



INTERNET SOCIETY CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM INVITATION TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS FOR THE PROGRAMME OF THE 2011 MEETING

7 February 2011

The Internet Society is pleased to offer the following suggestions for the programme of the 2011 meeting of the Internet Governance Forum. These comments benefitted from the results of an extensive consultation with the Internet Society's global membership. We hope they will be useful for the planning for the first IGF of the new mandate.

Overall Themes

The themes that have developed during the first mandate of the IGF continue to be relevant to the community of interests engaged in the Forum. Yet experience has shown that IGF participants think there is too much overlap between the main sessions and the workshops, making it difficult for them to participate in as many sessions as they would wish. For 2011, ISOC recommends reducing the number of main sessions and arranging the program so that no related workshops are scheduled during the main session.

The themes of the main sessions should be well-focussed in order to encourage more in-depth discussions than have been possible at past IGFs. Each session should have an explicit link to the theme of "Internet governance for development", clearly highlighting the development focus put forward by our hosts.

For 2011, ISOC recommends the following as main themes:

1. Critical Internet Resources

Three significant changes have occurred in the Internet governance field in the past year that should be central to a session on this topic in 2011:

- a. **IPv6:** The final allocations of IPv4 addresses have now been made from the IANA pool. This marks a turning point for the Internet. The current IPv4-based network will, of course, continue to function as usual, but we are now clearly living through a generational change. The older or previous generation (IPv4) doesn't go away – and obviously still has a lot to contribute – but it is the newer generation (IPv6) that will carry the future. Quick adoption of IPv6 will strengthen the future Internet by removing clumsy IPv4 work-arounds and allowing the Internet to do what it does best – supporting “permission-less innovation”.

In June, World IPv6 Day will provide a global test flight of IPv6 where major web and networking companies and other industry leaders will enable IPv6 for 24 hours. This will allow the global Internet community to test its IPv6 readiness by exposing potential issues under controlled conditions. World IPv6 Day is meant to motivate organizations across the industry to prepare their services for the transition to IPv6.

Building on what we now know and what will be learned on World IPv6 Day, the IGF CIR session should highlight the impacts and opportunities for the developing world that are coming from the transition to IPv6.

- b. **Security and stability:** The security and stability of the Internet continue to benefit from discussion and sharing of lessons learned. Again in the last year, in addition to the changing generations of addresses, DNSSEC has been implemented in the root, and RPKI is on the horizon. Other security protocols are under discussion and some are being implemented. The Critical Internet Resources session should bring together the multistakeholder community to assess progress that is being made and to compare notes on the way forward, each in their own field of expertise.
- c. **Illegal content:** The practices of DNS blocking and site blocking have emerged as proposed policy, regulatory and legal measures to deal with illegal and undesirable content on the Internet. Yet these practices have the potential to create significant threats to the Internet infrastructure. The Critical Internet Resources session should bring technical experts together with others from the worlds of policy and law enforcement to discuss the technical realities of these proposals, their potential impacts and policy options for addressing the identified problems.

2. Core Values of Internet Governance

At the 2010 IGF, government and Internet technical community participants from Brazil suggested that a discussion about what are the core values of Internet governance could be useful at the IGF. The material offered by the Brazilians offered a starting point for the discussion, although other

stakeholders from other regions would have different views of what constitute core values in this field. Are values of user control, transparency, permission-less innovation, access and freedom of expression still relevant? A main session could look at core values, perhaps inviting all stakeholders to present a case study that would help to keep the discussion grounded rather than theoretical. Recent cases such as the emergence of Wikileaks, the use and restrictions on Internet use in Egypt and other countries might provide useful examples.

3. Internet Governance for Growth and Development

The Internet continues to be a major driver of both social and economic development and growth around the world. Much of the creativity and permission-less innovation that takes place is driven by young people and by entrepreneurs. All stakeholders have a role to play to encourage development and growth, whether through governments' policies and programs, or other stakeholder groups' collaboration programs to offer training, support and guidance, making both youth opportunities and entrepreneurship a true Internet governance issue. Young people have been increasingly involved in IGF, especially over the past two years. The Kenyan hosts for 2011 are planning IGF-related events focusing on similar themes. The IGF should take up this theme, as a main session in 2011, shining a light on the theme of Internet governance for development with this particular emphasis.

Additional Comments

In planning for the 2011 IGF, the Internet Society strongly recommends once again holding a "Regional Perspectives" session before the opening session. The Regional inputs to IGF continue to grow in importance as national and regional IGFs expand in number and influence. The Regional Perspectives session is one way to recognize the work of these volunteer organizers. Planning for main sessions and workshops should seek to incorporate their expertise as an organic component of the program.

Similarly, those working to enable remote participation in the IGF both electronically and in remote hubs have been increasingly successful and professional. The custom of having remote-hub moderators in each session should be continued and encouraged.

The Internet Society looks forward to participating in planning for the 2011 Internet Governance Forum. Internally, we are continuing our focus on developing the next generation of Internet leaders, and will soon launch the 2011 IGF Ambassadors program. ISOC is also open to working with partners to

develop workshops as part of the IGF Nairobi program, in support of the well-established multistakeholder approach.

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About the Internet Society

The Internet Society (ISOC) is a non-profit organization founded in 1992 to provide leadership in Internet related standards, education, and policy. The Internet Society is the organizational home of the Internet Engineering Task Force, the Internet's premier technical standards body. With offices in Washington, D.C., and Geneva, Switzerland, it is dedicated to ensuring the open development, evolution, and use of the Internet for the benefit of people throughout the world. For more information see <http://InternetSociety.org>.