businesses, civil society, technical coordination bodies
    - 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/

- Joint workshops at WSIS and other events
  - The Internet: How it works, Why it works, Who makes it work
    - ISOC, IETF, RIR's, ICANN, Root Server operators
  - IPv6 workshop
    http://www.isoc.org/isoc/conferences/wsis/workshop.shtml

ISOC's Main Messages (1)

Focused on what works well today and why:

- 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 participation

- Very good coordination across Internet Community

- Encourages development and use of new technologies

Internet Society

ISOC's Main Messages (2)

- Governance is not equal to ICANN

- Internet Governance = governing use of Internet, not governance of the Internet itself

- Identify Issues that need attention and will make difference, then resource them..

- Identify issues that really matter to LDC's

ISOC's Main Messages (3)

Areas needing more attention:

- Public Policy Issues
  - Cybercrime, Privacy, Security, Spam, Digital Divide issues, IPR, etc.

- More than just technical issues/solutions

- Requires cooperation with gov's., industry, civil society, policy makers, etc.

- Many issues are local/national

ISOC's Main pushback: "Internet Governance"

- … is a misnomer

- Misunderstood & misrepresented

- … is not equal to ICANN

- Internet is not a single entity to "govern"
  - no single body can oversee all Internet aspects
  - does not reflect how Internet developed nor how it operates
  - requires coordination & expertise of many

- Many definitions of the term "governance", most mean government. Most will be harmful to the Net.

Pre WSIS II Preparations: ITU Activities/Workshops

- ISOC participated in Sector Member Post WSIS I review

- ITU Workshop on Internet Governance: 2/2004
  - Presentations by invited experts
  - I* orgs. well represented
  - Many views on 'governance'
  - Concrete issues/problems proved elusive
  - Lots of 'work proposals' from consultants

Internet Society

Pre WSIS II Preparations UN ICT Global Forum (1)

- ISOC hosted pre-forum meeting of I* ++

- Many I* groups participated (including RIR's)

- Global Forum not Negotiation or WG session

- No clear definition of term "governance" but scope broadened and focus has shifted noticeably

- Strong support of existing expert efforts/orgs.
  - "don't reinvent the wheel"
  - "need to learn/take advantage of what is out there"
  - "encourage wide participation through open processes"
    - capacity building, translations, technical training etc.

Pre WSIS II Preparations
UN ICT Global Forum (2)

Key Messages:

- Internet should be immensely helpful to developing world
  - Must support more participation by LDC's in all processes
  - LDC's need to be supported/involved during 'boot-up' phase
  - Make sure processes are inclusive & transparent & accessible

- Focus should be on issues
  - that are not being addressed today by expert bodies
  - where concrete action is possible

- Role of UN WG
  - should act as steering committee & facilitate dialogue

Next steps for ISOC/I*

- Participate in UN WG on Internet Governance
  - extolling Internet Coordination and messages as before
- Actively facilitate open debate in knowledgeable envt's.
  - INET 2004, 10 – 14 May 2004, Barcelona
  - RIR meetings, other venues as appropriate
- Increase activities in developing world
  - Opportunities for all of us to combine/leverage efforts
  - An integrated effort will be much more than individual pieces
- Extend and strengthen coordination efforts
  - ISOC Internet Collaboration Committee formed to help efforts

ARIN XIII, Vancouver

Internet Society

Some evidence our collective efforts are having a positive effect

UNICT headlines in chronological order:

- "Global Forum on Internet Governance to be held at UN Headquarters"

- "Internet Governance Issues are Numerous and Complex according to UN SG"

- "Global Internet Governance System is Working but needs to be more Inclusive"

I'd like to hear from all of you, what else should be done?