

Workshop 50. Enhanced cooperation and the Internet addressing organizations

(Joint workshop with APRICOT meeting in Singapore)

Comments and recommendations as collected by the moderator, Bertrand de LA CHAPELLE, (Internet & Jurisdiction project), on the basis of the discussions during the workshop.

The notion of enhanced cooperation, introduced by the Tunis Agenda, was initially a diplomatic ambiguity covering divergent views. The debate around this notion has however significantly evolved since then, as illustrated by discussions in the IGF, the CSTD and this first WSIS+10 review session. The Working Group of the Chair of the CSTD will have a key role to further this discussion and operationalization of this concept.

Enhanced cooperation can be developed within existing organizations, between existing organizations or potentially through new frameworks and processes. The Tunis Agenda (Article 70) in particular called upon existing organizations related to the Internet to facilitate elaboration of public policy principles. Accordingly, this workshop explored concrete enhanced cooperation practices by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and Regional Internet Registries (RIRs).

Within ICANN, fulfilling the objective of equal footing regarding governments covers several aspects. The Affirmation of Commitments (AoC) has moved ICANN's accountability from accountability to one single government (the US) to accountability to the whole community, in particular through the establishment of Review Teams like the ATRT. Within the GAC, Governments are on an equal footing and the influence of the GAC within ICANN has grown in recent years. There remain nonetheless calls for further elevation of the status of governments in ICANN and further evolution of the role of the United States in the workflow of root zone file management.

For their part, the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) have progressively developed specific modalities to enhance their interactions with governments, such as dedicated working groups, roundtables, events, and capacity-building programs. Furthermore, intergovernmental organizations were useful partners to reach out and engage governments. A unique common goal can be fulfilled through a diversity of modalities.

The discussion also highlighted that:

- Enhanced cooperation can and should be pursued at the different levels: global, regional, and even national
- The term "governments" actually covers many different types of public authorities, such as various ministries, data protection authorities, law enforcement agencies, even parliamentarians, etc... and involving them all raises new procedural challenges
- The distinction between public policy principles and day-to-day management is not always clear-cut and rather represent a continuum
- Fostering equal footing among all stakeholders may mean elevating further the status of different groups of stakeholders in different fora: for instance governments within ICANN or civil society and business in intergovernmental organizations
- The respective roles of the different stakeholders may vary according to the issues and the processes where they are discussed

Major recommendations coming out of the workshop included:

- For the working group of the Chair of the CSTD on enhanced cooperation to document the concrete practices that have been developed within and among existing organizations
- For all stakeholders and processes to foster efforts to ensure participation and inclusion of governments and other stakeholders from developing countries
- Encouragement to all stakeholders to follow and contribute to the work of the upcoming working Group of the chair of the CSTD on enhanced cooperation