



# What is internet governance?

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# Overview

- A bit of history: concept and discourse
- Scope of IG
- Distributed IG
- Key institutions involved in IG
- Multistakeholder & multi-lateral approaches
  - Complexities in models, including hybrid approaches.
- Where next?
- Q&A - What do you want to know about IG?



# What I am not covering!

Anything in any  
detail....

No details on:

- ICANN
- WSIS +10
- Enhanced Cooperation
- Human rights and IG
- ICT for development and IG
- History of IG



# What is the Internet: technical definition

A network of autonomous networks of computing devices, which share the same core protocols enabling them to interoperate regardless of the endpoint applications and devices.

Sufficient  
?

The capitalization controversy: Internet or internet  
There are many internets, but only one Internet.  
And there are internet architectures, internet protocols, internet subjects of all types.



# What is the Internet: public policy definition

“...the Internet is a  
global resource  
which should be  
managed in the  
public interest”

From the NETmundial  
statement developed at the  
NETmundial, a  
multistakeholder event on  
IG held in Sao Paulo in  
2014



# Who runs the internet?

Does any single entity run the Internet?

The answer depends on what aspect of the Internet you are looking at.

- Phone networks? Mobile? Landlines? Undersea fibre? Satellite?
- People?
- Content?
- Applications?
- Facebook, Google, Twitter ...
- Regulations such as Network neutrality or GDPR?



# What is 'governance'?

- Task of steering a given community, or sector of activity (set of processes)
- This community may be defined by the boundaries of an activity or of geography, or still by any other identity criteria.
- The purposes or goals of governance may include the protection or best interests of the governed.
- It may also entail control or repression of the community...



# The WSIS and IG: UN Perspective on IG

- World Summit on the Information Society (Geneva 2003 and Tunis 2005)
- 2003 Geneva Declaration of Principles
  - Key outcomes: multistakeholder, human rights, people-centered development
- 2005 Tunis Agenda (Internet Governance Forum)
  - Key outcomes/debated points: role of government, “enhanced cooperation”, “equal footing”, “respective roles and responsibilities of stakeholders”
- WSIS ten year review 2015
  - Key outcomes: Renewed IGF, inclusion of women, affirmed WGIG definition of IG and multistakeholder process, requested more work on enhanced cooperation (for some definition of enhanced cooperation)





## IG: narrow definition

The handling of technical coordination required for, and policy issues related to, the interoperability and smooth functioning of the different components of internet infrastructure and the exchange of information/contents over the Internet.

Management for improvement, stability, security and resiliency



# Narrow definition: examples

- Internet logical resources, globally unique identifiers:
  - IP addresses
  - Domain name system
  - Autonomous system numbers
  - Protocol parameters
- Protocols:
  - TCP/IP
  - IPV4 and IPV6

Architecture,  
Protocols,  
Names  
& Numbers



# IG: Early broad definition

Internet governance is the development and application by the Governments, 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. (WGIG Final Report 2005)

What are the implications of this definition?



# IG: broad definition – working definitions accepted and used by UN

WGIG Final Report  
2005 and included in  
the Tunis Agenda

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## Broad definition: examples

- Human rights apply online as they do offline (HRC resolution 2012)
- Domains such as .africa, .amazon, .book or .xxx
- South African Film and Publication Board online content regulation
- YouTube ban in Pakistan
- African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms



# Broad definition: broader issues

- Patents, copyright, trademark
- Competition policy
- Security and survivability of public infrastructure (essential facilities)
- Freedom expression and association
- Right to privacy – data protection
- Liability of intermediaries
- Platform responsibility
- Surveillance
- Shutdowns



# IG milestones up to 2000

1970s: DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) creates ARPANET

1980s: ARPANET expands to include universities, research facilities and government

1990: US's National Science Foundation responsible for coordination of the non-military portion of the Internet

1996: African Information Society Initiative and NICI plans

1998: Establishment of ICANN

1999: African Development Forum



## IG milestones contd.

2001-2003: World Summit on the Information Society  
Geneva phase > Geneva Declaration and Plan of Action

2004-2005: Working Group on IG

2004-2005: WSIS Tunis Phase > Tunis Agenda

2006-2015: IGF

2012: Working Group on IG Improvements

2014: Working Group on **Enhanced Cooperation**

**2015: WSIS +10**

2016: IANA TRANSITION

2018: GDPR

2019: UNSG HLP: The Age of Digital Interdependence





# Who should run the internet?

Should anyone run the internet?

Why?

Why  
not?



## Narrow approach: institutions

- ICANN (gTLDs)
- PTI: Public Identifiable Identifiers
  - aka IANA
- Country code domain authorities (ccTLDs)
- RIRs - Regional Internet Registries
- Internet Society (ISOC)
- Internet Network Operators' Groups
- ISP associations



## Narrow approach: institutions (cont'd)

- Internet Engineering Task Force: architecture and hundreds of protocols including: TCP, IP, UDP
- W3C: World Wide Web Consortium - application-layer standards for the web
- ITU: Spectrum & digital migration
- IEEE: Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers - Ethernet LAN & Wi-Fi standards



## Broad approach: institutions

- National telecoms regulators
- UN agencies: ITU, WIPO, HRC
- Ministries of information and communication
- Civil society coalitions
- Regional bodies such as African Union Commission
- Courts: national and regional e.g. European Court of Justice,



# The overlapping IG jigsaw

Global issues  
and  
institutions

Technical  
issues and  
institutions

Regional  
issues and  
institutions

Cross  
Jurisdictional  
issues and  
institutions

National  
issues and  
institutions

Local issues  
and  
institutions



# Meanwhile.. in Africa

- African Union Commission
- Regional economic communities (SADC, ECOWAS, COMESA)
- Regional regulatory associations (WATRA)
- Regional, Sub Regional and national IGFs
- National bodies, e.g. regulators
- What else?



# Distributed IG

Given the open and distributive nature of the Internet architecture, its governance will have to involve a lot of coordination and cooperation

Governing the Internet impacts all people who rely on it, regardless of national borders.



# Multistakeholder Discussions

multilateral

multistakeholder

Which  
stakeholders?

Geopolitics

Roles of  
stakeholders

Enhanced  
Cooperation

Respective roles?

Responsibilities &  
accountability





# Your questions

What do you want to know?

What has not been answered?

What do you think of it all?





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