



UN General Assembly concluded the WSIS+10 review

The High-level meeting of the General Assembly on WSIS+10 review, concluded on 16th December, 2015, at the United Nations Headquarters, with the adoption of the WSIS+10 Resolution.

The resolution is divided into: Preamble (1-12); ICT for development (12-20), which includes, bridging the digital divide (21-27); enabling environment (28-33); financial mechanisms (34-40); Human rights in the information society (41-47); Building Confidence and Security in the use of ICTs (48-54); Internet governance (55-63) including enhanced cooperation (64-65); Follow up and review (66-71).

Development and digital divide were underlying themes in the WSIS+10 Process. Development today is mostly linked to Digital development is one of the core messages of the resolution. In fact the resolution is linked to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Human rights online are universal, indivisible, interdependent, and interrelated, is another message. In fact the resolution states 'Human rights offline apply equally online'.

Importance of cyber security and its impact on today's society is also highlighted in the document. It is recognized that the Internet is part of the critical infrastructure of modern society and that it needs to be protected by enhanced cooperation among states and other stakeholders. In fact India had suggested the need for a comprehensive and balanced UN convention on cyber security.

Further, the IGF mandate has been increased for 10 years. It would continue to exist under the UN umbrella, but function in a multi stakeholder manner.

The draft resolution can be viewed from the following link http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/L.33&referer=https://t.co/QauJe5c1Wn&Lang=E

TRAI Consultation Differential Pricing of Data Services

On 9th of December, 2015, TRAI released their consultation paper on Differential Pricing of data services, seeking community inputs on four questions – whether differential pricing should be allowed; if allowed what measures should be adopted to ensure that the principles of non discrimination, transparency, affordable internet access, competition and market entry and innovation are addressed; what are the alternatives available; any other issue to be considered. The last date for submitting comments was extended to 7th January 2016 and

counter comments to 14th January, 2016. The consultation paper can be viewed from the following link: http://traigov.in/Content/ConDis/20761_0.aspx

With the impending dates of the TRAI consultation paper the debate is reaching a frenzy. On one hand, there are those who suggest that differential plans are against the principle of net neutrality and have created campaigns and video roast against a popular networking site, on the other hand, there are others who firmly believe that while they support net neutrality, the first priority as a nation should be to connect the 74% Indians who are still unconnected.

CCAOI in their submission has stated that TSPs should be allowed to offer differential pricing for data usage of different services. Further stating that Zero rating plans, which do not harm the openness of the Internet nor have any negative impact on access and competition in the long run, should be promoted, since such plans help in increasing internet access and provide benefits to consumers. CCAOI believes TRAI 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”. Zero rating is one of the ways to increase internet access and adoption. Other approaches for encouraging internet access should also be encouraged. Additionally, rather than evidence of harm, such offerings have boosted access in most areas of the world where they have been implemented and therefore should be encouraged so that India can achieve its digital dream of connecting and empowering each citizen in the country. Our approach therefore should not be to shut down Zero rating, but to improve them and encourage them.

The CCAOI submission can be viewed from the following link: <http://www.ccaoi.in/UI/links/fwresearch/CCAOI%20submission%20to%20TRAI%20on%20%20Differential%20Pricing%20for%20Data%20Services.pdf>

IANA Transition & ICANN Accountability

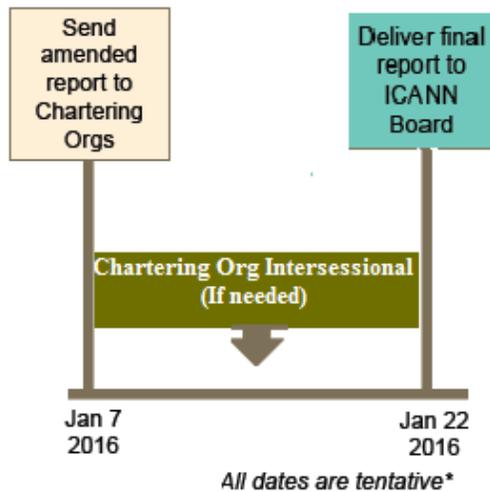
The third draft proposal on work stream 1 released by **CCWG Accountability**, suggests creating an Empowered Community who is granted the status of a Designator (a recognized role in law), that is based on a simple legal vehicle and will act on the instructions of ICANN stakeholder groups to exercise the Community Powers. For further details on the third draft proposal, refer to our previous report <http://www.ccaoi.in/UI/links/fwnewsletter/Nov%202015%20CCAOI%20Newsletter.pdf>

This proposal received, 101 comments including 5 submissions and 1 joint submission from India. The break up being, Government of India, Civil Society: CCAOI, CCG and ITFC (through Just Net Coalition); and Individuals: Sivasubramanian, Renu Sirothiya.

The ICANN Board too have commented on the draft and raised their concerns. These include the right of the Sole Designator to inspect corporate records, the Mission Statement and limitations on ICANN powers contained therein and the language used for human rights. There are few who fear that this may delay the transition by two to three months as has happened in the past.

The detailed submissions can be viewed from the following link <http://forum.icann.org/lists/comments-draft-ccwg-accountability-proposal-30nov15/index.html>

As the next step CCWG Accountability will be sending the amended report to Chartering organizations by 7th Jan, 2016 and then deliver the final report to ICANN board around 22nd Jan, 2016.



Source: ICANN

The **IANA Stewardship Transition Coordination Group (ICG)** on the other hand, has finalized the IANA Stewardship Transition Proposal, with one exception, the names proposal, which is dependent on the ICANN Accountability, whose proposal, is being drafted by the Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG) is yet to be finalized.

The ICG plans to send the finalized proposal to NTIA, via the ICANN Board, after getting a confirmation from the Cross Community Working Group on IANA Stewardship Transition Proposal on Naming Related Functions (CWG), that its accountability requirements have been met. For more details refer our earlier article in <http://www.ccaoi.in/UI/links/fwnewsletter/CCAUI%20Newsletter%20October%202015.pdf>

Round Table Discussions organized by DeiT Y

The Department of Electronics & IT (DeiT Y) organized two round table discussions this month. The first roundtable discussion was on the **use of 3-letter Country Code as Top Level Domain (ccTLD)** on the 8th of December 2015. The second round table discussion, which was held on 10th December, 2015, was on **CCWG Accountability 3rd Draft Proposal**. Both the events were chaired by Joint Secretary Mr. Mittal.

The aim of the roundtables was to seek inputs from stakeholders on the 3 letter ccTLD draft and the 3rd draft on ICANN Accountability. The meeting was attended by Civil Society, Industry Associations, Academia, Private sector experts as well as Government functionaries. CCAOI too participated in the round table.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

- GSMA's Capacity Building in Mobile Sector Regulation initiative in cooperation with Diplo Foundation has announced a seven-week online course on Children and Mobile Technology. Last date for application is 11th January, 2016. For more details visit: <http://www.diplomacy.edu/courses/children>
- The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in cooperation with DiploFoundation has launched a 12 week online course on Humanitarian Diplomacy. Last date for application is 11th January, 2016. For more details visit: <http://diplomacy.us5.list-manage2.com/track/click?u=89e7299f9fe54eed66d45cf3d&id=1bb14c25bb&e=6a37b6f804>

- CII & India@75 jointly are organizing a “Hackathon” on 20 – 21 January 2016 in Pune. The India@75 Hackathon will have two categories: App Development and Game Development. For more details visit hackathon.indiaat75.in
- The Asia Pacific Regional Internet Conference on Operational Technologies (APRICOT) which would be held from 15th February - 26th March 2016, Auckland, New Zealand is now seeking contributions for Presentations and Tutorials. The last date for submission is 26th January, 2016. For further details visit: <http://papers.apricot.net/user/login.php?event=34>
- The 24th Convergence India 2016 will be held from the 20th-22nd January 2016, at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. To register, visit <http://www.convergenceindia.org/>
- IGF 2016 MAG has invited nominations. The last date for submission is 1st February, 2016. For more details visit: <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/magabout/mag-renewal-announcement>
- The Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) is now seeking proposals for Pre-Events/Workshop with the overarching theme "A New Internet Era". The APrIGF event would be held from 27 - 29 July 2016 at National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (NTUST) with pre-events on Day 0 (26 July) and a new 2-day Asia Pacific School of Internet Governance (APSIG) before. The online submission form is available at <http://2016.aprifg.asia/program/> and the Workshop Proposal Submission Deadline is 2nd Feb, 2016. For more details visit <http://2016.aprifg.asia/program/themes/>
- Nominations for three positions on the APNIC Executive Council are now open. Nominations are due by 8 February 2016. For more information on the role of the EC and election information, please visit: <https://2016.apricot.net/elections>

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