Internet Governance and the Sustainable Development Goals

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In Sept 2015, UN Member States and the United Nations General Assembly adopted the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” which includes a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.
SDGs Framework

- SDGs = Sustainable Development Goals
- 17 Goals; 135 specific targets to be achieved over the next 15 years
- Not legally binding, still they create expectations
- UN is responsible to track achievement of the SDGs (annual reports)
- Countries have voluntarily incorporated the SDGs into their national plans
- Other players have also incorporated the SDGs into their daily work
The Relationship between ICT and the SDGs

- ICTs and the Internet are recognized as horizontal enablers to all the SDGs

- ICTs can provide new solutions to development challenges, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion

- SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure)
SDGs Topics Most Relevant to ICTs

- Change
- Capacity-building
- Economy
- Employment, decent work and social protection
- Stakeholder partnerships & voluntary agreements
- Education
- Gender equality and women's empowerment
- Cities and emenents
- Sustainable transport
Examples of ICTs Contributions to SDGs

- Financial inclusion (biometric identification system called Aadhaar in India allowing digital payments)
- Combat Hunger (No-Food Waste India, FoodCloud Ireland and UK, Cheetah Ghana)
- Saving Premature Babies (Integrated Neonatal Intensive Care Unit India)
- Address the Gender Divide (Girls in Tech – Singapore)
- Connecting Schools (Comoros)
Some SDGs Activities

- ITU’s
  - Mapping Tool for the SDGs
    http://itu.int/ICT4SDG

- Facebook
  - Internet.org, Free Basics

- Google
  - Project Link, Project Loon

- SpaceX and Virgin Galactic
  - Satellite network
Discussion Pause

How can ICTs and the Internet Contribute to the SDGs in the Middle East?
IG and SDGs

- Why was the Internet able to make substantial contributions to the socio-economical development agenda and the SDGs?
- Multistakeholder participation
- Open, universal, interoperable standards
- Collaborative Security Approach
MS and the SDGs

- How to achieve the SDGs?
- All stakeholders must align their activities with the SDGs objectives
- Governments, international organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia, and technical community members
How to Integrate the SDGs in the IG Framework

- Until the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, essentially Internet Governance and development were operating in relatively parallel paths.

- Purpose of the WSIS Summit’s was to create an Information Society for all, leaving no one behind

- Integration of the SDGs into the IGF’s work

- Enabling technologies must support achieving the 2030 SDGs Agenda
Policy Questions

- What are the development priorities which the Internet Governance community should be responding to?
- How should the Internet community interact (or improve its interaction) with the mainstream development communities?
- What opportunities and threats to the goal of “no one is left behind” with the Internet age?
- Is the Digital Divide shrinking or widening?
- How can the IGF further incorporate awareness about the SDGs into its planning, and into the IGF program in following years.
- Are the SDGs being highlighted in your national or regional IGF session?
ISOC and SDGs
ISOC SDGs Activities

- SDGs not new... for the past 25 years we have always worked with the understanding that access to the internet was always for the benefit of the people
- to develop **infrastructure**
  - International connectivity, domestic connectivity, IXPs, Local/Relevant Content and data centers hosting,
- to foster **skills and entrepreneurship**
  - Training, capacity building, Beyond the Net
- Supportive **governance**
  - Multi-stakeholder governance, building communities, chapters
Beyond the Net and Chapterthon 2017

With **Beyond the Net Grants**, ISOC will support the work of Internet professionals in developing countries to build stronger understanding and partnerships with other stakeholders to advance the SDGs.

The Chapterthon is a global projects competition.

- It is open to all ISOC Chapter members who choose to compete for the best project (voted by the community)
- **Overall topic of the competition:** Digital schools
ISOC References

Get involved.

There are many ways to support the Internet. Find out today how you can make an impact.

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The High-level Political Forum, United Nations central platform for follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, provides for the full and effective participation of all States Members of the United Nations and States members of specialized agencies.
Thank you.

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