

ECOSOC Presentations WSIS and IGF

Data

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Subject : UN Ecosoc plenary session, reports on the « World summit on information society » and « internet governance forum »

1. Referential documents

Please refer to the [ECOSOC webpages](#) and especially the internet activity related reports:

- Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels ([A/66/64 – E/2011/77](#))
 - Report of the Working Group on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum ([A/66/67-E/2011/79](#))
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2. Points of interest

I will not paraphrase the content of the two reports and I am just taking the liberty to highlight some elements of interest.

Strong agreement on some stakes both on the citizen level (privacy,...) and the economical level (growth factor, cloud computing...) and on some risks (fraudulent use ; espionage...). But no mention of key elements such as "freedom of speech", "local vs universal jurisdiction"... I fear those elements are definitely more controversial and will be/must be addressed once the e-governance principles have been set.

- I would personally suggest we work in parallel the meta-level (e-governance) and the fields of application. We are bound to proceed in a co-development scheme rather than a (more historical) sequential process.
- IGF is definitely the opportunity to address this.

The principles of stake-holder participation, multilateral work are clearly understood and (at least) communicated. After the panellists' presentation, we had the opportunity to have some comments from the civil society (ISOC-Internet Society ; CCI – International Chambers of Commerce).

- Nicolas SEIDLER, Policy Advisor for ISOC : for more information on his report. (seidler@isoc.org)

We were reminded the "sovereignty of States" (not a surprise) and the "necessity to engage in a multistakeholders process". IGF role is unanimously recognized. US representatives praised the "consultative role" and the fact it was "a no-decision body" (to ensure leeway and avoid being struck in some diplomatic vocabulary bargaining).

- However, I would have liked to have some definition of "internet ecosystem". I am afraid there is still a misunderstanding about the existence of a theoretical frontier between IRL (in real-life) and e-life. Cf some comments, for instance on "internet is a global facility" from a State representative (Venezuela, I think)
- Some confusion between "e-governance" and "internet governance" also appeared in floor comments, following the reports presentation.
- Some demands to extend IGF role (CUBA) and a request from the Working group (India, Brazil and RSA- South Africa) to benefit from an "official platform". I am not sure if it was complementary to IGF or not. This platform would support more effectively the developing countries actions and would bring up "processes to enhance collaboration".

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Points of interest (cont'd)

We were told that Key performance indicators have been agreed upon by the CSTD. I think this is key and would suggest these are shared and monitored by all the stake-holders and followers. (but it is probably my "If you cannot measure it, it is just a hobby" mindset ☺).

I am afraid network neutrality was only mentioned once and I hope I wasn't listening carefully enough.

- For me this element is definitely key. Yes I understand both the political and economical stakes... but it is core.

We were also told that IGF Executive Coordinator (Markus Kummer's previous position) should be soon filled. No deadlines announced yet.

Conclusion

Very interesting and informative session. I understood the meeting room was slightly more packed on the previous days, with more politically sensitive discussions but the attendance was fairly high. And that is definitely a good sign.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank twice Mrs Renate BLOEM:

- ✓ she found the way to get me accredited. And I can swear it was no piece of cake. Despite the confirmation she had beforehand, she had to spend 30 mn securing my access. My accreditation was issued at 10:02 for a meeting starting at 10:00.
- ✓ The discussion we had after the session was really great and she brought challenging food for thought.

Vielen Danke, Renate, du bist wunderbar.
