IGF - an overview

Patrik Fältström
Office of the CTO
Cisco

Email: paf@cisco.com

What is the IGF?

- IGF is a series of meetings that originated as a result of the discussions at WSIS in Tunis

  - First meeting in Athens 2006

  - Second meeting in Rio de Janeiro 2007

  - Third meeting in Hyderabad 2008

  - Fourth meeting in Sharm El Sheikh 2009

Themes and process

- Each meeting with some theme(s)

- No decision making body, just discussions

- Part of the overall UN agenda

  - Tons of practical issues...

WSIS

- World Summit on the Information Society

  - The purpose of the World Summit on the Information Society, as stated in Resolution (A/RES/56/183), is to develop a "common vision and understanding of the information society and the adoption of a declaration and plan of action for implementation by Governments, international institutions and all sectors of civil society".

  - While there are many issues associated with the dawning of the information society, the themes proposed for the Summit can be clustered into three main concerns: vision, access and applications.

IGF Structure

- IGF Chair Nitin Desai (UNSG)

  - Small secretariat in Geneva (Markus Kummer)

- IGF Advisory Group (AG) appointed by UNSG

  - 47 Representatives of business, government, civil society & technical (Internet) community

  - +Guests from international organizations

  - +Special advisors to the Chairman

Enhanced cooperation

- From Tunis Agenda (result from WSIS):

  - "Governments, on an equal footing, … carry out their roles and responsibilities in international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet"

- Of course, different parties interpret this in the way that is favorable for themselves

A typical meeting

- Main sessions

  - Panel Discussions / Open Dialogue

- Sponsored smaller meetings

  - Workshops / Best Practices Forum

http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/hyderabad_prog/Workshop_Schedule.htm

What's next

- Consultations open to all stakeholders will be held in Geneva on 23-24 February 2009

- MAG Meeting on 25-26 February 2009

- MAG Meetings in May and September 2009

- The fourth annual IGF Meeting will be held from 15-18 November in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

Stockholm Jan 20, 2009

Main themes

- Reaching the Next Billion

- Promoting Cyber-Security and Trust

- Managing Critical Internet Resources

- Emerging Issues - the Internet of Tomorrow

- Taking Stock and the Way Forward

http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/hydera/Chairman%27s%20Summary.10.12.2.pdf

Stockholm Jan 20, 2009

Sharm El Sheikh

- Not known what will be discussed...

Process

- Review during 2009, and will be finalized in Egypt

- Report ready early 2010 from UN Secretary General

- CSTD discuss report in May 2010

- ECOSOC discuss report July 2010

- UN General Assembly decision before end of 2010 on potential continuation

After Egypt?

- IGF meeting fall of 2010 in Vilnius, Lithuania