

## **auDA recommendations for IGF 2011 agenda**

auDA, the Australian Domain Administrator, is pleased to offer the following contribution to the preparatory process for the IGF 2011.

auDA congratulates the host country of Lithuania, the organisers and the IGF Secretariat for an outstandingly successful IGF 2010 meeting. auDA wishes to thank Mr Nitin Desai, and Mr Markus Kummer, Chair of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group, and Executive Coordinator of the IGF Secretariat for their leadership, and for their nurturing of the IGF process over the past five years.

The adaptability of the IGF was demonstrated in its adoption in 2010 of suggestions for improvement made during the 2009 Sharm el Sheikh meeting. As a result, a main session on Internet Governance for Development was introduced; remote participation was enhanced; and the linkages between main sessions and workshops were strengthened. auDA welcomes the publication by the Secretariat of an Inventory of Best Practices shared through the IGF to date as a significant contribution to the delivery of results through the IGF and to capacity building.

auDA supports the suggestions for the 2011 IGF Agenda made by ICC Basis, and makes the following additional recommendations:

### **Main Sessions**

auDA recommends that the cross-cutting theme of development be strengthened in all main sessions through case studies or examples of good practice in the African region. An example, for the Access and Diversity main session, could be how Internet Exchange Points are cutting the costs of accessing Internet content in Africa.

### **Regional Perspectives**

auDA would like to see the Regional Perspectives session continued, and enhanced. The 2011 session should review local IGF processes' contribution to capacity building in Internet Governance at the local level, either by increasing the number of stakeholders engaged in the issues, or by deepening stakeholders' understanding of Internet Governance issues. It should also consider how local IGFs have influenced the international IGF agenda, and how to strengthen linkages between the local and international processes.

## **Critical Internet Resources**

The Critical Internet Resources session in 2011 should have “the changing environment” as its organising theme. For example:

- How does the growth of Internet-enabled mobile in developing countries affect our understanding of the term Critical Internet Resources?  
According to the ITU<sup>1</sup>, there is 41% mobile penetration in Africa, compared to only 1% fixed broadband penetration, hence in developing countries, access to the Internet is primarily through mobile technologies.
- It was announced on 4 February 2011 that the IANA has allocated the last block of IPv4 addresses<sup>2</sup>. Now that IPv4 depletion is a reality, how ready are developing countries and others for IPv6?
- IDN.IDN deployment a year on. What impact are multilingual domains having on expansion of the multilingual Internet?
- new gTLDs. By the time of the 2011 meeting, it is anticipated that the process to create new gTLDs will have been launched. What do early applications tell us about the future shape of the name space?

## **Workshops and logistics**

The designation of “main session workshops” at the 2010 IGF strengthened the linkages between workshops and main sessions, and assisted participants in choosing which workshops to attend in order to prepare for the main sessions. auDA recommends the continuation of this format.

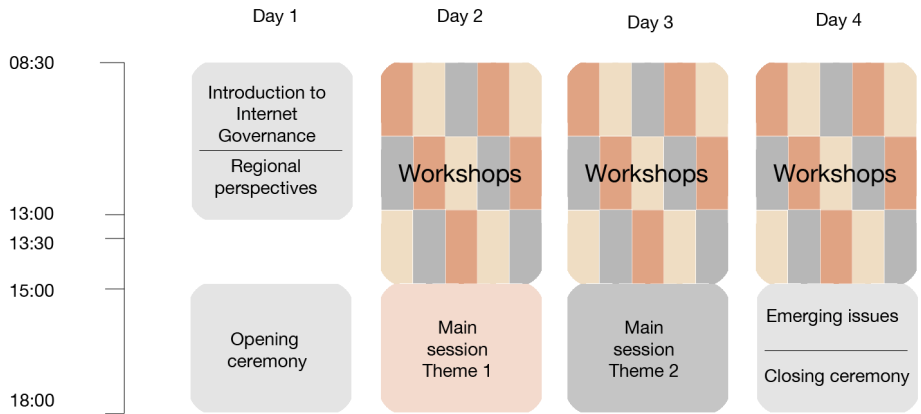
One issue which has so far not been resolved is the clash between workshops and main sessions. This has resulted in key individuals, influencers and experts in the field being unavailable to attend main sessions, because they were committed to workshops which ran at the same time. With the current meeting format, this is inevitable, since participants tend to commit to workshops well in advance of the meetings, and there are a large number of main themes and supporting workshops.

---

<sup>1</sup> ITU, 2010, <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/ict/material/FactsFigures2010.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.zdnet.co.uk/news/networking/2011/02/04/iana-allocates-final-ipv4-address-blocks-40091683/>

auDA suggests that the IGF from now on handles four or five main themes over a two year cycle, thus reducing the number of main sessions scheduled in each IGF meeting. Workshops would continue to be run on *all* IGF themes whether or not there was a main session devoted to them in that year. No workshops would run during those main sessions. For example:



IGF meeting - proposed format

Finally, auDA considers that remote hubs significantly lower barriers of participation for those in developing countries or remote regions. auDA encourages the publication of data about the number of remote participants joining main sessions and workshops, so that the attendance figures include those who attended through remote participation as well as those who physically attended.