Arab Dialogue on Internet Governance Initiative

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  – Study on Internet Governance
  – Collaborative Roadmap on IG
  – A proposed Arab IGF concept
  – Interactive Portal
  – Joint Public Meetings
Concept

- As the IGF process was reaching its closure date, a regional initiative had to be launched.
- It was essential to harmonize efforts between the LAS, ESCWA and other relevant organizations, covering all Arab countries.

→ “Arab Dialogue on Internet Governance (ADIG)”.

- **Goal**: the development of a regional roadmap and the establishment of an Arab IGF - both would set the path for IG activities in parallel with the extension of the IGF process.

Major Components of the Arab Dialogue on Internet Governance

- Study on Internet Governance
- Collaborative Roadmap on IG
- A proposed Arab IGF concept
- Interactive Portal
- Joint Public Meetings
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ESCWA Study on Internet Governance
Objectives

– Provide a general overview of the IG debate focusing on critical Internet resources, access, and diversity.

– Provide a better understanding of common challenges and prospects of Internet governance and how to respond to those challenges.

– Provide a set of recommendations for the Arab region to launch key initiatives to enhance its position vis-à-vis the global community as far as Internet governance is concerned.

– Assist in formulating opinions and positions on selected issues related to IG from an Arab perspective.

The study was used as an input to the fourth IGF (November 2009)

Methodology

• Independent consultants from the global Internet governance community;
• Experts from, among others, ESCWA, ICANN and ITU;
• Peer review by experts from (AWGDNII) and a number of Internet governance experts.
• The opinions in this study reflect the views of a wide array of stakeholders with distinct and sometimes conflicting viewpoints, “not all contributors will necessarily agree with or endorse the points set forth in this document”.
• Efforts have been undertaken to reference and quote contributors as accurately as possible. However, owing to the nature of the topics and the multiplicity of ideas and opinions, it was not possible to reference and quote every opinion stated in this study.
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Arab Regional Roadmap for Internet Governance:

*Framework, Principles and Objectives*
A Regional Shared Vision

• The Arab countries are required to take far-reaching commitments and policy measures to ensure an appropriate position of the Arab region in the Internet governance arena.

• The regional vision of Internet governance aims at providing a turning point where countries will have the opportunity to participate in Internet governance and reap its benefits for shaping their future without the risk of losing cultural identity.

• A shared understanding should help these countries towards transforming the threats and challenges of the Internet into opportunities for development.

Towards a Regional Roadmap

In order to:
• understand what the region’s priorities are, where to promote them and how to formulate policies and activities to achieve impact;
• benefit from the decentralized feature of Internet governance;
• promote long-term government spending on Internet governance issues, projects, and on R&D activities;
• take into consideration all stakeholders’ needs in the process of Internet governance;
• monitoring performance through quantitative as well as qualitative means using indicators and other effective measures;

a regional roadmap was needed.
Objectives of the Roadmap

• The regional roadmap represents a clear strategic framework that intends to tackle Internet governance matters from a regional perspective. This roadmap aims at:
  – Serving as a guideline for decision- and policy-makers in the Arab countries;
  – Providing a first step to launch a future follow-up process;
  – Enabling Arab countries to effectively act on their views and needs within the global arena, hence proactively participate in an optimal global policy structure for Internet Governance;
  – Promoting the role of Arab countries as effective players in the global Internet society.

Without the Roadmap: Risks

• Dispersed, and possibly duplicated, efforts in all Internet governance issues;
• Weak representation of the region in international policy-making bodies;
• Minimal or even lack of regional partnerships for Internet governance;
• Absence of a point of reference for formulating national policies, projects and initiatives.
Logical Framework for a Result-Based Roadmap (1/2)

- The methodology adopted for designing, managing and implementing this Roadmap is “result-based”.
- It uses a logical framework or “logframe” which is a written tool for conceptualizing programmes.
- The Roadmap covers six subprogrammes based on the five IGF topics as well as one subprogramme on institutional empowerment.
- A logical framework is developed for each subprogramme to articulate clear objectives, expected accomplishments, and indicators of achievement.

→ The Roadmap is thus an articulation of what should be accomplished, not what activities will be done.

Logical Framework for a Result-Based Roadmap (2/2)

- Objectives: What does this subprogramme intend to achieve?
- Strategy: How are we going to achieve the expected results?
- Expected Accomplishments: What should happen in order to meet the objective of the theme?
- Indicators of achievement: What will show us that the expected accomplishments have indeed taken place?
## Subprogrammes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subprogramme</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Institutional Empowerment</strong></td>
<td>Balanced, internationalized, transparent and accountable institutional governance schemes for global public policy-making</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Critical Internet Resources</strong></td>
<td>Stability, security, and resiliency of the DNS, Arab TLDs, effective IP addresses deployment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Access</strong></td>
<td>Reduced Internet access divide, Expanded Arab TLDs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural &amp; Linguistic Diversity</strong></td>
<td>Improved presence of the Arabic language and culture, Enhanced cyber security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Security</strong></td>
<td>Expanded Arab TLDs, protected Internet users against harmful content and cyber crimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Openness</strong></td>
<td>Culturally open yet safe Internet in the Arab region, Internet openness for development purposes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Development of the Roadmap

- **Pre-IGF**
  - LAS meeting, March 2010, Cairo
  - LAS meeting, July 2010, Damascus

- **Post-IGF**
  - Open Forum, IGF-V, September 2010, Vilnius
  - Arab Council of Ministers of ICT
  - ESCWA-LAS Regional Conference, October 2010

- **Roadmap on IG**

- **Roadmap on Version**
  - Early Drafts
  - Semi-final Draft
  - Final Draft
  - Final Version
  - Adopted Version
Road Ahead for the Roadmap

- The roadmap is **Step 1** of a two-step process.
- **Step 2** - Guidelines for the Implementation and Progress Monitoring of the Arab Regional Roadmap for Internet Governance
- Once endorsed and adopted, it will be spelt out through an **Internet governance plan of action** that will define specific activities and projects on the national and regional levels based on financial and human resources available to the country.
- It will be a collective effort and in line with the Arab ICT Strategy and the RPoA to avoid duplication.
Progress Monitoring

- Done on the national and/or regional levels by:
  - **Stocktaking**: involves a separate entity that will gather reports and summaries of activities that were implemented in member countries.
  - **Indicators of achievement**: used to measure to what extent the objectives and/or expected accomplishments have been achieved. “What will show us that the expected accomplishments have indeed taken place? What do we want to know about the results of our efforts? What are we measuring?”

- The Roadmap contains suggested indicators of achievements. It is strongly **recommended** to adopt the set of indicators and interpret them on the national level in parallel to stocktaking. This will allow for **harmonized monitoring** at the regional level.

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Call of Arab Stakeholders

From Athens to Vilnius

• Some experts believe that the level of involvement of the Arab region in the IGF was rather limited towards the inception of the IGF.
• Participations were dispersed and did not represent a unified Arab view.
• However, during the last five years, the Arab community became aware of the importance of the Internet governance and has worked on improving representation of most of the entities involved in the governance of the Internet.
Arab Participation in the IGF

**IGF-IV in Sharm el Sheikh**

20% Arabs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>No.</th>
<th>No. of participants</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arab Governments &amp; Intergovernmental Organizations</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others (private &amp; NGOs)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt (host country)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>266</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**IGF-V in Vilnius**

2% Arabs

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<tr>
<td>Lithuania (host country)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>420</td>
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</table>

**IGF Attendance Statistics**

- **In IGF-V in Vilnius**, from overall attendance of 1451 participants from 106 countries, 2% of participants were nationals from countries of the LAS.

- **In IGF-IV in Sharm el Sheikh**, from overall attendance of 1480 participants from 116 countries, 20% of participants were nationals from countries of the LAS.
Benefits of an Arab IGF

The Arab IGF will be:

- A platform for empowering the region in global Internet Governance arena;
- A venue to follow-up on the progress of the Proposed Regional Roadmap for Internet Governance in Arab Countries;
- A replica of the global IGF process on a regional level for the period of 2012-2015;
- An interface and liaison to the global IGF process in its second phase;
- An umbrella to launch a number of national IGFs;
- A multi stakeholder process that is led by the governmental and intergovernmental bodies in the region.
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**Interactive Portal**

**Joint Public Meetings**

**ADIG Interactive Portal**
Internet Governance Pages on ISPER

http://isper.escwa.un.org/

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Public Meetings

ADIG Public Meetings

• Consultative Meeting in Damascus, July 2010.

• Panel Discussion during the IGF-V in Vilnius, September 2010.

• Expert Group Meeting on a regional level, October 2010.
Outcome of the Initiative

- ADIG Initiative
- First Draft of the Roadmap (July 2010)
- LAS Meeting in Damascus
- Second Draft of the Roadmap
- Panel Discussion in Vilnius
- Third Draft of the Roadmap (September 2010)
- Regional EGM in Beirut
- Call from Arab Stakeholders
- Final Version of the Roadmap (October 2010)
- First Preparatory Conference for the IGF (Jan. 2012)

Thank you