"Proposed Improvements to IGF Outcomes, in Keeping with the UN General Assembly Mandate"

by India

1. MAG to identify the most important global policy concerns, take into account current issues, focus on IG for Development

There are changes taking place in every country that affect the way the Internet works. Most of these changes are made in isolation of the deliberations at the IGF. India's proposal seeks to bring the current issues to focus on issues currently being dealt with in various intergovernmental organizations.

2. Issue-based working groups of MAG members plus external experts overall balance ... diversity ... developing country participation,..both governmental and non-governmental

- reflects on commitment to multi-stakeholder constitution.
- caution for too many working groups

3, Issue-based WGs working during the preparatory process to develop background material, commission experts, prepare the format of the corresponding plenary sessions, select and review feeder workshops

Could be a very good way of streamlining MAG's work, but sweeping powers to working groups. Working groups determine everything. How are working groups to be balanced?

4. Workshops on various themes linked to the chosen key policy questions. Feeder Workshops followed by 'Round Table' discussions: WG to attend feeder workshops; Round Table to further shape perspectives around the 'key question' and look for areas of convergence

- Takes the IGF beyond inconclusive discussions. But what about issues falling outside what are identified as core policy issues?

5. Thematic meetings or thematic IGFs between IGF sessions on the policy issues, to facilitate dialogue and identify possible outcomes

- there are regional IGFs on all issues, thematic meetings, too many meetings? But a very good idea, taking IGF towards productive outcomes. Why not three IGFs a year, different regions, each on an area of focus + Current Issues?

6. Convergences and alternate views from the Round Table discussion and Thematic Meetings taken to the IGF plenary for a structured discussion

- India's proposal is keen on outcomes. Very positive.

7. WGs produce a document on the concerned 'key policy question', presenting areas of convergence and divergence, to present concrete set of policy options.

In harmony with Internet Society India Chennai's Comments on the formal consultation with Forum participants, July 2009 session which included a suggestion for session/topic reports as inputs to the policy making process

http://goo.gl/FAYoz

8. Views generated on a specific policy question to form part of the WGs reports

Governments could adopt it as a convention to draw resources from the IGF Reference Papers on the relevant issues/topics while framing proposals for a new policy / change of an existing policy related to Internet.

9. IGF reports -- > CSTD, ECOSOC -- > UN General Assembly -- -- > Policymakers Alternatively, send reports directly /or from ECOSOC than wait for UN General Assembly (I said) Very thoughtful and Practical, but on second thoughts, Why would India propose that the Internet Governance Policy process should go though CSTD and UN? Should we recommend that the role of CSTD actually becomes lighter?

10. IGF to receive feedback on developments / ongoing international Intenet Goverance processes, interface with relevant bodies, facilitate discourse between bodies different priorities (Tunis Agenda Para 72)

India's proposal places IGF truly at the heart of Internet Policy.

India's proposal could include:

The IGF organizers should more clearly articulate the roles of the different Internet stakeholders and organizations, define and implement a funding model for IG and enact some form of output for the IGF itself.

The IGF should have more voices from emerging markets and the private sector at the table.

Marilyn Cade, president of ICT Strategies

All the world could go along with India to strengthen the IGF. Pertinent to recall:

"Now we will have to find synthesis between two tendencies: the Internet will stay with us and nation-states will stay with us," Kummer said. "We see the IGF as a synthesis between these two tendencies

Markus Kummer

What changed between then and the IBSA meeting?

Sivasubramanian M ISOC India Chennai isolatednet@gmail.com