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Global Internet Governance: New Path for Good Governance

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ABSTRACT: Global Internet governance refers to the rules, policies, standards and practices that coordinate and shape global cyberspace. The Internet is a vast network of independently-managed networks, woven together by globally standardized data communication protocols (primarily, Internet Protocol, TCP, UDP, DNS and BGP). The common adoption and use of these protocols unified the world of information and communications like never before. Millions of digital devices and massive amounts of data, software applications, and electronic services became compatible and interoperable. The Internet created a new environment, a complex and dynamic "cyberspace." While Internet connectivity generated innovative new services, capabilities and unprecedented forms of sharing and cooperation, it also created new forms of crime, abuse, surveillance and social conflict. Internet governance is the process whereby cyberspace participants resolve conflicts over these problems and develop a workable order.

KEYWORDS: global, internet, governance, cyberspace, environment, digital, protocol

I. INTRODUCTION

Conceptually Global Internet Governance includes following layers

- Physical Infrastructure layer
- Code or Logical layer
- Content layer
- Security

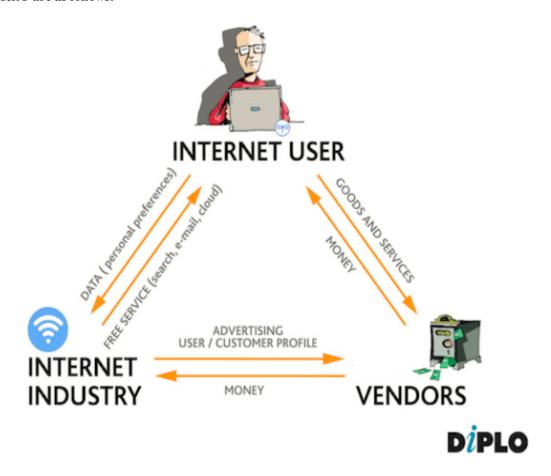
Global Internet Governance involves Internet Protocol Addressing (IP Addressing), Domain Name System (DNS), Routing, Technical Innovations, Standardization, Security, Public Policy, Privacy, Legal Issues, Cyber Norms, Intellectual Property and taxation.India supports a multi-stakeholder approach in matters on Global Internet Governance. On matters relating to national security, Government will continue to have supreme right and control. India's strength in the sector is its industry and human resource which can be leveraged in a multi-stakeholder approach. Multi-stakeholder approach will also align with our investment strategy for Digital India and will help India in participation in the multi-billion-dollar business opportunity of Internet industry.[1,2]



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The Research, Development and awareness projects that are being undertaken by the Internet Governance Division, MeitY are as follows:



- 1. Advanced Internet Operations Research in India (AIORI) by Software Technology Parks of India (STPI) Funded by MeitY. The Project seeks to improve the security, stability, and understanding of the Internet's DNS infrastructure in India by advanced Internet Operations research and it plans to do so by
 - 1. Building relationships among its community of members and facilitate an environment where information can be shared confidentially.
 - 2. Enabling knowledge transfer by organizing workshop.
 - 3. Research with operational relevance through data collection and analysis.
 - 4. Increasing awareness of the DNS's significance.
 - 5. Offer useful, publicly available tools and services.
- 2. "IG-SIM- Global Internet Governance Structured Implementation Module" implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), Delhi. The project envisages providing technical and policy support to conduct of research, training, workshops and preparation of white paper, technology reports on various Internet Governance Policy and Technology related issues. This will include providing on-going implementation support to IG related activities of the Government of India, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), review the global Internet policy and Technology landscape and provide assistance w.r.t. structured implementation on matters related to Internet Governance taking into account rapid technical developments and dynamically changing needs.
- 3. **Centre of Excellence in DNS Security by C-DAC, Bangalore (Funded by NIXI).** The objective of the Project is to become a model Centre and provide through leadership in DNS and DNS security related technologies, conduct high-end research in DNS Security, to build internal competencies in DNS Security by offering advanced training programme and establish a test-bed of DNS for research and training. [3,4]



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4. ICANN Research and Multi-stakeholder Engagement Assistant Programme by ICRIER (Funded by NIXI). The long term objective of the Programme is to enable meaningful and sustained engagement in internet governance institutions and processes with particular focus on the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), update and contextualize the various stakeholder positions to bring out Indian perspective and crystallize the issues to be raised by Indian stakeholder in various multi-stakeholder processes; develop capacity and build expertise of Indian stakeholder on ICANN related interne Governance issues. The intermediate and short-term objective of the Programme is to support ICANN engagement for stakeholder and clearly understand the position and status of India stakeholder engaging with ICANN, with particular focus on developing a repository of research for GAC engagement.



II. DISCUSSION

Global Internet governance is the complementary development and application by governments, the private sector, civil society and the technical community, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and activities that shape the evolution and use of the Internet. For UNESCO, Internet Governance is a central issue. The Organization acknowledges the potential of the Internet for fostering sustainable human development and building inclusive knowledge societies, and also for enhancing the free flow of information and ideas throughout the world. Many bodies are working on the Internet's infrastructure, including:

- The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) whose mission is to "help ensure a stable, secure and unified global Internet". Internet addresses have to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. It is a not-for-profit partnership of people from all over the world. Also, there are registries of regional and national domain names, such as AFNIC, which is responsible for all domains that end in ".fr".
- The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) is an open working group of developers charged with establishing Internet standards.
- The Internet Society (ISOC) was founded by the first Internet pioneers, which gives it moral and technical legitimacy. It is a non-profit organization founded in the United States and acts as a type of superstructure for the IETF and other structures. The ISOC is committed to "promoting the open development, evolution and use of the Internet". It has national chapters, including ISOC FRANCE, nearly everywhere in the world.[5,6]

Other committees and working groups are also working on technical standards and meetings, for example, the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). The W3C mainly focuses on improving technologies and the format of HTML code used in websites.



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Companies also help shape the Internet and its rules. For example, many web services and social networks have established "terms and conditions" or "terms of use" for services. These terms govern what a user is authorized to do or not authorized to do when accessing the services offered on a given platform. Telecommunications providers and other service providers manage the data flow infrastructure, data centres, and international undersea cables via main lines called backbones.

Alongside public authorities and civil society, companies can work together to implement specific overall rules and processes. An example of this is the Christchurch Call to Action, whereby governments and digital technology giants have committed for the first time to taking a series of concrete measures to eliminate terrorist and extremist content online and putting a stop to the instrumentalization of the Internet by terrorists.

Many countries working in the Internet economy are also structured around professional associations or think tanks in order to promote their interests in the institutional field and among the general public. For example, France Digitale, The Galion Project and Syntec Numérique, just to name a few.[7,8]

III. RESULTS

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was established by WSIS in 2005; with the first global IGF held in Athens in 2006. The IGF has no decision making powers and is intended to serve as a discussion space that gives developing countries the same opportunity as wealthier nations to engage in the debate on Internet governance. Its purpose is to provide a platform where new and ongoing issues of Internet governance can be frankly debated by stakeholders from civil society, the business and technical sectors, governments, and academia. Participation in the IGF is open to all interested participants and accreditation is free. Ultimately, the involvement of all stakeholders, from developed as well as developing countries, is necessary for the future development of the Internet.



It brings about 1500-2200 participants from various stakeholder groups to discuss policy issues relating to the Internet such as understanding how to maximize Internet opportunities, identify emerging trends and address risks and challenges that arise. The IGF works closely with the Dynamic Coalition on Public Access in Libraries. Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) are informal, multi-stakeholder, issue-specific interest groups that work during the year in preparation for the IGF event. In 2011, IFLA and Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL) organised The Dynamic Coalition on Public Access in Libraries. These two organisations represent the interests of hundreds of thousands of public libraries, and millions of users, in all countries at the IGF. DCs are open to anyone interested in contributing to their discussions. During the IGF, DCs are given a time slot to host a session, and report on their progress and plans. The IGF has been



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working since its inception to became a fully accessible event through live streaming of all its sessions (an average of 200 workshops) and the live streaming and transcript of the main sessions (opening and closing ceremony, thematic main sessions). The remote participation includes the possibility to actively participate at the sessions, from intervening with questions to remote moderation of the workshops. An interesting initiative for libraries is the possibility of hosting remote hubs where all interested people who cannot attend the IGF can watch the webcast together and send questions (via text or video) that will be answered by panelists at the IGF. In addition, hub organizers can hold debates to discuss the themes introduced at the IGF from their local perspective. Details on remote participation and hosting remote hubs are usually posted to the main IGF website in advance of the annual IGF meeting. [9,10]

IV. IMPLICATIONS

We recommend supporting the completion of the IANA transition and the internationalization of this function as soon as possible as this offers the best opportunity to sustain the legitimacy of the present multi-stakeholder model for governing technical operations. If it is not possible to complete the transition by the end of the year, ICANN should make its proposal for the transition before the conclusion of the WSIS+10 review in December 2015.

• We also recommend that the stakeholders in the global internet community consider the NETmundial Initiative as a constructive addition to the organizations and institutions addressing internet public policy issues. Changes may be required, however, in particular to encourage greater transparency and bottom-up participation.



• If the NETmundial Initiative does not succeed, there remains a need for an organic multi-stakeholder process, led by civil society and the private sector together with government representatives, to assist developing countries in resolving salient internet public policy issues.

Three main trends can be observed:

- Multi-stakeholderism, despite its detractors, remained the dominant paradigm in internet governance, reinforced through periodic meetings of the IGF.
- Notwithstanding, there remained a large constituency of discontent, much of it directed at ICANN. This criticism came in various forms. Some wanted a more multilateral approach. Some doubted ICANN's ability to avoid capture by governments, in particular through the GAC. And others, while basically supporting ICANN's multi-stakeholder approach, were critical of its performance and especially its management of the new ccTLD process. [11]
- Growth in the internet user base took place disproportionately in the developing world since the market in the developed world was largely saturated. This started to change the dynamics of the internet governance discussion as new users began to seek solutions and capacity to address internet public policy issues.[12,13]]



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V. CONCLUSIONS

The key issues of internet public policy drove many developing countries to align with those pushing for a greater role for the ITU because they saw no other available source of technical assistance. Still, the divided vote was alarming, and with the ITU Plenipotentiary only two years away, discussions quickly turned to how to win over "swing states," such as Brazil, whose support was seen as crucial for constraining further attempts to pass power over the internet to multilateral institutions[14,15]

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