

You have asked for written contributions that take stock of the 2009 Sharm el-Sheikh IGF and provide suggestions for the agenda and format of the 2010 Vilnius IGF. Below you will find the suggestions from the Canadian Internet Registration Authority (CIRA).

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE 2010 AGENDA

1. Technical discussions (for example DNS redirection, net neutrality) for the non-technical person and how such technical issues drive or impact policy development decisions.
2. Global comparative updates: registry issues, competing Internet regulation models, broadband access, legal updates on causes of action related to the Internet (e.g. defamation of character on the Internet).
3. “Three-strikes” legislation coming into effect in Europe – France, Britain, etc. – and the perspective from those countries who refuse to implement these rules.
4. Explore the topic: The Tyranny of the Single Voice.
 - The Internet’s bottom-up, multi-stakeholder governance model can actually have the reverse of the expected impact. An unaccountable individual can hide under the cover of the grassroots movement and can have disproportionate influence over policy development. For example, with social media and the network effect, an individual can effectively have a piece of legislation overturned. A few voices can get a lot of airtime, without adequately representing the views or needs of the majority. This raises the concern that good policy and decision making can be derailed by the efforts of an individual or a small minority.
 - As a further observation, we would argue that the bottom-up multi-stakeholder model can work as intended – but only with stakeholders who are prepared, educated, have interest and expertise, and adequate resources. This theory supports the capacity building goals of the IGF – with more engagement, education, and involvement, more voices can be added to policy development and prevent the Tyranny of the Single Voice.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE 2010 FORMAT

1. We would like to see the IGF as the starting point for the growth of new ideas – a fertile landscape for policy development. This approach should colour the selection of topics, speakers, and tone of the Forum.
2. Overall comments on the Sharm el-Sheikh IGF: Avoid when possible duplicating subjects; there should be fewer topics, fewer speakers or panelists for each subject; more time to go into more depth; fewer moderators when possible. Because there were so many sessions running simultaneously, it was difficult to choose which session to attend, and some of them went too quickly to allow panelists to finish their presentations or allow sufficient time for questions/comments from the attendees.
3. More western (esp. North American) representation and leadership (especially from governments) should be there – they should be pressed to attend.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any of these suggestions further.

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