EVOLUTION OF INTERNET GOVERNANCE

Current issues in internet governance

SAIGF 18

28- 29 November 2018,

Durban - South Africa
• 1. Evolution of “Internet governance”
• 2. Issue space and institution mapping
• 3. Governance OF and ON the Internet
• 4. Level of defining and solving issues
• 5. Broaden scope to “ICT governance” for social and economic development
HISTORY: Evolution of Internet Governance

• 1969 – early 1990’s: Building the Internet
  – decentralized institutions, cooperative arrangements
  – Processes for standards, names issues, numbers

• Early 90’s –2002: Commercialization accelerates
  – Acceptable use policies
  – Domain name industry takes off

• 2003 : Entry of governments, WSIS,
  – Governments take Internet seriously
  – WSIS, IGF, National IGFs, Net Mundial
“Internet governance is the development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.”

- Demonstrates inclusivity
- Constructively ambiguous?
MAPPING INTERNET ISSUES: in detail

David Souter – Networking Networks in Internet Public Policy
APC Symposium, Ancona, July
A COMPLEX PICTURE

- Many issues, many institutions
- Rapid technological progress
- Rapid societal impact
- How do we make sense of all this from a governance perspective?
  - Need structure, concepts, models,
- That is the difficult situation that we’re faced with today
GOVERNANCE OF THE INTERNET

- Better defined as Internet administration (IA)
- Largely separate from governance ON the Internet
- Actors are telcos, IETF, ISOC, RIRs, ICANN
- Decentralized functions, cooperative relationships
- Administration requires skill, engineering talent, discipline to keep complex system running
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INTERNET ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS UTILIZE MULTISTAKEHOLDER MODEL (MSM)

- All affected stakeholders to be involved
- Different implementations of MSM
- Challenge to multilateral decision making
- Traditional, between governments
- Multistakeholder approach demands new way of thinking about authority, responsibility
• With respect to Internet administration
• Do organizations have authority to run the net?
• Are organizations sufficiently accountable?
  – Accountability TO whom FOR what, and HOW implemented?
  – Internal and external accountability mechanisms
  – What process to correct for failure?
• What is accountability to the public interest?
  – To whom is an oversight organization accountable?
• This is a major current issue in internet administration
IDENTIFYING WHERE THE ISSUE LIVES

• At what level does the issue exist?
  – Local, national, regional, international?

• Some issues demand international cooperation

• Many (most?) issues are national in scope
  – National IGFs to identify and solve them
  – Importance of multistakeholder approach

• Centrality of national policy and regulatory structure
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Thank you!

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