



Cairo, Egypt
18 May 2009

REPORT

INET AFRICA REGIONAL CONFERENCE CAIRO, EGYPT

“IGF Sharm El-Sheikh: An Opportunity to Foster Regional Internet Governance”

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The INET Africa Regional Conference was organized by the Internet Society in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt to explore emerging issues of regional Internet governance in preparation for the upcoming IGF 2009 which will be held in Africa at Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The meeting was held on the 18th of May 2009 in Cairo Egypt under the theme: *“IGF Sharm El-Sheikh: An Opportunity to Foster Regional Internet Governance”*.

The INET Africa meeting brought together stakeholders from across the African Internet community to foster productive dialogue on common issues. Speakers were experts drawn from both the technical and policy areas who presented on themes that cut across various critical current issues including Internet backbone development, the importance of exchange points as a part of national infrastructure, IPv6 addressing, multilingualism, and the benefits of the Internet's open architecture.

The meeting attracted approximately 75 participants who included leading African and international technologists and policy makers. The meeting benefited greatly from the presence of the AfNOG and AfriNIC meetings, two organisations that have been one of the driving forces of African Internet development and have long enjoyed a close relationship with the Internet Society. The meeting was graced by the presence of Mr. Mahmoud El-Gowini, Advisor to the Minister of Communications and Information Technology.

The meeting was panel-based, where each panel discussed a particular issue. The panel on 'Setting the Scene' discussed the IGF as a multistakeholder process, the IGF themes and the IGF in Sharm El Sheikh as a milestone for Africa. The second panel focused on 'Addressing the Needs and Challenges of Internet Governance in Africa' and discussed the availability and resilience of regional Internet backbones, Internet exchange points as well as availability & affordability as barriers to access. The panel on 'the Internet as an Opportunity for All' dealt with issues of IPv6 and its financial implications for African countries, ensuring the open architecture of the Internet and multilingualisation of the Internet. The fourth session was on 'National and Regional IGF Experiences' where presentations were made on the UK IGF experience, the EuroDIG experience and the Kenya & East Africa IGF experience. The final session was on 'Sharm El-Sheikh & the Way Forward'. Speakers in this session gave a summary of the meeting, highlighted the

importance of the IGF process in general but with special reference to IGF 2009 in Sharm El-Sheikh and the opportunities it presented for Africa.

2. INTRODUCTION

A. Preamble

The INET Africa Regional Conference was organized by the Internet Society in collaboration with the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt to explore emerging issues of regional Internet governance. The meeting was held back-to-back with the African Network Operators Group (AfNOG) and African Network Information Centre (AfriNIC) meetings, which were both celebrating their tenth meetings.

With the United Nations' Internet Governance Forum (IGF) scheduled to meet in Sharm El Sheikh - Egypt in November 2009, this INET meeting presented an ideal opportunity for stakeholders from across the African Internet community to come together and foster productive dialogue on common issues.

The agenda of the one-day interactive meeting included an important introduction to the multistakeholder nature and processes of the IGF, which was followed by a drill down of key issues facing the African Internet community, such as backbone development, the importance of exchange points as a part of national infrastructure, IPv6 addressing, multilingualism, and the benefits of the Internet's open architecture. The theme of the forum was "*IGF Sharm El-Sheikh: An Opportunity to Foster Regional Internet Governance*".

The meeting took place on the 18th of May 2009, in Cairo, Egypt, and was hosted by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology of Egypt.

B. Structure of the Meeting

The INET Africa meeting brought together stakeholders from across the African Internet community to foster productive dialogue on common issues. Speakers were experts drawn from both the technical and policy areas who presented on themes that cut across various critical current issues including Internet backbone development, the importance of exchange points as a part of national infrastructure, IPv6 addressing, multilingualism, and the benefits of the Internet's open architecture.

The meeting was panel-based, where each panel discussed a particular issue. Some of the items discussed during the panel sessions include:

- Setting the Scene of the IGF;

- Addressing the Needs and Challenges of Internet Governance in Africa;
- The Internet as an Opportunity for All;
- National and Regional Internet Governance Forum Experiences; and,
- Sharm El-Sheikh (IGF 2009) and the Way Forward.

C. Meeting Participants

The meeting attracted approximately 75 participants who included leading African and international technologists and policy makers. The meeting benefited greatly from the presence of the AfNOG and AfriNIC meetings, two organisations that have been one of the driving forces of African Internet development and have long enjoyed a close relationship with the Internet Society.

3. MEETING PROCEEDINGS

A. Session I: Opening Ceremony

The opening session was moderated by Ms. Carmen Dell'Erba from Internet Society who welcomed participants and introduced the speakers for the opening session. She set the pace by reminding participants about the theme of the meeting and asking them to make the meeting interactive.

“Welcome & Introduction”: Mr. Mahmoud El-Gowini, Advisor to the Minister of Communications and Information Technology

In his welcome remarks, the Advisor to the Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Mr. Mahmoud El-Gowini, welcomed participants to Egypt on behalf of the Minister.

In his speech, he identified the Internet as a key pillar and indispensable component of both the global and national information and knowledge society as well as a catalyst for development.

Mr. El-Gowini noted the Ministers' keenness on the development of the Internet in Egypt and cited various initiatives that the Minister has been involved in, including; being a former member of the ISOC Board of Trustees, a former ISOC Vice President of Chapters, and a co-founder of the Egyptian ISOC chapter. He further alluded to the early efforts of the African group of Internet experts and their collaborative work, which has equally advanced the development of the Internet in Africa and has resulted in many successful initiatives and organisation such as AfriNIC, AfNOG among others.

Mr. El-Gowini noted that the meeting would be examining the challenges and opportunities facing African nations regarding Internet Governance and that discussions would help in setting the scene for African countries in preparation of the upcoming Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Sharm El-Sheikh later in the year. He alluded to ***Africa on the Road to Athens***, the first meeting that sought to coordinate African needs, stances and contributions before the inaugural meeting of the IGF in Athens.

Finally, Mr. El-Gowini noted that the IGF has continued to present itself as an excellent platform for multistakeholder interactions and exchanges and thanked ISOC for the continued support that it has accorded Africa over the years before wishing the meeting success.

“Opening Address”: Mr. Dawit Bekele, on behalf of Mr. Jon McNerney, Chief Operating Officer of the Internet Society

In his speech, Mr. McNerney noted that this INET was the successor of the legendary INETs that formed the first Internet technologists around the world in general, and Africa in particular. He noted the instrumental role that these technologists have played in bringing the Internet to their countries thus insuring its development. He also took the opportunity to celebrate the 10th anniversary of AfNOG.

Mr. McNerney gave a background of the Internet Society (ISOC) and reiterated ISOC’s dedication to ensuring the open development, evolution and use of the Internet for the benefit of the people throughout the world. He noted the role of ISOC not only as a clearing-house for the Internet information and education but also as a facilitator and coordinator of Internet-related initiatives around the world.

Further, he noted that ISOC has more than 80 organisation, more than 28,000 individual members and over 80 chapters around the world and that ISOC has created regional bureaus to better serve the regional Internet community. He gave the examples of the three regional bureaus established in the last three years: one for Latin America and Caribbean, another for Africa and a third for South and South-east Asia. He also noted that 19 African countries had established chapters, many of whom are making significant contributions towards the development of Internet in their countries.

He recognised Egypt as among the early adopts of the Internet Society, noting that the Egyptian ISOC chapter was among the most successful. He however noted that ISOC Egypt was currently not as active as it used to be and that he looked forward to its revival. He recognised the interest shown by the young Egyptians who are inspired by what ISOC Egypt had done in the past and who want to revive it to tackle today’s challenges of the Internet.

Finally, he thanked the co-organisers and partners of the INET Africa meeting, more specifically the Ministry of Communications and Information technology, Nermine El Saadany, Christine Arida and their teams.

B. Session II: Setting the Scene

This session was moderated by Ms. Manal Ismail from the National Telecom Regulatory Authority, Egypt, who introduced the panelists

and read out their profiles. Ms. Ismail also noted that the aim of the session is to set the scene to ensure that there is a common understanding of the IGF process, nature and themes.

“The IGF: A Multistakeholder Process”: Mr. Markus Kummer, Executive Coordinator of the IGF Secretariat

Mr. Kummer reminded participants that the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was a result of the 2nd World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) held in Tunis, Tunisia, and that the purpose of forming the IGF was to create a Multi Stakeholder platform for discussing Internet public policy and governance. He noted that the IGF is intended to provide governments with a platform where they could invite other stakeholders as equals in discussing Internet matters.

Mr. Kummer noted that three IGF meetings had already been held and that the IGF was now in the fourth year of its provisional five (5) year mandate. Further, he noted that the meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh was key as it would be a consultative meeting on the “desirability of the continuation of the Forum” that would be reflected in the United Nations (UN) Secretary General’s recommendations to the UN Member States on the extension, or not, of the IGF mandate.

He informed participants that the IGF was a ‘decision shaping’ organ and not a ‘decision making’ organ and that the IGF aims at helping decision-making bodies shape decisions. He further noted the role of the IGF in bringing together Telcos and Internet management bodies as a means to foster dialogue at the regional and international level.

He spoke about the IGF preparatory meeting in Geneva held a week before the INET Africa meeting and noted that some delegates felt that the IGF had not achieved its mandate. He took this opportunity to reiterate that the IGF was a forum for discussion, and therefore not equipped to take decisions. However, it had already had impact in terms of encouraging multistakeholder processes, not least at the national and regional levels. Further, Mr. Kummer gave a synopsis of the IGF preparatory process, noting that some of the agendas that had been identified for IGF 2009 included critical Internet resources, the relationships between security and openness. As well as access and diversity, Internet governance in light of the WSIS principles, the impact of social networks and the way forward for the IGF, among others.

Mr. Kummer further noted some of the WSIS key principles, among them Internet governance as a multilateral process involving governments, private sector, academia and civil society as well as the people centered, development oriented information society.

Finally, Mr. Kummer noted that IGF should not be seen as an end in itself, but as a means towards achieving overarching development objectives, such as the Millenium Development Goals (MDGs).

“Understanding IGF Themes”: Mr. Jovan Kurbalija, Diplo Foundation

Mr. Kurbalija started by giving an analogy of a Somali pirate comparing it to the challenges facing Internet governance. He noted that Internet governance issues arise from a breakdown or disintegration of international regulations and/or policies.

On policy, he noted that any policy has consequences and thus there was a need to involve and/or consult as many players as possible during the policy development process. He noted that stakeholders should own governance solutions and that this was one of the IGF agendas. He gave the example of the Internet management model which was bottom-up and all inclusive.

Finally, Mr. Kurbalija noted that the interests of the various Internet stakeholders were interdependent and as such reiterated the need for inclusive negotiations and governance in decision-making noting that this would enhance ownership of governance and policy making. Mr. Kurbalija also noted the need to communicate the success of the IGF.

“IGF Sharm: A Milestone for Africa”: Dr. Nii Quaynor, AfNOG Co-convenor

Dr. Quaynor celebrated the 10th anniversary of AfNOG, the journey from Cape town (the South) to Cairo (the North) as well as the role of the AfNOG workshops and the IGF meetings in sharing experiences and knowledge. He further recalled the first Internet governance meeting held in Cotonou, Benin, in 1998. The meeting was dubbed ‘the Africa Internet Governance Conference’ and saw the birth of the Af* organisations including AfNOG and AfriNIC.

Dr. Quaynor then noted the need for Africa to exploit the IGF meeting in Sharm El-Sheikh by addressing and setting Africa’s agenda in Internet governance matters.

He also noted that Africa would benefit from efficient thinking, partly catalyzed by the global financial crisis. He further said that Africa should localize the IGF and embrace the IGF principles, especially the Multi Stakeholder Partnership (MSP) model. He noted the role of the MSP model in encouraging people to contribute and stressed on the fact that a bottom-up approach should be adopted if the MSP model was to make sense.

Dr. Quaynor also spoke about the need for Africa to strengthen academic institutions, capacity building forums and education networks.

Finally, he noted that Africa should take note of the role and importance of mobile technology and address the challenges facing the same. On IGF 2009, Dr. Quaynor spoke of the need for Africa to harmonise its position on Internet governance issues prior to the meeting in Sharm.

Questions/Comments from the participants:

Mr. Abdulahi Jahi from Senegal sought to know the concrete results of the IGF. In response, Mr. Markus Kummer of the IGF Secretariat reiterated that the IGF was a forum for policy dialogue and that it wasn't a decision making body. On the achievements of the IGF, Mr. Kummer noted that the IGF has had an indirect impact on decision making, and gave the examples of how some governments have now adopted a multi stakeholder approach in decision making, especially at the policy development level. He however noted that it wasn't easy to track the impact of the IGF. He also noted that 16 out of 17 feedback comments received through the IGF website were positive about the success of the IGF. Ms. Manal Ismail noted that since the IGF was not a decision making body, it should be measured by its impact.

Mr. Ashok B. Radhakisson noted the need for Africa to widen participation in the IGF, especially if its mandate is to be extended. He noted that the IGF has a mandate to push specific agendas to the decision-making bodies, especially at the global level, and cited the example of cybersecurity and cross border legislation.

Another participant sought to know the difference between Af* forums and research networks. Dr. Nii Quaynor clarified the role of the various forums noting that the role of Af* forums was to develop initial capacity, which would in turn enhance the success of research networks. Further, Dr. Quaynor noted that Af* forums presented a forum where the technical community could share experiences and knowledge, ultimately enhancing research networks.

Mr. McTim Guinness sought to know whether AfriNIC had embraced the spirit of the IGF. Mr. Kummer responded by saying that the Internet community in general had met the various score cards and that AfriNIC had not only embraced a multistakeholder approach in

its governance but that it was also all inclusive in its stakeholder composition.

Various participants spoke of the need to measure the success of the IGF through the issues it discusses and that there was a need to not only 'act' but also listen and share experiences before acting.

Mr. Adiel Akplogan noted that the Internet was a collaborative effort and that Africa should use the IGF to not only discuss common issues but also seek to find solutions to these issues.

Ms. Manal Ismail sought to know what the IGF agenda would be if its term was to be extended. In response, Mr. Kurbalija said that the IGF agenda would probably move towards socio-economic issues.

In conclusion, Dr. Quaynor noted the need to remain pragmatic. He said that at times, the process is the result and gave the example of how governments adopted the multistakeholder model **during** the WSIS (Tunis) preparations.

C. Session III: Internet Governance in Africa: Addressing Needs and Challenges

This session was moderated by Dr. Sherif Geneina from the National Telecom Regulatory Authority, Egypt. Dr. Geneina introduced the panelists and further identified some of the key issues such as submarine cable projects, international connectivity, the impact of spam on networks, traffic optimization, Internet exchange points and the management of the Universal Service Fund (USF).

“Regional Internet Backbones: Availability and Resilience of Infrastructure”: Mr. Abdoulaye Ndiaye, Agir Promouvoir

Mr. Abdoulaye Ndiaye spoke about the opportunities presented by mobile telephony in Africa and identified some of the areas as agriculture through the provision of market information, money transfer, security through the provision of warning services and the use of the SMS in enhancing transparency in African elections, among others.

He identified access to broadband as a major problem in Africa and noted that a majority of the African population could not access broadband due to lack of infrastructure at the national level and high tariffs. He however said that many public and private initiatives are improving African connectivity and spoke about some of the submarine fibre cable initiatives in Africa including SAT3, WASC, SAFE, WACS (West Africa Cable Systems), ACE (Africa Coast to Europe), EASSy (East African Submarine Cable System), SEACOM (SEA Cable System), TEAMS (The East Africa Marine Systems Cable) and SEE-ME-WE 3 & 4.

He then spoke about the opportunities and challenges which ranged from availability and the quality of electricity, universal access, monopoly, regulation as a key hindrance to availability & access and advancement in technology where he identified WiMax, CDMA, GSM, NGN, IPv6, Ultra-low-latency, fibre-speed satellite network (O3B) as technologies that would enhance the availability of broadband in Africa.

Mr. Ndiaye then spoke about resilience as the positive ability of a system or company to adapt itself to the consequences of a catastrophic failure caused by power outage, a fire, a bomb or similar event noting that regional cooperation was key to availing broadband in Africa.

In his closing comments, Mr. Ndiaye noted the need to promote a regional approach for regional Internet backbones, the need to encourage infrastructure sharing in reference to the ITU recommendations, the need to create a project/program/institution to address the *resilience* issue (perhaps using the PPP/Multistakeholder approach), creating an enabling environment to optimize and rationalize the use of broadband infrastructure and the adoption of an appropriate regulation system making broadband infrastructures accessible to all.

“Enabling Internet Exchange Points”: Mr. Michuki Mwangi, Internet Society

Mr. Michuki Mwangi spoke about the role of Internet exchange points and noted that exchange points can lead to the reduction of connectivity costs by eliminating the sending of local traffic via expensive international links as well as reducing delays in accessing local content thus improving quality of service. He also noted that exchange points can improve the resilience of the local Internet infrastructure as well as stimulate the creation of local content. In summary, Mr. Mwangi noted that despite IXPs being key infrastructure, many developing countries lacked them.

He then spoke about peering and transit and gave an overview of the peering business case model noted the *peering breakeven point* where an ISP became indifferent between peering and simply buying traffic.

Mr. Mwangi also noted that, with the exception of South Africa, at least 80% of the Internet traffic in African countries is international. He noted that the cost of local-circuits is at least a third of the bandwidth costs and that there’s very little content or content hosting done locally. He also identified national regulatory policies as not promoting IXPs or local content development.

In conclusion, Mr. Mwangi spoke about the ISOC IXP Project for 2009 which was focused on Africa. He identified the four complementing programs based on the stage and requirements of each country as Value Adding Services, Technical Capacity Building, New IXP Implementations and Building IXP Operations Communities and Forums. He noted that project collaboration is key to the success of the project and that several partners had been identified and new ones were being sought. He recognised AfriNIC, AfNOG and Cisco Systems as some of the project partners.

“Barriers to Access: Availability and Affordability”: Dr. Olfat Abdel Monsef, National Telecom Regulatory Authority, Egypt

Dr. Monsef started by stressing the importance of the local loop in access to the Internet and gave an overview of some ICT indicators in Egypt noting the high growth rate of mobile phone subscribers in the country.

On availability, Dr. Monsef identified wireless communication as a solution to the problem in remote and rural areas and for main cities with growing capacity requirements; with fiber to the home & cable TV for new development areas and compounds. She however noted that infrastructure development required large investments and that solutions included opening competition thus enabling the diversity of service providers, low and affordable prices and the availability of a wide range of complementary services.

She then gave an overview of the telecom sector in Egypt noting the convergence between telecoms and the Internet.

In her closing remarks, Dr. Monsef identified conducive legislation, competition, the Universal Service Fund, national initiatives, ICT clubs, schools, research & development as well as new technologies as some of the initiatives that could enhance affordability. At the same time, she identified some of the barriers as local content unavailability and socio-economic factors including language and the level of education.

Questions/Comments from the participants:

Mr. Ashok B. Radhakisson from Mauritius sought to know how independent the Egyptian telecoms regulator was from the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (government). Dr. Monsef responded by saying that independence was a gradual process, which required a pragmatic approach. She further noted that self-sustainability was key in achieving independence.

D. Session IV: The Internet: An Opportunity for All

This session was moderated by Ms. Christine Runnegar from the Internet Society. Ms. Runnegar introduced the panelists and read out their profiles.

“Transition to IPv6: Financial Implications for African Countries”: Mr. Adiel Akplogan, AfriNIC

Mr. Adiel Akplogan gave a historical perspective of the growth of the Internet noting that the initial vision was to have IPv6 widely deployed by the time IPv4 got exhausted. He noted that the actual situation was the opposite with various studies indicating that the IANA IPv4 address was projected to get depleted in June 2011 and that the Regional Internet Registry (RIR) pool would run out in March 2012.

He further noted that it was imperative for businesses to deploy IPv6 if they were to keep growing and identified Microsoft and Google as some of the major enterprises that were in the process of deploying IPv6. He also recognised the Kenya Internet eXchange Point (KIXP) and the Johannesburg Internet eXchange Point (JINX) as some of the IXP's that had deployed IPv6 in the continent.

Mr. Akplogan also gave an overview of IPv6 allocations to RIR's and noted that the growth in the AfriNIC region was attributed to enhanced training activities and good allocation policies.

He clarified that IPv6 was not a feature of the Internet but a new technology that facilitated the continued growth of the Internet. He recalled a quote by Tony Hain of Cisco Systems that goes: *“While everyone wants a source of additional revenue, ‘fundamental transport is difficult to monetize’”*. He argued that while carriers argue that IPv6 deployment is expensive, the cost of acquiring IPv4 address space might end up being higher than the cost of deploying IPv6 once IPv4 is depleted. He then said that the ‘real’ cost of IPv6 deployment was in training and retooling custom applications & scripts and that what we should do is start deployment early, create awareness on IPv6, speak to vendors to incorporate IPv6 features in their products and push operators to deploy IPv6 on their networks.

In conclusion, Mr. Akplogan spoke about AfriNIC's initiatives towards IPv6 awareness including trainings, awareness forums, the development of case study documentation, the Number Resource Organisation (NRO) initiatives and its collaboration initiatives with other organisations.

“Ensuring the Open Architecture of the Internet”: Mr. Olaf Kolkman, Internet Architecture Board (IAB)

Mr. Olaf Kolkman noted that there were ‘*different players*’ at the ‘*different layers*’ of the Internet model and explained the different players. He explained that players at the *Application layer* provided services to those connected to the Internet and noted that these players can be independent from not only the Internet Service Providers but also other application service providers. He noted that the application layer provided immense opportunities citing the fact that new applications are developed every day and that imagination was the limit. With regards to the *Network layer*, Mr. Kolkman identified the role of the players as that of providing IP Access to users. He noted that the Internet is made up of many independently operated networks that exchange traffic between each other and that players in this layer served a variety of markets including domestic, enterprise, government, densely & sparsely populated regions as well as users at local (local loop) and relatively international (transit) locations.

Mr. Kolkman reminded the audience that the Internet was made up of many independently operated networks and that these networks did not have to sign agreements (peering agreements) with each and every other network. He noted that the Internet worked through routing, a collaborative glue between networks.

On why the Internet works, Mr. Kolkman spoke about the character of the Internet Protocol (IP), which made communication between the *Application layer* and *Network layer* transparent.

Mr. Kolkman recognised the role of the various Internet bodies including those that develop standards (IETF, W3C, etc.), those that maintain registries (AfrinIC, ICANN, etc.). He also noted the open and bottom up process that has enabled the success of these entities.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Kolkman noted that applications drive demand for capacity, citing the case of the demands presented by video, and that networks, and IP in particular, enabled the deployment of new applications.

“Towards a Multilingual Internet”: Dr. Dawit Bekele, Internet Society

Dr. Dawit Bekele noted that the Internet is no more monolingual but it is not multilingual enough since it still doesn’t represent the global linguistic diversity. He noted the fact that there were more than 6000 languages in the world with over 2000 in Africa.

Dr. Bekele further gave an analysis of the top 10 languages used on the Internet, the penetration by language, the growth of the Internet in Africa as well as a percentage of Internet content in the different languages. He noted that for content targeting Africa (hosted on websites using African ccTLD), English was the most used language with 79.6, followed by French with 5.7%, Afrikaans with 2.51%, Arabic with 2.1%, Swahili with 0.04% and Malagasy with 0.006%.

He noted that without a truly multilingual Internet, it would be difficult to achieve '*Internet for all*' since it would not be possible for users to access the Internet using the language of their choice. He further noted that reaching the '*next billion*' required the inclusion of new languages on the Internet.

Dr. Bekele identified some of the challenges of achieving a multilingual Internet as the lack of relevant local content, lack of economic reasons to localize both content & applications, lack of writing systems & illiteracy and lack of political support, among others. On the other hand, he identified the fundamental enablers as creating a critical mass of content and tools & standards.

In conclusion, Dr. Bekele said that multilingualism of the Internet should not happen by chance or luck but that it should be a conscious goal aimed towards achieving '*Internet for All*'. He further noted that local communities were key in this process and that the international community should not only help but also support the process. Finally, he said that this process should be both concerted and organised.

Questions/Comments from the participants:

Some participants sought to know the importance of Internationalised Domain Names (IDN's) in ensuring multilingualism of the Internet. The speakers responded by saying that there're three (3) factors that contribute to a multilingual Internet: domain names, content and tools & search engines.

On the impact of IDN's on ccTLD's, speakers responded by saying that IDN's would probably have a positive impact though it was too early to tell. It however came out that some people saw IDN ccTLD's as threats to ccTLDs. Speakers also noted that ICANN had conducted a survey on whether ccTLD's were interested in an IDN ccTLD equivalent but that of all the ccTLD's, only 49 responded and that none of the respondents were keen having an IDN ccTLD, other than some ccTLD's from the Arab region.

E. Session V: National and Regional IGF Experiences

This session was moderated by Mr. Baher Esmat from ICANN. Mr. Esmat introduced the panelists and read out their profiles.

“UK IGF”: Ms. Leanne Kenny, Nominet

Ms. Leanne Kenny spoke about the UK IGF noting that stakeholders included Nominet, government, industry, civil society and members of parliament, a true multistakeholder representation. She noted that the objective of the UK IGF is to present a local forum to engage stakeholders in debate on Internet Governance issues as well as help all UK stakeholders draw on the vast network, experience and knowledge of other IGF participants. She said that the UK IGF played a vital role in preparing the UK contribution to the IGF discussions.

Ms. Kenny spoke of the UK IGF meeting held in July 2008 and identified some of the key issues discussed as security, access, diversity, openness, online crime reduction, personal Internet safety, education and industry & parliament. She then spoke about the Nominet Best Practice Challenge whose objective was to celebrate people and organisations who had worked hard to ensure that the Internet offers an open, secure, accessible and diverse experience for all.

In her closing remarks, Ms. Kenny spoke of the UK IGF plans for the IGF in Sharm El-Sheikh, noting that there would be a ‘Parliament and Internet conference’ in October and that the UK IGF had already proposed some workshops for the 2009 IGF.

“EuroDIG Experience”: Mr. Lee Hibbard, Council of Europe

Mr. Hibbard started by recognizing the EuroDIG players and supporters and then gave an overview of the EuroDIG event. He noted that the event attracted approximately 120 participants and that the event was stakeholder driven (bottom-up). He further noted that there was a good mix of expertise among the participants and that some of the issues discussed included security, privacy and openness on the Internet, universal access and managing critical Internet resources. He also noted that a report on the IGF meeting held in Hyderabad was made during the meeting.

Mr. Hibbard spoke about the objective of the EuroDIG and identified some of the objectives as instilling a desire for open, inclusive and uninhibited multi-stakeholder dialogue, connecting national IGFs, filling geographical gaps, bridging gaps in dialogue between stakeholders and preparing for the IGF in Hyderabad. He also noted

that there was very little start-up financing for EuroDIG and that the process leveraged on support from the partners & sponsors and the European institution. He then gave a SWOT analysis of the process.

In his concluding remarks, Mr. Hibbard noted that EuroDIG had realised unprecedented dialogue between different stakeholder groups at the European level, good awareness raising and exchange of best practices, capacity building for multi-stakeholder governance and that there were diverse 'Messages from Strasbourg' regarding the IGF. He further noted that among the critical success factors was the need for the involvement of key stakeholder groups in order to demonstrate openness and inclusiveness, the need for more transparency in preparation and construction, the need to raising awareness thus stimulating dialogue and visibility for governance questions back home as well as the need for institutional/political 'buy-in' & participation. Finally, he identified some of the challenges as transparency and interactivity in the preparatory phase, attention to under-represented groups and the engagement and mobilisation of governments and business.

***“Kenya and East African IGF”*: Mr. Vincent Ngundi, KENIC**

Mr. Vincent Ngundi spoke about the EAIGF process noting that the idea was borne from an informal meeting of a few people with the intention of bringing the Internet governance discussions closer to the local Internet community in line with the eventual vision of: *Opening the Internet Governance Debate in East Africa: “Thinking Globally; Acting Locally”*. He said that the process was further defined during an ICT stakeholder forum convened in Kenya, which subsequently led to national online forums in Kenya and Uganda and thereafter national face-to-face meetings in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda. These national IGF processes culminated in the inaugural East Africa Internet Governance Forum in Nairobi, Kenya and the subsequent presentation of the East Africa position paper during the IGF meeting in Hyderabad.

He identified the objectives of the EAIGF as raising awareness of Internet Governance issues among policy makers and stakeholders in the East Africa Region, establishing which Internet Governance issues are relevant to East Africans, building consensus and national and regional positions around relevant Internet Governance issues and sharing the outcomes of the regional forum with the 2008 global IGF in Hyderabad.

Mr. Ngundi then noted the thematic areas for the EAIGF as access, content, management of critical Internet resources, cybersecurity and governance and that some of the key priority issues identified during

the process were universal affordable access, capacity and skills development and legislative frameworks that would create an enabling environment for creation and innovation, among others.

He also recognised the team that supported the process noting that it was representative of the public sector, private sector, academia, civil society and international organisations.

On the 2009 EAIGF, Mr. Ngundi noted that the process had slightly changed and instead commenced with a face-to-face forum to review the 2008 EAIGF & the outcome of the IGF meeting in Hyderabad instead of a BoF session. He also noted that the vision had changed to: '**Reviewing** the Internet Governance Debate in East Africa: "Thinking Globally; Acting Locally"', and announced that the 2009 EAIGF would be held from the 7th to the 9th of September 2009 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Mr. Ngundi also spoke about the ATU Internet governance forum held in Mauritius noting that the objective of the forum was to disseminate information and improve understanding on issues related to Internet Governance, and more specifically on issues relating to country code Top Level Domains (ccTLDs). He also said that the forum targeted Policy Makers and Regulators in Africa noting that some of the issues discussed included ccTLD operational models, re-delegation of ccTLDs, legal aspects of ccTLDs, ccTLD policy development, DNSSEC and the depletion of IPv4 and the role of ccTLDs in a community.

Finally, Mr. Ngundi noted that the outcome of the forum was a declaration, *the Pailles Declaration*, that governments should take the lead in creating the multi-stakeholder framework that would take the responsibility of undertaking the re-delegation of their ccTLD's (the role of the government was identified as mainly facilitatory). He said that some of the key issues identified during the forum included the re-delegation process, capacity building, awareness, content and critical Internet infrastructure.

F. Session VI: Sharm El-Sheikh and the Way Forward

This session was moderated by Mr. Michuki Mwangi from the Internet Society. Mr. Mwangi introduced the panelists and read out their profiles.

“IGF ’09: What’s Next”: Ms. Christine Arida, National Telecom Regulatory Authority, Egypt

Ms. Christine Arida noted the support ISOC had given towards the early development of the Internet in many African countries. She also noted the importance of discussing how to foster regional Internet Governance in the context of the 10th anniversary of the AfNOG, or the journey from Cape Town to Cairo.

Ms. Arida noted that the IGF had proven to be an appropriate forum for public policy dialogue on Internet governance due to its inclusiveness in terms of topics and flexibility in terms of discussion which had enabled a tremendous exchange of information and experience. She further noted that while the IGF enabled participants to converse freely and highlight the IGF common points of interest, controversial issues were also identified and further discussed and a common understanding of problems built. She also recognised the importance of regional IGF’s citing the example of the East Africa and West Africa IGF’s and that Africa should now build upon the discussions already in place, broadening them to include Africa’s common worries and linking them to the international dialogue through Africa’s collaborative engagement in IGF09 in Sharm El-Sheikh. She noted the importance of regional cooperation in developing a common language, uniting the African voice and setting the African agenda. She noted some of the common issues in Africa including access, multilingualism and the need for policies that encourage local content development, international interconnection costs, the economics of migration to IPv6, the required coordination on Cyber Security and the need for capacity building in all those areas, among others.

Ms. Arida noted that the IGF in Sharm El-Sheikh being on African soil presented an opportunity for African stakeholders to be present due to its proximity and to continue beyond that and maximize African engagement in the international dialogue on Internet governance. She also noted that the business sector has proved to be the driving force for Internet development and innovation in our region as well as worldwide and called for the building of regional awareness on the role that the business sector plays globally in shaping Internet public policy making.

In her concluding remarks, Ms. Arida shared with the participants some information on Sharm El-Sheikh including some of the event management activities and logistics.

“Conclusion and Next Steps”: Christine Runnegar, Internet Society

In her closing remarks, Christine Runnegar noted that the meeting had successfully presented a platform to discuss the IGF in Sharm El-Sheikh and urged Africa to exploit the opportunity presented by the IGF being held in African soil.

Ms. Runnegar also outlined key considerations for developing sound Internet policies for increased and enhanced Internet access, and introduced the Internet Society's Enabling Access Initiative.

Ms. Runnegar then thanked both Christine Arida and Vincent Ngundi for their support in summarizing the meeting proceedings and deliberations and also thanked the event co-organisers and everyone who had contributed towards the meetings success.

Finally, she thanked all the participants for their time and input and wished Egypt success in their preparations for the 2009 IGF.

4. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Internet Society would like to thank the following organisations for their support towards the INET Africa meeting:

1. The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology,
Egypt
2. The National Telecom Regulatory Authority, Egypt
3. The African Network Information Centre (AfriNIC)
4. The African Network Operators Group (AfNOG)