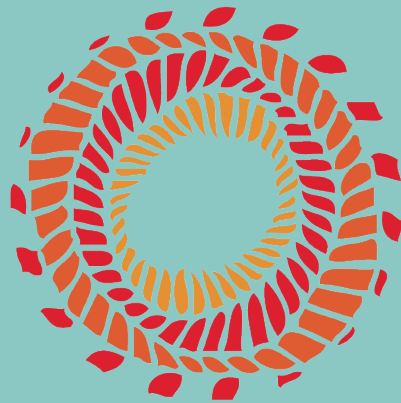


An overview of internet governance

AfriSIG, 2018
Anriette Esterhuysen



APC
ASSOCIATION FOR
PROGRESSIVE
COMMUNICATIONS

ABOUT APC

APC is an international network dedicated to empowering and supporting groups and individuals working for peace, human rights, development and protection of the environment, through the strategic use of information and communication technologies (ICTs), including the internet. APC has 60 organisational and 35 individual members.

Definitions of the internet

History of IG

Definitions and scope of IG

Key concepts associated with IG

Past and current debates

Q & A: What do you want to know/know about IG?

What I will try to cover...

A story of shifts in players,
definitions, scope, issues,
power and politics.

... nothing in detail

- 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
- 1995-6: Emergence of commercial ISPs
- 1998: Establishment of ICANN

Internet/ICT milestones up to 2000

- 1980s: Library automation and database development
- 1980s: Bulletin Board Systems; early email networks (Fidonet, GEOnet, Bitnet)
- 1990s: Interdoc and APC: content and tech unite
- 1992: Rio Earth Summit - the UN discovers the "internet"
- 1990s: UN Sustainable Development Networking Programme/APC connect 1000s of people in Africa
- 1990s: Telecoms liberalisation; USFs; mobile telephony; private monopolies replace government ones
- 1996: African Information Society Initiative/NICI plans
- 1999: UNECA's African Development Forum
- Late 1990s: ISPs emerge in parts of Africa

Internet/ICT milestones to 2000 Africa

2001-2003: WSIS 1: Geneva phase
2004-2005: Working Group on IG
2004: AfriNIC established
2004-2005: WSIS 2: Tunis Phase
2006-present: Mobile telephony... data; annual IGF
2008- National and regional IGFs – Africa 2012 onwards
2012: HRC “offline rights apply online” resolution
2013: Snowden revelations
2014: 1st Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation
2014: The NETmundial; AU convention on cybersecurity
2015: WSIS +10
2016: IANA transition

IG/ICT milestones post-2000

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.

What is the internet?

Application layer

Content and applications and processes that use the network

Host to host transport layer

Provides end-to-end data delivery services

Internet layer

Defines datagram and handles routing data

Network access layer

Physical network infrastructure

Layer model

... but is that all?

users ... more every year..currently
about half of the world's population

content

transactions

experience

relationships

behaviour

impact is social, cultural, economic and
political

Global
issues and
institutions

Technical
issues and
institutions

Regional
issues and
institutions

Cross
jurisdiction
issues and
institutions

National
issues and
institutions

Local
issues and
institutions

**The overlapping IG
jigsaw**

Definitions of the internet and of internet governance have evolved as use of the network has evolved.

Actors who were not that interested in the 1990s (e.g. policy-makers, governments, businesses, human rights defenders) are now deeply engaged.

Shifts in scope and definitions

A red, irregularly shaped speech bubble with a white outline, containing the text 'IG narrow definition'.

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.



**Narrow
approach:
institutions**

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



Narrow definition issues

Internet logical resources,
globally unique identifiers:

IP addresses

Domain name system

Autonomous system numbers

IPV4 numbers running out and
IPV6 adoption

But technical definitions have ceased to be sufficient...

“A global resource which should be managed in the public interest.”

NETmundial statement, Sao Paulo, April 2014

**Internet – public policy
definition**

WSIS UN approach

WSIS outcomes

Broad definition of IG and multistakeholder approach and annual IGF

Human rights oriented and people-centered

Stakeholders to be included and have respective roles and responsibilities (not very clearly defined).

Technical coordination to continue to be lead by technical organisations.

Governments: to be involved on an “equal footing” with one another and and “enhanced cooperation” to be addressed.

WSIS ten year review 2015 outcomes

IGF renewal, focus on women, affirmed broad definition and multistakeholder approach. Requested more work on enhanced cooperation.

**WGIG: broad
definition
accepted
and used by
UN - Tunis
Agenda**

“Internet governance is the development and application by 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 report and Tunis Agenda, 2005



Broad approach institutions

National telecoms regulators

UN agencies: ITU, WIPO, HRC

Ministries of information and communication, finance, foreign affairs, security, science and technology, education

Civil society organisations/movements (e.g. women's movement)

Regional intergovernmental bodies such as African Union and European Union Commissions

Courts: national and regional e.g. European Court of Justice



Broad definition issues

Data transfers, trade

Competition policy

Security and stability of infrastructure

Freedom expression and association

Privacy - data protection

Liability of intermediaries

Surveillance

Shutdowns

... and more



Broad definition issues

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

Data-breaches

African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms

Cyber crime and cyber security

Data protection

Content control

Surveillance by businesses and governments

Competition

Harmful use – elections, hate speech, “fake news”

Role of government – national and intergovernmental

More regulation e.g. GDPR and intellectual property

Institutional arrangements and roles of stakeholders

**Current IG priorities
and debates**



Given the open and distributed nature of internet architecture, its governance involves coordination and cooperation.



Discussion

Distributed internet
governance

Coordination?

Collaboration?

Overight?

Multi-stakeholder?

Cross-border

**What is good internet
governance?**