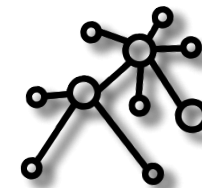




# Why WTPF matters to ccTLDs

Sam Dickinson  
Lingua Synaptica

# Why WTPF-2013?



- It predates the action-packed WCIT-12
- Its origins are in the high drama of Plenipotentiary 2010 (remember “the footnote”<sup>1</sup>)
- Its goal is to discuss the issues in ITU Plenipotentiary Resolutions 101, 102 and 133:
  - 101: Internet Protocol-based networks
  - 102: ITU's role with regard to international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet and the management of Internet resources, including domain names and addresses
  - 133: Role of administrations of Member States in the management of internationalized (multilingual) domain names

1 “Including, but not limited to, ICANN, the RIRs, IETF, ISOC and W3C, on the basis of a reciprocity.”

# WTPF-2013: the stats



- 14-16 May, Geneva
- ~2000 delegates expected
- On at the same time as WSIS Forum
- 13 May: Strategic Dialogue Session
  - Building Broadband Foundations for the Future
- If you want to participate as a member of the public, deadline is 12 April

# WTPF-2013: the stats



- Countries who have contributed the most during prep work:
  - USA (10)
  - UK (9)
  - Iran (7)
  - Saudi Arabia (5)
  - Brazil (4)
  - Russia (4)
- See the similarities between these countries & the two sides of the Internet debate at WCIT?
- Also contributions from: Nominet, Cisco, Paypal, ISOC, ICANN, NRO
- Particularly interesting paper by Richard Hill, ex-ITU staff  
<http://www.itu.int/md/S12-WTPF13PREP-C-0044/en>

# WTPF draft opinions



Out of a total of 30 submitted drafts, 6 have made it through for consideration in May.

Draft opinions and their precursors:

1. Fostering an enabling environment for the greater growth & development of broadband connectivity
  - Broadband is Toure's pet project. See Broadband Commission for Digital Development <http://www.broadbandcommission.org>
  - WTPF 2009 Opinion 2: Implications of the Advent of Next-generation Networks (NGNs) and Advanced Broadband Access
  - WCIT-12 Res Plen/3 "instructs" 1 (see Martin Boyle's slides)
2. Promoting Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) as a long term solution to advance connectivity
  - IXPs have been part of ITU's areas of interest since 2004. See <http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/treg/publications/AfricaIXPRep.pdf>
3. Supporting Capacity Building for the deployment of IPv6
  - See WTSA 2008 Res 64 [http://www.itu.int/dms\\_pub/itu-t/opb/res/T-RES-T.64-2008-PDF-E.pdf](http://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-t/opb/res/T-RES-T.64-2008-PDF-E.pdf)
  - WTPF 2009 Opinion 5: Capacity Building in Support of the Adoption of IPv6

# WTPF draft opinions (cont)



4. In Support of IPv6 Adoption & Transition from IPv4
  - On 2004, TSB Director Houlin Zhou wrote a discussion paper that caused quite a stir  
<http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/tsb-director/itut-wsis/files/zhao-netgov02.doc>
5. Supporting Multi-stakeholderism in Internet Governance
  - Tunis Agenda 2005
  - WCIT-12 Res Plen/3 “instructs” 2 (See Martin Boyle’s slides)
6. On supporting operationalizing the Enhanced Cooperation Process
  - Tunis Agenda 2005
  - WTPF 2009 Opinion 1: Internet-related Public Policy Matters

# WTPF draft opinions



- At WTPF in May, the draft opinions will be revised by all States and participants, resulting in final Opinion papers.
- Things to remember:
  - There weren't many Member States at IEG meetings (24 in February), but most will be in Geneva
  - Anything can happen onsite
    - Remember the last minute "compromise" Internet paper at WCIT?
- Observation: The Internet debate is now more nuanced at ITU
  - No longer outright declarations about government/ITU needing to manage IP address allocation, DNS, etc.
  - Now more about meta-declarations on appropriate Internet governance frameworks (multi-stakeholder, enhanced cooperation)
  - A sign of moving on? Or laying the groundwork for more targeted Internet resource debates again in the future?

# WTPF Secretary General's Report



- Final version due Friday 15 March
- Internet issues included:
  - Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in Internet management (ITU is now marketing itself as multi-stakeholder: any stakeholder can interact with their Member State representatives)
  - Management of Internet resources (inc. IXPs, IP addresses)
  - gTLDs
  - ccTLDs (mentions NTIA approval of redelegations)
  - DNS Security
  - Multilingualism and IDNs (mentions that some think Unicode IDNs are only a patch & not truly multilingual)
  - Regional distribution of root DNS servers (only 3 root servers with admin headquarters outside the USA)
- Interestingly, NGNs barely make an appearance in the report, despite references to NGNs in Resolutions 101 & 102



# Why should you care?



- Many of the same issues that we've been seeing since WSIS in 2003 are still with us:
  - Some governments want more of a role in Internet governance
    - Within existing ecosystem? → Multistakeholderism
    - New government-only venue? → Enhanced cooperation
  - Some governments believe that Internet resources are a national issue that are appropriately the responsibility of the government
    - IP addresses, domain names

# Why should you care?



- Unfinished Internet debates from WCIT will spill over into WTPF
- How will the WTPF opinion on enhanced cooperation influence the CSTD WG on enhanced cooperation?
- What is written in an ITU document, even if non-binding, can crop up as justification for binding resolutions later
- ITU documents have a long shelf life
  - 2001 WTPF document is being used as justification for one of the current WTPF draft opinions
- ITU Plenipotentiary is next year
  - Resolutions 101, 102, and 133 will be updated. How will the WTPF opinions influence those revisions?

# Why should you care?



- WSIS+10 anniversary events are happening 2014/15
  - Has the Tunis Agenda been achieved?
  - If not, what will States want to do about it? Tunis Agenda Mark II?
- ITU 2010 Plenipotentiary resolutions have said ITU is to work collaboratively with the Internet community
  - If we refuse to participate, will it reinforce the views of countries who already distrust the multi-stakeholder model?

# Why should you care?



- Governments not happy with the way the Internet is currently being run are continuing to forum shop:
  - ITU Council Working Group on international Internet-related public policy issues (Member States only)
  - ITU IPv6 Group (its investigations are being resurrected via Study Group 2 & 3)
  - UNGA Committee 1 (Cybersecurity) & Committee 3 (Enhanced cooperation, IGF)
  - CTSD WG on IGF Improvements & WG on Enhanced Cooperation
  - Where next?

# Why should you care?



- The more forums that these issues are discussed in, the harder it is for the community to spread its resources adequately
  - Basic information distribution (myth busting still essential. Some still believe all Internet traffic passes through root servers)
  - Participating in development of resolutions, etc

# What can you do?



- Produce your own position papers
  - Community agreed at meetings at events like CENTR AGM, individual ccTLD meetings
- Make contributions to events like WTPF
  - ... and do it early
- Attend WTPF as:
  - A member of the public (least visible)
  - IEG member
  - ITU sector member
  - Delegate attached to a Member State (influence your country's position directly)

# What can you do?



- Don't think of WTPF as an event that you can forget about after May. It's part of an ongoing process
  - Keep an eye on what's happening and respond early
  - ISOC is a good place to watch for upcoming developments
- Don't dismiss "anti-Internet" proposals from some of the governments at ITU
  - What can we do to address their concerns?
  - How can you help these governments feel more welcome in the existing Internet governance institutions?