

The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

History and Future

**Workshop on WSIS
Issues of Relevance to ICANN and Next Steps**

4 March 2004, Rome, Italy

www.itu.int/wsis

What is WSIS?

- **A UN Head of State Summit**
- **An Inter-governmental process of UN member states**
- **Observers participate**
 - Intergovernmental organizations
 - International Organizations
 - Business
 - Civil Society
- **ITU assumed leading managerial role in Executive Secretariat**

Origins of WSIS

- **Proposed by ITU in 1998**
- **Endorsed by UN General Assembly Resolutions:**
 - **Purpose: Mobilizing ICT for Development and Access for All**
 - **Scope: Whole Range of Issues Related to the Information Society**
 - **Deliverables: Declaration of Principles & Plan of Action**

WSIS Schedule and Process

- **2 Phase Summit**

- **Geneva - December 2003**
- **Tunis - November 2005**

- **Preparatory Process**

- **Preparatory Committee Meetings (PrepComs)**
- **Regional Meetings**
- **Observer Participation**

WSIS - Observer Organizations

- **Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors**
 - Chaired by the International Chamber of Commerce
 - Business organizations and companies of all sizes and all regions
- **Civil Society Bureau**
 - Civil Society Plenary
 - Content & Theme Group
 - Family and Caucus
 - Internet Governance Caucus
 - Civil Society Executive Secretariat
- **International Organizations**

WSIS Declaration of Principles

- **Common Vision of an Information Society**
- **An Information Society for All: Key Principles**
 - Access to Information & Knowledge
 - Capacity Building
 - Building Confidence & Security
 - Enabling Environment
 - ICT Applications: Benefits in All Aspects of Life
 - Cultural Diversity & Identity, Linguistic Diversity & Local Content
 - Media
 - Ethical Dimensions of the Info Society
 - International & Regional Cooperation
- **Towards Information Society for All Based on Shared Knowledge**

WSIS Plan of Action

- **Tracks the Declaration of Principles**
- **Proposes Actions to Realize the Declaration of Principles**
- **Additional Section on the Role of Governments and All Stakeholders in the Information Society**

Unresolved Issues in Geneva

- **The Road to Tunis**
 - **Process**
 - **Substantive Deliverables**
- **Internet Governance**
- **Digital Solidarity Fund**

WSIS & Internet Governance

- **Contentious Issue: Multiple Views**
 - Private Sector Leadership
 - Role of Governments & Intergovernmental Organization
- **Confused Debate**
 - Different concerns related to different issues
 - public policy issues
 - technical issues
 - Internet Management & Governance are used somewhat interchangeably

Declaration adopted

50. International Internet governance issues should be addressed in a coordinated manner. We ask the Secretary-General of the United Nations to set up a working group on Internet governance, in an open and inclusive process that ensures a mechanism for the full and active participation of governments, the private sector and civil society from both developing and developed countries, involving relevant intergovernmental and international organizations and forums, to investigate and make proposals for action, as appropriate, on the governance of Internet by 2005.

WSIS: Result on Internet Governance

- **No Final Agreement on Substance**
- **UN Secretary General to Establish a Working Group to:**
 - **Develop a Working Definition of Internet Governance**
 - **Identify the Public Policy Issues Related to IG**
 - **Develop Common Understanding of the Roles & Responsibilities of All Stakeholders**
 - **Issue Report for Tunis Phase**
- **The Working Group Should Ensure the Full and Active Participation of All Stakeholders**

WSIS Internet Governance Discussions Going Forward

- **ITU Forum, Geneva Feb. 26 & 27, 2004**
- **UNICT TF Global Forum, NY Mar. 25 & 26, 2004**
 - **UNICT TF Regional Meetings**
- **UN Sec. General WG Creation and Process**

How to Get Involved

- **Businesses - Coordinating Committee of Business Interlocutors:**
 - Ayesha Hassan at the ICC, aha@iccwbo.org
- **Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus**
 - Jeanette Hofmann <jeanette@wz-berlin.de>
 - Adam Peake <ajp@glocom.ac.jp>
 - List-Subscribe:
<<https://ssl.cpsr.org/mailman/listinfo/governance>>

For more information:

www.itu.int/wsis/

www.businessatwsis.net

www.wsis-cs.org

www.wsis-online.net