

# Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus

13<sup>th</sup> May, 2007

## **Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus's input into the open round of consultations on 23 May 2007 to discuss program and agenda for the second meeting of the IGF in Rio de Janeiro.**

In view of their central importance to the current discourse on Internet Governance, the Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus will like the following themes addressed in the main sessions at the second meeting of the IGF in Rio de Janeiro.

### **(1) Global Internet Public Policy - Issues and Institutions**

A call to "discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance" is the first point in the IGF mandate in the Tunis agenda. The Agenda deals at length with the question of new global public policy issues regarding IG, the possibility of new frameworks and structures, and the role of existing ones (e.g, paragraphs 61, 69). We therefore believe that an IGF main session should explore the following topics:

a) What is "public policy" on the Internet and when do we need to use global institutions to establish it? The Tunis Agenda distinguishes between "technical" and "public policy" issues, and between public policy and the "day-to-day technical and operational matters." What makes an Internet governance issue a "public policy" issue, and what happens when policy concerns are closely linked to technical administration?

b) What was intended by the Tunis Agenda's call for the "development of globally-applicable principles on public policy issues associated with the coordination and management of critical Internet resources" and how can this goal be pursued?

### **(2) Core Internet Resources and their Current Governance Institutions**

Policy toward "critical Internet resources" is a major topic in the Tunis Agenda and the mandate for the IGF. Currently, name and number resources are administered by ICANN and the Regional Internet Registries. This main session should discuss the policy issues and policy making processes in these institutions. In particular, ICANN's status as an international organization, its representation of various constituencies and stakeholders, and the changing role of the GAC within ICANN should be discussed.

### **(3) Global Internet policies Impacting Access to and Effective Use of the Internet by Disadvantaged People and Groups - The Development Agenda in IGF**

A main session should be devoted to the topic, how can global Internet governance policies and practices have an impact on disadvantaged peoples' access to, and effective use of, the Internet, and their access to knowledge? This session would try to identify and explore the specific policies, institutional mechanisms, resource allocation processes, property rights regimes and financing mechanisms that are international in scope and can have a real affect on access to, and effective use of, the Internet by disadvantaged people and groups.

### **(4) The Role and Mandate of the IGF**

The Tunis Agenda mandated that the IGF should, inter alia, facilitate discourse between bodies dealing with different cross-cutting international public policies and issues that do not fall within the scope of any existing body; interface with appropriate inter-governmental organizations and other institutions on matters under their purview; identify emerging issues, bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public, and, where appropriate, make recommendations; and promote and assess, on an ongoing basis, the embodiment of WSIS principles in Internet governance processes. Since these critically important, value-adding functions cannot be performed by any existing Internet governance mechanism, nor by annual conferences built around plenary presentations from invited speakers, the purpose of this main session would be to foster an open and inclusive dialogue on how the IGF could fulfill these and other elements of its mandate.