

Multistakeholderism in the Governance of the Internet

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Antecedents

- World Summit on Information Society – WSIS – Dec. 2003.
 - No agreement about Internet Governance.
 - Recommendation to the UN Secretary General to create a working group on Internet Governance toward the second phase of the summit.
- WGIG – 2004-2005
 - The WGIG was created as a multistakeholder group. No antecedents in UN environment. 40 people from around the globe and from different sectors and opinions.
 - The process of the WGIG, the open consultations and the discussion toward the second phase of the summit was very productive and many lessons were learned by everybody.
 - Among other principles (openness, transparency, etc.) the concept of multistakeholderism was consolidated.
 - The WGIG issued a document with recommendations and identifying the most controversial points, to be considered by the governments toward the second phase of the summit.

IGF creation

- WSIS – Tunisia 2005.
 - Agreement on the creation of the IGF
 - It was one of the Working Group's recommendations.
 - No making decision body
 - Participation of all the stakeholders in equal footing.
 - The UN Secretary General creates an Advisory Group (MAG) for assisting him and the IGF secretariat for convening the first IGF (Athens, 2006)
 - The MAG could be seen as the continuation of the WGIG or at least as the recreation of a successful experience.

MAG

- The MAG is responsible of suggesting the structure of the IGF, workshops, main sessions, suggesting panelists and ensure that the views of all stakeholders are considered.
- The MAG and the IGF secretariat are the responsible of getting a successful IGF meeting every year and contributing to turn the IGF in a useful tool for the community.
- There are 3 open consultations per year followed by the MAG meetings. The MAG has to analyze the comments from the public and process those inputs.

IGF

- The development dimension is transversal and always present in the debates.
- The challenge is really to focus in the issues that are important for the community and/or those issues that are not being discussed/considered in other forums
- It is a new format of interaction and there have been different level of difficulty for all the stakeholders to adapt themselves to this new format.
- Very successful until now..

Multistakeholderism

- Is not a fashion.
- Is something that came for remaining.
- While many continue looking for new governance models, we have already achieved a new Internet Governance (for good).
- The collaboration among stakeholders has improved very much since 2003.

Enhanced cooperation

- At least two visions during WSIS.
 - To improve the Governance of the Internet from the existing organizations. (EVOLUTION)
 - To improve the Governance of the Internet creating new Governance structures. (CREATION)
- There was agreement on the fact that the current governance could be improved but there was not agreement on the ways to do that.
- Agreement about a set of principles and the value of the Multistakeholder Model.

WSIS – Final resolution

- 71. The process towards enhanced cooperation, to be started by the UN Secretary-General, involving all relevant organizations by the end of the first quarter of 2006, will involve all stakeholders in their respective roles, will proceed as quickly as possible consistent with legal process, and will be responsive to innovation. Relevant organizations should commence a process towards enhanced cooperation involving all stakeholders, proceeding as quickly as possible and responsive to innovation. The same relevant organizations shall be requested to provide annual performance reports.
- The introduction of the term : Enhanced Cooperation
- Neither Create nor Evolve got enough support. There was the need for innovating in the pursuit of final agreements.

Conclusion

- Disagreement in creating something new, except the IGF.
- No support to the status quo.
- **BIG CHALLENGE:** to develop new collaboration/cooperation models for increasing the participation of all the stakeholders in their respective roles without creating new mechanisms/structures.
- The experiences that have been developed in IGF, MAG and in many other multistakeholder experiences and innovative ways of relating with all the stakeholders, are really the expression of the Enhanced Cooperation, which is something that we have already created.