



Representing the ecosystem of Internet -Bharat Model

CCAIOI Newsletter

August, 2015

Indian submissions on the overall review of the implementation of the WSIS Outcomes by UNGA

Apart from the submission from Government of India (GOI), there were three other submissions on the overall Review of the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes by the United Nations General Assembly. There were two submissions from the civil society -Centre for Internet Society (CIS) and Internet Democracy Project India (IDP); and one from Technical and Academia- Indian Institute of Science. It may be noted that overall, there were 74 submissions, 21 from government, 26 from civil society, 9 from Technical and Academia, 9 Private sector and 9 intergovernmental organizations.

On the question regarding **what should be the priorities** in seeking to achieve WSIS Outcomes and progress towards the Information Society, taking into account emerging trends, **GOI mentioned** review of the financial mechanism, review the issue of transfer of relevant ICTs to developing countries, review of the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF), review the Technology Facilitation Mechanism, promoting affordable internet which includes cost of access, devices and other assistive technologies which are required for enabling access; promoting Multilingualism, strengthening IGF, deepening Multistakeholder model, Cyber security and crime, developing framework for role of ICT in natural disaster and calamities should be the priorities.

On the same question **CIS** stated that Digital literacy, multilingualism and addressing privacy and user data related issues need urgent attention. Enabling increased citizen participation renewing the IGF mandate and giving it teeth by adopting indicators for development and progress, periodic review and working towards tangible outcomes would be beneficial to achieving the goal of a connected information society

IDP stated that bridging the digital divides , gender divide and the growing qualitative access gap between developing and developed countries; countering, or curtailing, the growing dominance of a small number of corporations on the Internet, ending the violations of human rights, as well as the undermining of existing protections of human rights, by states and corporate actors alike, facilitated by the Internet and technology more broadly; making Internet governance processes genuinely multistakeholder by adequate representation of the voices should be a priority. They stated that both the national and global levels, this will require a substantive recalibration, and sometimes development, of policy in accordance with principles that safeguard the free and open nature of the Internet, such as net neutrality, and with international human rights frameworks.

With regards to the **outcome documents**, **GOI** stated that the it should be considered a “living document” able to stand the test of time and ever evolving. There should be scope for revisions and amendments with growing needs of the information society. The outcome document should also lay down certain guidelines or tests or standards for evaluating and reviewing multi-stakeholder bodies which are responsible for critical Internet resources and policy making on issues related to Internet governance. It was also stated that the outcome document should reflect the aspirations of the unconnected and the future of the Internet and its users and aim to address policy gaps.

CIS stated that the outcome document should be a resolution of the UN General Assembly, with high level policy statements and adopted agreements to work towards identified indicators. It should stress the urgency of reforms needed for ICT governance that is democratic, respectful of human rights and social justice and

promotes participatory policymaking. The language should promote the use of technologies and institutional architectures of governance that ensure users' rights over data and information and recognize the need to restrict abusive use of technologies including those used for mass surveillance. Further, the outcome document should underscore the relevance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, including civil, political, social, economic, and cultural rights, in the Information Society. They also stated that the outcome document should acknowledge that certain issues such as security, ensuring transnational rights, taxation, and cross-jurisdictional issues may need greater international cooperation and should include concrete steps on how to proceed on these issues.

IDP mentioned that the outcome document should be a political declaration that addresses elements such as reinstating the focus on development strongly, confirming substantive support for principles that safeguard the free and open nature of the Internet, such as net neutrality, and for international human rights frameworks; fully endorse multistakeholder approaches to Internet, strengthen the Internet Governance Forum. IDP states that the outline on action plan, or roadmap, consisting of concrete steps should be developed, to ensure that multistakeholder processes are put into place to address each of the challenges that are hampering the realization of the WSIS vision. The process should be open and inclusive, with meaningful participation possible for all stakeholder groups, and will fully take into account the views of all stakeholders, both in its outcomes and throughout the preparatory process.

In their submission for increasing the reach of ICT amongst the weaker sections and least developing nations, **IIS** suggested to create a new roadmap for WSIS Children.

All the submissions can be viewed from the following link: <http://unpan3.un.org/ws10/nonpapersubmissions>

7331 Comments submitted on MyGov on Net Neutrality

The government had invited comments from the public on the Department of Telecommunication's (DOTs) committee report on Net Neutrality in order to help them take an appropriate decision on the subject. The last date for submitting comments was initially 15th August, 2015, which was later extended to 20th August, 2015.

There were 7331 comments submitted on the Committee Report on Net Neutrality. While everyone supported that the internet should be open, the views submitted were varied in terms of definition and regulatory purview. There were some who suggested that messaging services should not be under the regulatory purview, there were others who supported the committee recommendations. While some felt that zero rating should be allowed looking at the current internet penetration in the country, there were others who opposed it.

As shared in our previous newsletter, the report suggests that Internet services dealing with messaging should not be interfered with regulatory instruments. However regulation for communication services which use VoIP needs to be deliberated. While the report suggests that Trai should look at Zero rating on case to case basis, on the subject of Internet.org, the report mentions that content and application providers cannot be permitted to act as gatekeepers. While the reports mentions that apps including messaging apps do not require any licensing, domestic VoIP however is recommended to be licensed. The committee recommends legitimate traffic management but is against app specific traffic management. The report also suggests that managed and enterprises services can be exempt from Net neutrality requirements. While the report mentions on search neutrality, it did not deliberate on the same. The report mentions that as security is paramount and to ensure security related compliance by content and service providers, there is the need to work out the process through inter ministerial consultations.

CCAIOI has submitted comments in MyGov related to Zero rating (Recommendation 18) of the DoT Committee Report. In its submission CCAIOI emphasized that fact that Internet is the best leveller for any society and known for empowerment of weaker stakeholders. In a country with a population of 1.2 Billion and an abysmally low Internet penetration of approx. 16%, where there is a stark contrast between the haves and have-nots, **free access could help those who would otherwise have no means to avail the benefits of Internet.** Since **adoption is a challenge, there is a need for stimulators and incentives in every form** including free services being proposed by Telcos and Content providers.

As an association, CCAIOI has always advocated offering everything for Free to the community - Free Internet, Free digital literacy, Free services, etc. and CCAIOI believes, the **committee should be encouraging the operators and internet companies to provide free internet services** to every nook and corner of the country, rather than discouraging such activities as creating "walled gardens"

CCAIOI further shared that all forms of Zero rating are not harmful and the risk of creating Walled Gardens by providing Free Internet is negligible in the present scenario. Also contrary to belief, the telecom providers do not make any money in non-commercial zero-priced zero-ratings and free service providers enhance consumer benefits while promoting their website.

The association further submitted that it is an established fact that Internet will play a vital role in filling up the divides especially in facilitating equal opportunities for Rural India, Bharat. For years together, Internet was promoted in urban India by Government, Private operators, educational institutes, Content providers and other stakeholders. As Rural India has scarce resources, such promotions especially **free services is a must and would play a vital role for adoption. 'Free matters' especially for the new adopter.** Moreover giving free helps in adoption and is a fundamental part of the product lifecycle. Also, economic principle of Customer Incentivisation is older than Internet and disturbing it over myths would be inappropriate and can have far-reaching implications for the users who need encouragement to adopt internet. Every product and service has lifecycle stages and the **"Choice" as a stage comes later than "Adoption" and this should not be mixed up** by the vested interest advocates who discourage "Free offers" by any service providers especially, by showing the fear that internet would get into trouble because of such freebies. Internet is bigger than any such overstated concerns on big service providers. It was, is and will remain the **leveler** despite the sizes of the online service providers.

CCAIOI also stated that **Indian user should not be underestimated.** No one can shape their choices and opinions, or decide for them, as being claimed by some sections. It is after all the **user's choice** whether they want to use what is offered for free or not. Just as a user has the right to opt for a service, they even have the freedom to opt out. Thus claims made that once a user uses free services, they will not be able to change from these services is completely misleading. Assuming that once a new user gets introduced to the internet, they will limit their access to the first website they were introduced to is incorrect. Once a user gets introduced to the internet, they will automatically be keen to view more services and sites and **ultimately prefer websites or services beneficial to them and not be limited to just one or two sites.**

Lastly, the association reiterated that we **do not have the right to stop new users from rural Bharat from availing free services** when we, the privileged, have reaped the benefits of Internet.

DeitY organizes a Round Table Discussion on New GTLD

Department of Electronics & IT (DeitY) held a roundtable discussion on New Generic Top Level Domain Programme: Challenges and Opportunities for India, on the 19th of August 2015. The event was chaired by Additional Secretary, Dr. Ajay Kumar.

The aim of the roundtable was to seek inputs from stakeholders to gather various valuable inputs for the following sub-themes from relevant and interested stakeholders on the benefits and opportunities offered by the new gTLD Programme for enterprises in India; Identification of challenges and reasons for low participation of India in the program; Strategies to overcome these challenges; how the auction proceeds of the new gTLDs can be utilized in enhancing the program in developing countries, particularly India; and identification of other avenues for promoting India's participation in the program at a wider scale.

The meeting was attended by Registrars, Law Enforcement Agencies, Civil Society, Academia, Private sector experts as well as Government functionaries. CCAOI too participated in the round table.

During the round table, few of the concerns shared by participants pertaining to the low adoption of the existing new gTLD domain names include, technological challenges such as browsers not accepting new gTLDs, issues in terms of awareness and need for capacity building; organisations limiting the new gTLDs as mere trademark protection, IPR challenges, need to review the INDRP policy, etc.

Round Table Conference on the IANA Transition and ICANN Accountability Proposals organized by DeitY

On the 31st of August, 2015, Department of Electronics & IT (DeitY) held a roundtable discussion on Consolidated IANA Stewardship Transition Proposal and CCWG Accountability 2nd Draft Proposal on Work Stream 1 Recommendations. The event was moderated by Director, Rahul Gosain.

There was a discussion on the First compiled draft proposal published by the IANA Stewardship Coordination Group (ICG), the questions where ICG has asked for comments and the concerns from Indian perspective.

Subsequently there was a discussion on the second draft published by the Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG-Accountability), which is also seeking public comments.

The meeting was attended by stakeholders from Government, Industry, Law Enforcement Agencies, Civil Society, Academia and Registrars. CCAOI too participated in the round table.

During the round table the stakeholders raised concerns pertaining to Jurisdiction, future representation of new user communities in ICANN such as new users from the developing world, non internet users etc., role of VeriSign post transition, the VeriSign NTIA agreement, low participation of Indians in global forums.

The attendees also agreed that there should be a roadmap for encouraging more participation from India in Internet Governance forums. The participants were also encouraged to submit their comments on both the drafts to ICG and CCWG Teams and DeitY.

NTIA extends ICANN contract till September 2016

On August 17th, 2016, Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information and NTIA Administrator Lawrence E. Strickling, announced that the IANA contract with ICANN would be extended by a year till 30th September 2016. This timeline was arrived at based on the community feedback that the tentative estimated time to develop the transition document, factoring in the time for public comment, U.S. Government evaluation and implementation of the proposals, could be up to September 2016.

Strickling further added that if required, NTIA has options to extend the contract for up to three additional years.

For Source: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2015/update-iana-transition>

Update on the IANA Transition and ICANN Accountability

The **IANA Stewardship Coordination Group (ICG)** has published their **First compiled draft proposal**, combining the proposals submitted by the names, number and protocol community. The proposal can be viewed from the following link: <https://www.ianacg.org/icg-files/documents/IANA-stewardship-transition-proposal-EN.pdf>

The **draft proposal is open for public comments**. There are 12 questions where ICG has sought public comments. The first four are related to the proposal as a whole with respect to completeness and clarity, compatibility and interoperability, accountability and workability. The next six questions are related to the parameters which NTIA has laid out for the transition proposal. The eleventh question is related to the accuracy of the ICG report and executive summary in terms of reflecting all the aspects. The last question is related to any other comments which the public might want to share. . The **last day** to submit comments is **8th September 2015**. The comments can be submitted using the **online form link: <https://comments.ianacg.org/form>** or sent by email to **public-comments@ianacg.org**.

The **Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG-Accountability)** has published their **second draft recommendations of Workstream 1** and is seeking public comments. The second draft can be viewed from the following link: <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/ccwg-draft-2-proposal-work-stream-1-recs-03aug15-en.pdf>

There are three questions on which CCWG Accountability Group is seeking comments. These include whether the CCWG Accountability proposal will enhance ICANN accountability, are there elements in the proposal which will prevent from approving its transmission to Chartering Organizations, whether the proposal meets the requirements set forward by the CWG-Stewardship. The comments need to be submitted to **comments-ccwg-accountability-03aug15@icann.org**. The **last date** for submitting comments is **12th August, 2015**.

ISOC Delhi Meeting

ISOC Delhi Chapter held a meeting on 12th August, 2015. At the meeting, there was a presentation on the 2nd draft proposal of CCWG on ICANN Accountability by Ms. Renu Sirothiya, NIXI, followed by a presentation on software Defined Networks (SDNs) by Dr. Karan Singh from IGNOU.

The presentation of the CCWG Accountability proposal, touched on the ICANN structure, the advisory committees and supporting organizations of ICANN, the four building blocks of the second accountability draft, the key propositions and the concerns being raised by the community with respect to this draft.

The presentation on SDNs started with an introduction to multicasting network; the TCP/IP model; types of casting; and definition, structure, growth, need, classification and advantage of SDNs.

Both the discussions were followed by a question and answer session of the speakers with the attendees.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- Chevening-TCS Scholarship has announced a 12 week fully funded residential programme delivered at Cranfield University at the Defence Academy of the United Kingdom. This fellowship is aimed at mid-career professionals with demonstrable leadership potential in the field of cyber security or cyber policy in India. This programme provides fellows with an understanding of policy and legislative approaches in cyber security and its implications for national security, commercial opportunity, crime prevention, and the right to privacy. The last date for application is 4th September, 2015. To know more on the fellowship refer the following link: <http://www.chevening.org/fellowships/india>
- IT for Change, in partnership with Society for Knowledge Commons, Ideosync Media Combine and Digital Empowerment Foundation, is organizing a workshop on "Taking Internet to rural communities: Last Mile Models for the National Optical Fiber Network", at India International Centre, New Delhi, on 5th September, 2015.
- The Berkman Center for Internet and Society has announced a student writing competition to identify innovative multistakeholder governance groups and help them understand the conditions under which they are most effective. They are seeking original papers (8 to 12 pages, single spaced) from any student or post doctoral scholars, that help them better understand innovative, globally diverse governance groups. Submissions will be due September 15, 2015, and the full details about the competition and submission are available here: <https://cyber.law.harvard.edu/node/98897>. From the submitted case studies, top three would be selected. First place will receive a cash stipend of \$ 4000; second place will receive \$3000; and third place will receive \$2000. Additional awards for honorable mentions may be given at the discretion of the Berkman Center. For further details contact : rbudish@cyber.law.harvard.edu

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