

# Briefing on WSIS+10 and Related IG issues – June 2015

## Executive Summary

The WSIS+10 Review is an opportunity to highlight what achievements have been made (in terms of implementing Action Lines) and the work that is still required to meet the aspirations the global Community signed up to in 2005. Taking place directly after the UN Summit on Sustainable Development, the WSIS+10 Review has real opportunity in explicitly detailing how ICTs can be used (with metrics defined in WSIS process) to help implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As the preparatory work is now complete (as outlined below) the focus is on the UN process in New York. Under the stewardship of the Presidency of the General Assembly (PGA) and with the help of the (appointed) co-facilitators from Latvia and the UAE, an inter-governmental process will be taken forward to prepare the necessary output documents for the High Level UNGA Session in December 2015. During the process there will be several occasions where stakeholders, such as ICANN and other I\* organizations, can make comments on the draft Papers. ICANN (Board Director Markus Kummer and our GE based NY representative) took part in the Expert Group (hosted by ITU and UN), which had its first meeting in New York on 8 -9 June 2015; and they also participated in the first governmental Stocktaking Session on June 10-11.

Aside from the WSIS+10 Review preparations are advancing for the 2015 IGF (November in Brazil) and the OECD Ministerial (on the Internet Economy) in Mexico in June 2016.

Among the numerous IG events on the global agenda; ICANN has also been involved in the Global Cyberspace Conference (in The Hague in April) and the on-going work; the NETMundial Initiative (which holds its inaugural Council meeting later in month) and the COE work on WSIS and Human Rights.

## 1. WSIS+10 Review

### A. Background – back to the World Summit

It all started back in 1998 at the ITU Plenipotentiary at Minneapolis where delegates, recognising the growing importance of ICTs for economic and social development, adopted a Resolution (73) calling for a World Summit on the Information Society. This Summit would allow an opportunity for stakeholders to help develop a framework for the information society of tomorrow as per Resolution 56/183 on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) adopted by the UN General Assembly.

The United Nations took up the mantle and a Summit was held in two phases – in 2003 in Geneva and in 2005 in Tunis. While the initial focus was primarily accessibility and concerns on the (already emerging) digital divide, the WSIS process also took on board Internet Governance issues. In doing so it addressed the importance of the Internet as a catalyst for economic and social growth as well as the recognition of the important role of groups such as the private sector, civil society and the Internet technical community. It also recognised the

important role played by the Technical Community in the management of critical Internet resources.

The first phase of the Summit, in Geneva in 2003, adopted a Declaration of Principles – a roadmap for reaching an all-inclusive and knowledge-oriented information society. Making it the core of its Plan of Action, the Geneva phase affirmed the need for half of world's population to be online by 2015. It also discussed, but did not resolve key issues, such as the management of Internet Governance and funding mechanisms.

With respect to the future of Internet governance, a Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) was established to recommend ideas on progress on Internet governance before the second phase of the Summit in Tunis in 2005. WGIG prepared a report which was used as the basis for negotiations at the second WSIS Summit held in Tunis, including a working definition of Internet Governance.

The outcome of the Tunis phase universally referred to as the Tunis Agenda (<https://www.itu.int/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.pdf>) was widely recognised as a significant step for the codification of responsibilities with respect to Internet Governance. It included a working definition on Internet Governance (paragraph 34 of the Tunis Agenda); and it detailed the creation of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). It also identified a set of targets for the Information Society, now known as the WSIS Action Lines. The Tunis Agenda recognised that the current arrangements for Multistakeholder technical operation were working and somehow left the future role of governments in Internet Governance and Enhanced Cooperation open.

#### B. WSIS Forum

While not called for in the Tunis Agenda, the UN Agencies were charged by the UN Secretary General to implement the WSIS outcomes, including the Action Lines, with different UN agencies acting as lead facilitators for them. A new form of coordination evolved, called UNGIS - United Nations Group on the Information Society) with rotating chairs across ITU, UNDP, UNCTAD, and UNESCO. This group of leaders of UN agencies decided on an annual stocktaking on progress made in the Action Lines to support implementation of the Tunis Agenda. The WSIS Forum has been organized each year, hosted by the ITU and co-organized by ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNDP. Its objective is to review annual implementation of WSIS Action Lines such as access, capacity building or security.

Since 2006 the WSIS Forum has been held in Geneva around World Information Society Day (17 May).

#### C. The WSIS Review process

It is customary for the UN to periodically review outcomes of Summits, and included in paragraph 111 of the Tunis Agenda is the following:

*We request the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) to make an overall review of the implementation of WSIS outcomes in 2015.*

Initial efforts towards the Review were organised through deliberations in UNGIS who held consultations in conjunction with the WSIS Forum in 2011 and again in 2013. A draft approach was presented in 2013 at the WSIS Forum, and included stakeholder consultation and opportunity to comment. As a result of these consultations, a process was initiated (coordinated by the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination, CEB) as follows:

1. UNESCO Conference – Towards Knowledge Societies – for Peace and Sustainable Development (Paris, France, February 2013)

[http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/wsis/WSIS\\_10\\_Event/wsis10\\_outcomes\\_en.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CI/CI/pdf/wsis/WSIS_10_Event/wsis10_outcomes_en.pdf)

This was essentially the first global conference to address the WSIS Review process. While essentially focussing on the UNESCO responsibilities (capacity building/skills, human rights, freedom of expression, linguistic and creative diversity and access) it also looked holistically across the WSIS portfolio in terms of addressing the role of progressing toward knowledge societies.

The UNESCO conference was held in a multi stakeholder manner, with the opportunity for stakeholders to engage in negotiations of the final outcome document. While this represented a major change in UN agency engagement with stakeholders, UNESCO has a long tradition of engagement with civil society and NGOs. What was different about the February event was the broader engagement with business and the technical community. Many members of the ICANN Community were also participating, in their individual capacities. ICANN CEO, Fadi Chehadé spoke in the closing ceremony and praised the forward looking “Final Statement” that was adopted by delegates.

2. WSIS+10 High Level Event (ITU, Geneva, Switzerland, June 2014)

<http://www.itu.int/wsis/implementation/2014/forum/>

Following on from the UNESCO session a year earlier, the ITU organised a preparatory process involving the four lead UN agencies, and open to participation to stakeholders to prepare for the High Level Event taking stock of the Action Lines for post 2015. This preparatory process culminated in a High Level event, held in conjunction and as part of the annual May WSIS Forum. The preparation process was well developed, and inclusive. Known as the Multi-stakeholder Preparatory Process (MPP) it included five physical meetings in Geneva, the first of which was in July 2013. It produced two “output” documents; a background Paper with analysis on the extent to which progress had been made on the WSIS Action Lines; and a “Vision” document looking at where we should be focussing efforts post the 2015 Review. Although there were several strongly debated issues, over the several month period of negotiations, member states and stakeholders found common ground, and the resulting high-level statement was accepted by acclamation, at the HL Meeting. This document now forms one of the inputs to the WSIS+10 Review.

ICANN staff were fully involved in this Multistakeholder process and ICANN CEO Fadi Chehadé spoke at the High Level Event.

### 3. UN Resolution 68/302

[http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/302](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/302)

In July 2014, the UNGA adopted a resolution (68/302) further outlining the modalities for the overall review of the WSIS Implementation. It was decided that it would be based around a two-day high-level meeting of the General Assembly to ***“take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the [WSIS] and address potential information and communications technology gaps and areas for continued focus, as well as addressing challenges, including bridging the digital divide, and harnessing information and communications technologies for development.”*** The process will result “in an intergovernmental agreed outcome document” for adoption by the UNGA. Of significance, the Resolution also addressed the involvement of stakeholders.

In terms of involvement of stakeholders in the preparatory process the UN Resolution noted: ***6. Decides that during the preparatory process for the high-level meeting, the President of the General Assembly will organize informal interactive consultations with all relevant stakeholders of the World Summit on the Information Society, in order to collect their inputs for the intergovernmental negotiation process. [6]***

According to the resolution, *the high-level meeting will be “preceded by an intergovernmental preparatory process, which also takes into account inputs from all relevant WSIS stakeholders.”*

Thus as WSIS accredited bodies and associations, ICANN and the wider technical community hope to be involved and consulted on the preparation of the output documents and meetings as appropriate.

### 4. CSTD Plenary (Geneva, Switzerland, May 2015 Geneva)

The Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) is a subsidiary body of ECOSOC (Economic and Social Committee of UN) and is served, in Geneva, BY UNCTAD.

In 2006 (see link below) it was given special responsibility by ECOSOC to act as the focal point for WSIS follow up and to monitor developments on WSIS implementation including submission of an annual Resolution to ECOSOC.

<http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2006/resolution%202006-46.pdf>

It was given an additional responsibility - at the 18th Plenary Session in May 2015 - by the UN Resolution 68/302; namely to submit a report on the 10 year review of progress through ECOSOC to the UNGA for their deliberations. Following text refers:

*Noting that the Commission on Science and Technology for Development should submit after its eighteenth session, by June 2015, its report on the 10-year review of progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly,*

The May CSTD meeting in Geneva addressed both of the CSTD core missions – advancing Science and Technology and Innovation for development, and the WSIS Follow up. During the meeting a full day was devoted to a consultation on the CSTD Report on the 10-year review of the WSIS outcomes; a comprehensive report looking at developments in policy, technology and business across the WSIS portfolio over the past ten years. Stakeholders were active contributors to the consultation process CSTD organized, which included seven face-to-face consultations, and an online consultation process. ICANN, and many contributors engaged in ICANN were present at the face-to-face consultations, and made formal written contributions to the Review. The initial draft was reviewed at the Intercessional, and ICANN was invited to submit additional clarifying information to the final report. The Report was accepted by the CSTD and is forwarded to the United Nations as a primary contribution for the broader UN WSIS review.

[http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/dtlstict2015d3\\_en.pdf](http://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/dtlstict2015d3_en.pdf)

This Report was sent from the CSTD to the UNGA along with the annual “WSIS” Resolution, which also referred positively to the Report. The report overall was examined in detail, and some areas of strength and weakness identified. Overall, there was strong support by member states and stakeholders to the balanced approach in the Report and it had the support of the CSTD as the major input to the WSIS Review.

[http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ecn162015\\_DraftRes\\_WSIS\\_en.pdf](http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ecn162015_DraftRes_WSIS_en.pdf)

#### 5. WSIS Forum, Geneva, May 2015

<http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2015/>

Although not part of the WSIS Review process the meeting was important in bringing together senior opinion holders across many different groups of stakeholders to address both the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines and the forthcoming review process in New York.

At the meeting the ITU and the UNGIS partners [other UN agencies] also took the opportunity of introducing a Matrix mapping the relationship between the draft Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their implementation through the relevant WSIS Action Lines.

See: [http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/sdg/Content/wsis-sdg\\_matrix\\_document.pdf](http://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/sdg/Content/wsis-sdg_matrix_document.pdf)

Numerous workshops and high level panels of significance to WSIS +10 and the incorporation of SDGs into the post 2015 WSIS agenda were held.

#### 6. Appointment of co-facilitators for the United Nations December High Level Event

Pursuant to paragraph 5 of the UN 68/302 Resolution, on June 1, the Presidency of the UNGA – the PGA – see link below – appointed two co-facilitators for the WSIS Review process: Mr Janis Mazeiks, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia to the United Nations, and Mrs Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of United Arab Emirates to the United Nations.

[http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/06/010615\\_World-Summit-on-the-Information-Society.pdf](http://www.un.org/pga/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2015/06/010615_World-Summit-on-the-Information-Society.pdf)

*5. Requests the President of the General Assembly, in June 2015, to appoint two co-facilitators to lead, on the basis of, among other relevant inputs, submissions from Member and observer States and observers and the final report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, an intergovernmental negotiation process, which will include preparatory meetings, resulting in an intergovernmentally agreed outcome document, for adoption at the high-level meeting of the General Assembly;*

## 7. WSIS-related meetings (New York, USA, June 2015)

### 1. Expert Group Meeting (EGM), June 8-9;

“Stocktaking Session for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society” (WSIS Stocktaking Session);

Signalling the beginning of the negotiations of the WSIS Review in New York, the ITU and UN DESA organised a meeting of Experts (as noted above, on 8-9 June in New York. The web site for that EWG is here: <http://unpan3.un.org/ws10/egm>.

Markus Kummer and Veni Markovski attended, as well as several individuals who are also engaged in ICANN stakeholder groups and activities.

2. The first governmental WSIS Stocktaking Session took place on June 10-11, at the UN. It was open for accredited observers (e.g. ISOC, ICC-BASIS, etc.), and ICANN experts were present there, in their respected governmental delegations. The documents, timetable, and other relevant information from the Stocktaking Session are published here: <http://unpan3.un.org/ws10/stocktaking>.

The WSIS Stocktaking Session had [presentations by UNCTAD](#); [report](#) from the ITU; [report](#) from UNESCO; proposed [timeline](#) for the negotiation process and brief statements by member States, which can be [watched on the UN site](#).

The draft [Roadmap](#) (which will be edited reflecting member states’ concerns) describes several ways through which the relevant organizations can participate, with the first being a physical meeting on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, following the first governmental Preparatory Meeting. The High-Level meeting itself will be on December 15-16 (and not as it is announced in the draft on December 14-15). The Second Preparatory Meeting is parallel to the ICANN Dublin meeting (October 20-22), so this may also be changed. There may be a third Preparatory Meeting, and a day for final negotiations on December 14.

ICANN and other I\* organizations (as well as other stakeholders) will be given the opportunity to submit written comments on the documents, produced in the process.

#### D. Technical Community Coordination for WSIS+10 inputs

The WSIS+10 Review is important for all stakeholders within the WSIS process, not least the Technical Community of which ICANN is part.

In common with other such issues (such as for preparation for the ITU Plenipotentiary in 2014) ICANN is co-ordinating any strategic input through the technical community process which is co-ordinated by ISOC. It is worth mentioning that ICANN, ISOC and others have started some engagement with NYC country missions to establish some bridges of dialogue. Events revolve in general around ICTs and the Internet in particular as a tool for development.

#### E. Way forward

At the last I\* (I star) CEOs meeting (London in early May 2015) there was an agreement that ISOC would set up a focused WSIS+10 strategic group to coordinate our approach and any strategic input to the UNGA as appropriate. This group has now met (virtually) and work has been initiated on putting together a Common Position paper that can be deployed, as appropriate, in New York and elsewhere.

The technical community, including the CCWG IG at ICANN have discussed the following items among others to raise awareness on, in events running up to the high level December meeting for the analysis of WSIS outcomes:

- Support for the renewal of IGF and a Multistakeholder discussion platform given the improvements that have taken place
- The successful role of the ICT4D platform and its continuity and its relevance for the SDGs
- Further recognition of the role of the Multistakeholder technical community in managing the technical Internet operations.

#### **2. Internet Governance Forum (IGF)**

<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/>

The annual IGF meeting will take place in João Pessoa, Brazil, on 10-13 November 2015, with a number of relevant and interesting events taking place, as is tradition, on Day 0. Preparations are well underway with the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) having met twice this year to select workshops from a very broad base of nominated workshops and to decide on the main sub themes and overall theme. The CCWG (along with ICANN staff) have proposed a Workshop (that has been accepted) on the IANA Stewardship Transition Process. Representatives from all parts of the ICANN Community will take part. In addition, ICANN will have broad participation from its Board, senior leadership and CEO.

The IGF MAG have also been developing a new intercessional program intended to complement and include the input of other IGF activities. The topic for the new Program, **“Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion”**, was chosen for the preparatory process for IGF 2015. So far, thirteen national and regional IGFs have committed to participate in this important enhancement to the IGF.



ICANN have offered to host an Open Forum session at the IGF to discuss topical and strategic issues; such progress on the IANA stewardship transition process.

### **3. Global Conference on Cyberspace (GCCS April 2015)**

<https://www.gccs2015.com/>

Although this Conference took place in April, the comprehensive nature of the issues discussed (see link above) and the relevance to the future IG agenda (on cyberspace) warrant its inclusion.

ICANN CEO, Fadi Chehadé spoke in Opening and in an IG session.

During the Conference the (so-called) Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE) was launched. The Forum was launched with 45 members, mainly made up of governments, a few IGOs (eg ITU) and some businesses (e.g. Vodafone). The GFCE is intended to serve as a global resource for information, policies and dialogue on cyberspace issues. It already has quite a bit of material, on a range of issues, contributed by the membership. ICANN has already been asked to be a member.

<https://www.gccs2015.com/gfce>

### **4. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Ministerial on Internet Economy – June 2016**

ICANN, through ITAC (<http://www.internetac.org>) - the body representing the Technical Community at OECD, has been involved with the Committee on Economic and Development issues (CDEP) for a good number of years. Led by ISOC the ITAC coordinates closely on key issues ahead of CDEP sessions.

The OECD (since a Summit on the Information Society in 1998 in Ottawa) has devoted considerable resources to Internet issues, including producing Guidelines on Internet Security and on Cryptography. They also produce an annual publication on the Internet Economy that looks, inter-alia, at emerging trends.

Following an Internet Ministerial in Seoul in 2008; when a Declaration on the “Future of the Internet” was issued (<http://www.oecd.org/sti/40839436.pdf>) was decided to have a Ministerial in 2016. A link to initial thinking is at

<http://www.oecd.org/sti/ieconomy/internet-policy-and-governance.htm>

ICANN are working through ITAC (for example with ISOC) to discuss speaker opportunities for Ministerial as well as an ITAC Forum.

### **5. International Telecommunications Union**

In addition to the importance of certain ITU Study groups, and of the Development Sector to ICANN, the ITU Council has two key and important Working Groups that ICANN follows, and



participates in: ITU Council WG on WSIS and CWG – Internet [International Internet Public Policy].

Both are important to the ICANN community, and to ICANN staff engagement.

While the next Regulatory Conference (potentially) directly affecting ICANN is not until 2016 when the WTSA (the plenary for ITU-T) will meet; a more immediate decision by the ITU Council in June (it meets twice a year in Geneva) to agree modalities on how stakeholders could be involved in the (government only) Council Working Group (CWG) on International Public policy. This issue was hotly debated at PP-14 in Busan (Resolution 102) where several governments proposed a more open arrangement, which was eventually accepted. Experts from ICANN and industry and the technical community strongly contributed to advancing the more open approach to at least take consultation and hold an open one day consultation. The challenge now is to ensure that experts contribute, both online and in person, at the open consultations, and work with states to bring experts into the WG itself.

The link below describes the consultation process for a meeting of the CWG (along with physical stakeholder consultation) in October (where issue will be Internet Exchange Points)<sup>1</sup>  
<http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-june2015.aspx>

### **Council of Europe (COE)**

The Council of Europe (47 member States including the EU-28) works on a variety of issues including Internet Governance. <http://www.coe.int/en/web/about-us/who-we-are>

ICANN are official observers in the Steering Committee on Media and Information Society (CDMSI) which has developed strategies on Internet Governance and recently adopted two relevant Declarations; one on ICANN, human rights and the rule of law.  
<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=2328763&Site=CM>

A second was on the WSIS process itself; including support for extension of IGF mandate; this is in following link;  
[https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=Decl\(03.06.2015\)1&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383](https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=Decl(03.06.2015)1&Language=lanEnglish&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=C3C3C3&BackColorIntranet=EDB021&BackColorLogged=F5D383)

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<sup>1</sup> The ITU have (on IXPs) issued the following:  
"With a view to discussing the establishment of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) to advance connectivity, improve service quality and increase network stability and resilience, fostering competition and reducing interconnection costs, as proposed by Opinion 1 of WTPF-13 and consistent with PP-14 Resolutions 101 and 102, stakeholders are invited to elaborate and exemplify on the challenges faced and identify widely accepted best practices for the design, installation and operation of IXPs"

The deadline for submissions is August 28<sup>th</sup>.

<http://www.itu.int/en/council/cwg-internet/Pages/consultation-june2015.aspx>