

## ETNO Reflection Document on the draft Programme, Format and Schedule for the 2009 IGF meeting



April 2009

### Executive Summary

This document presents the views of ETNO and contributes to the discussions on the draft Programme, Format and Schedule for the 2009 IGF meeting in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, ahead of the 2<sup>nd</sup> open consultation in Geneva (13 May 2009).

## General Comments

ETNO<sup>1</sup> and its members are committed to the IGF process and looking forward to the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the IGF. We are very pleased by the organizational arrangements of the Egyptian organizers so far and we hope that this good practice will continue.

ETNO is also pleased that the IGF Secretariat on 23 March 2009 presented the draft Programme paper for the Sharm El Sheikh meeting, which reflects the discussions during the February open consultation and the MAG meeting afterwards. However, we can't avoid noting that the document was presented rather late and a very short deadline was put. ETNO would like to request that a time period of at least 1 month is given for written comments, so that stakeholders - especially those with large membership - can prepare properly.

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<sup>1</sup> The European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association and its 42 members from 34 countries have been working for many years on a range of policy issues associated with the information society, including the World Summit on Information Society process and Internet governance. ETNO and its members are committed to the IGF process and participate in both the preparatory open consultations and the IGF meetings. More information can be found at: [www.etno.eu](http://www.etno.eu)

## Specific Comments

ETNO wishes to make the following specific comments on the draft "Programme, Format and Schedule for the 2009 meeting," (the original text is reproduced, while the ETNO comments are boxed):

### Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Programme, Format and Schedule for the 2009 meeting *23 March 2009*

#### I. Introduction

This paper describes a proposal for the programme, format and schedule of the fourth IGF meeting, which is to take place on 15-18 November 2009 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. This version of the paper takes into account comments made at the open consultations held on 23-24 Feb 2009 in Geneva and the discussions held by the Multistakeholder Advisory Group on 25-26 Feb 2009, as well as written contributions received in the stocktaking process and comments made during the Hyderabad stocktaking session.

As in the past years, the paper is defined as a work in progress and planned as a rolling document that will be updated regularly based on contributions, open consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) meetings.

All of the contributions and open consultation transcripts will be posted on the IGF Web site throughout the preparatory process of the Sharm El Sheikh meeting. The readers of this paper are encouraged to read those contributions and the open consultations transcripts for further details and in depth discussions.

There were some common threads that emerged in the first phase of the stock-taking process. While the innovations introduced in Hyderabad were generally well received, it was also felt that there was room for improvement, i.a. in the following areas:

ETNO recognizes that the areas below certainly need improvement. However, these are not the only ones. Therefore we propose that the ending of the above sentence changes to "there was room for improvement, in areas including, but not limited to, the following:"

- Involvement of young people;
- Gender balance;
- Geographical balance;
- Linkages between the main sessions and the other events;
- Remote participation.

Furthermore, it was pointed out that the cross-cutting themes of development and capacity-building had been somewhat neglected and that more attention should be paid to these issues.

The view was also held that some of the issues had progressed to the point that they should now be dealt with in other formats, such as round tables.

Lastly, there was general support of keeping ‘meeting free’ time slots and leaving enough space in the programme for spontaneous ad-hoc meetings.

This paper tries to accommodate the above comments and aims to provide a structure and framework for the Sharm El Sheikh meeting. It reflects an ongoing discussion and will be further refined in light of additional comments and subsequent meetings.

## II. Programme

The objective of the programme is to maximize the opportunity of open dialogue and the exchange of ideas; to try and create feedback loops between the different types of sessions; to create opportunities to share best practices and experiences; to listen, dialogue and learn as well as to identify key themes that would, in the future, benefit from the multistakeholder perspective of the IGF.

“Internet – an opportunity for all” was suggested as the overall title of the meeting. While the suggestion found some support, it was also felt that the wording was too general and that there was a need for further reflection on the title. “Internet rights and principles” was another proposal for an overall theme, but the view was held that this would be too specific. The point was made that the overall theme should take into account the challenges to the global economic downturn.

ETNO prefers the 1<sup>st</sup> of the titles proposed “Internet – an opportunity for all”. We don’t believe that this title is too general. Instead, we think it suits very well to the 4<sup>th</sup> IGF, given the current world economical downturn, it can be a positive overall theme, yet it is broad enough to cover all the sub-themes.

The programme outline takes into account the comments made so far. In particular, it recognizes that different themes need to be dealt with differently. Three formats have been proposed:

Type A): Issues where there is no convergence of views. In these cases there is no need for any panel or introductory speeches. An open discussion is best suited for these issues.

Type B): Issues that are generally understood, but which need further exploration. For these issues, an introductory panel of experts followed by a discussion was seen as the most appropriate format.

Type C): Issues where there is a convergence of views on the principles and the need for action. These issues could be dealt with by round table discussions which could look at solutions and best practices.

These format types are proposed to preserve and enhance the positive values of the things that worked well in the previous meetings while also trying to improve those things that did not work quite so well. The informal, interactive multistakeholder format was generally seen as one of the key factors for the success of the first three meetings and will be maintained and enhanced as a guiding principle in all cases.

Participation will follow the format used at the previous meetings and all entities and persons with proven interest, expertise and experience in matters related to Internet governance may apply to register as participants.

The basic format of the previous meetings, with main sessions, workshops and other events, will be maintained.

The proposed outline for the main sessions would include the following programme blocks.

- On the first morning, there will be a session giving participants background on Internet governance in general and the IGF in particular. The intent of the session is to improve participants' ability to engage in and benefit from the IGF meeting. It will explain the functioning of the IGF and the issues it has been dealing with. The session will also give an overview of the programme and allow regional and national meetings to report to the IGF.
- The traditional opening ceremony/opening session will be held in the afternoon of the first day. It will be followed by a key note panel of two or three high-level personalities. The suggestion was made that the panel should deal with the current economic situation and its relevance to the Internet and Internet governance.
- Critical Internet Resources will be the focus of the morning of the second day. "The evolution of Internet governance arrangements" was proposed as a possible title, with "Internationalization of critical Internet resources management" and "Managing critical Internet resources" as alternative titles. However, the view was also held that any title should be based on agreed WSIS language.

ETNO prefers "Managing Critical Internet Resources" out of the 3 possible titles. This title was already used last year in Hyderabad and in our opinion is the least controversial of the titles proposed. We urge all stakeholders to avoid further unnecessary discussions about the title and concentrate on what will be discussed under this theme (description, questions etc.).

Possible topics to be addressed under this heading included but were not restricted to:

- IP address allocation in general, including IPv6 allocation;
- The Joint Project Agreement (JPA);
- The IANA contract;
- The importance of new TLDs and IDNs for development;

- Enhanced cooperation.

There was a general agreement that no topic, however contentious, should be excluded from the discussions under this heading.

ETNO would like to stress the issue of balanced representation, in order to achieve a meaningful outcome. For this reason we suggest at this point the addition of the following sentence:  
 “In such cases a balanced representation must be ensured, which should include those parties who are currently directly responsible for the areas under discussion.”

It was recognized that this cluster of issues could benefit most from an open discussion.

- Security / Openness will be the focus of the afternoon of the second day. One possible title mentioned for this cluster of issues was: “Balancing privacy, openness and security”.

There was a general understanding that this balancing effort should not be a zero sum game, but rather a win-win situation. Issues to be discussed from a variety of viewpoints could include:

- Respect for privacy as a business advantage and issues such as identity theft, identity fraud, and information leakage;
- Web 2.0: social networks and privacy, e.g. control of one’s own data and data retention;
- URL blocking;
- Regulatory models for privacy and cybersecurity;
- Ensuring the open architecture of the Internet;
- Net Neutrality;
- Enabling frameworks for freedom;
- Content blocking;
- Freedom of speech;
- The ethical dimensions of the Internet.

ETNO finds the suggested issues too many and diverse. We believe that these all can’t be tackled or dealt with within the next (or just one) IGF. We therefore suggest that the issues to be discussed under this category are less numerous and more focused and we propose to keep the following:

- Respect for privacy as a business advantage and issues such as identity theft, identity fraud, and information leakage;
- Web 2.0: social networks and privacy, e.g. control of one’s own data and data retention;
- URL blocking;
- Regulatory models for privacy and cybersecurity;
- Enabling frameworks for freedom;
- Freedom of speech;
- The ethical dimensions of the Internet

While some favoured the inclusion of ‘Internet rights and principles’ as a cross-cutting theme, the view was also held that there was no established definition of this theme and that therefore it should not be discussed at the Sharm El Sheikh meeting.

This cluster of issues has been identified as one that could benefit from being introduced by a panel, followed by an open discussion.

- Access will be the focus of the morning of the third day. Issues mentioned included:
  - National and international regulatory issues;
  - National and regional backbones;
  - Infrastructure;
  - Interconnection costs;
  - Enabling Internet Exchanges Points (IXPs);
  - Modes of access and regulatory challenges;
  - Safety and redundancy of access, e.g. cable cuts;
  - Issues in mobile access.

The importance of developing infrastructure was seen as part of kick-starting the economy. While some of the access issues, such as IXPs, might be best dealt with by round tables, others, such as mobile access issues, might benefit from being introduced by panels.

- The afternoon of the third day will be reserved for the reporting back of the smaller sessions held in parallel, for example round table discussions, and workshops. Round table discussions could be held to deal with issues where there is a reasonable chance of participants agreeing to take action together.

ETNO would appreciate more clarifications on the “round tables.” Also, ETNO suggests the amendment of the last sentence as follows:  
"Round table discussions could be held to deal with issues where there is a reasonable chance of participants willing to take action as appropriate, each within their role and responsibility."  
This way we don't move away from the principle that no decisions of the IGF are taken, while at the same time we reflect properly the “type C’ meetings mentioned in page 1 of this draft.

These issues include the empowerment and protection of children online and the accessibility for people with disabilities. The respective dynamic coalitions would be asked to help prepare these round tables and there was a general agreement that due care should be taken to ensure a reasonable balance of stakeholders and viewpoints is achieved. Other round table discussions on other issues would be defined in light of proposals for workshops. Multilingualism was mentioned as another possible issue area for round tables, including access to local content. Organizers will be asked to link their reports to the broader discussions that have taken place, so that the report becomes a relevant and valuable contribution to the meeting.

- ‘Taking Stock and the Way Forward: *Tunis Agenda* Paragraph 76’ will be the focus of a full three hour session on the morning of the fourth day devoted to the “formal consultations with Forum participants” on the “desirability of the continuation of the Forum” as stipulated by Para 76 of the *Tunis Agenda*. These consultations will be preceded by an online process in advance of the Sharm El Sheikh meeting, starting with a questionnaire prepared by the

Secretariat and a rolling document synthesizing all commentaries received and posted on the IGF Web site. It is the aim to produce a synthesis paper in all six UN languages as a direct input into the discussion of this agenda item.

- One slot for a session on the afternoon of the fourth day remains open for the time being. It will be filled in light of further discussions.

ETNO strongly believes that the programme should be defined well in advance and no “main session” slots are left open for official meetings. As there is no concrete proposal so far, which has been discussed but not covered by the other sessions, we suggest that this slot be omitted.

- The traditional closing ceremony will be held on the afternoon of the fourth day.

### **III. General Principles**

The following principles are established for the Sharm El Sheikh meeting:

- All organizers of official events (workshops, best practices, etc.) are asked to commit themselves to submitting a report on their event. Non-submission of a report will disqualify the organizer from scheduling an event for the following year;
- Those who did not submit a report for their 2008 event, will not be included in the schedule;
- Dynamic Coalitions will only be scheduled if they have submitted activity reports for 2009;
- No official events will be scheduled to start after 1800 hours;
- No official events will be held during the lunch-break between 1300-1400 hours;
- The efforts for remote participation in 2009 will be enhanced based on experience gained in 2008 in order to enable effective and interactive remote participation;
- In addition, there will an opportunity for ad-hoc meetings to be scheduled which will not be part of the official programme.

There should be no prepared statements read out during the main sessions. However, prepared statements can be recorded by any participant and will be made available on the IGF YouTube channel. Efforts will be made to improve the promotion of this possibility. Prepared statements can be recorded and submitted in advance to the IGF Secretariat.

### **IV. Meeting types**

#### **A. Main Sessions**

All of the main sessions will take place in the main meeting hall and they will be organized around the various themes. They will all have live transcription in English and will be interpreted in the six official UN languages.

ETNO notices that the duration of main sessions is missing. Main sessions worked well in Hyderabad as regards time; therefore we suggest that this pattern is repeated in Sharm El Sheikh (two 90 minutes sessions within a 3 hour slot for open panels, 3 hours for open dialogue discussions, etc.)

(a) Open Dialogue Sessions

Some of the main sessions may take the form of a dialogue among participants. The dialogue sessions will have neither panellists nor designated respondents, but will have a chairperson and a moderator to lead and stimulate the discussion. The goal of these sessions will be to bring as many participants into the dialogue as is possible and will allow for a discussion with maximum interaction among the participants.

This is generally the format that is best suited for the Type A themes.

(b) Panel Sessions

The sessions will be introduced by an expert panel, followed by an interactive discussion with participants. Panel Discussions will be prepared in co-operation with the MAG and the organizers of the related workshops as well as other relevant institutions, as appropriate. One of the key considerations in the selection of panellists is the multistakeholder approach and the need to present different perspectives on the issues under discussion.

This is generally the format that will be used for Type B themes.

(c) Other sessions

On the first day, the first half of the morning will be a dedicated background session for new and returning IGF participants.

A separate session held on the second half of the first morning, will provide a chance for regional and national IGF meetings held in 2009 to give a report on their activities.

The afternoon of the first day will include the Opening Ceremony, followed by an opening session featuring speakers from the various stakeholder groups. The first day will close with a keynote panel which will allow for some interaction with participants.

On day three in the afternoon, a session will be held to bring together the discussions that have been held in workshops as well as other smaller sessions such as round table discussions. Some of the sessions reporting in will be related to topics that have been designated as Type C themes, while others will be related to workshops set up in response to the open call for themes.

The sessions on the fourth day have been described in Section II of this paper.<sup>2</sup>

## **B. Round Table discussions**

On days two and three, four round table discussions could be held for three hours each.

ETNO thinks that three hours is rather too long for such a meeting type.

These sessions could be held in a room setup for a large scale round table discussion, which could be moderated, with participants taking part as equals. The sessions could focus on issues where there is a reasonable chance of participants agreeing to take action together.

ETNO would appreciate more clarifications on the “round tables.” Also, ETNO suggests the amendment of the last sentence as follows:  
"The sessions could focus on issues where there is a reasonable chance of participants willing to take action, as appropriate each within their role and responsibility."  
This way the description reflects properly the “type C’ meetings mentioned in page 1 of this draft.

However, the point was also made that the role and function of round tables needed further discussion.

- Duration of Round Tables: 3 hours.

## **C. Workshops**

Workshops are designed to explore detailed issues related to the main themes from different perspectives. As in previous years, workshops must include a balance of stakeholders and viewpoints in order to be accepted into the program

All interested stakeholders have been invited to submit proposed themes for workshops. To the extent possible, workshops topics that are closely related with be scheduled as a single collaborative workshop. Organizers will be invited to work with the IGF secretariat in setting up workshops on those topics selected for workshops.

The scheduling of all workshops will be determined by the IGF Secretariat on the basis of maintaining a balance across the issues, efficient use of meeting space and an attempt to avoid conflicts in topic or speakers.

- Duration of workshops: 90 minutes.
- Each workshop will be required to produce a report on the workshop.
- First deadline for providing preliminary proposals: 15 April 2009.
- Deadline for providing speakers list: 30 June 2009.

Preference will be given to focused workshops relating to the IGF main themes and cross-cutting priorities of development and capacity building.

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<sup>2</sup> Taking Stock and looking Forward: *Tunis Agenda* Paragraph 76; one open session slot and the Closing Ceremony.

## **D. Open Forums**

All major organizations dealing with Internet governance related issues will be given a slot, at their request, to hold an open forum in order to present and discuss their activities. The meetings should focus on the organization's activities during the past 12 months and allow sufficient time for questions and discussions.

- Duration of Open Forums: 90 minutes.
- Each Open Forum will be required to produce a report on the meeting.
- Deadline for completing programmes and providing speakers list: 30 June 2009.

## **E. Best Practice Forums**

The aim of these sessions is to demonstrate, in a multi-stakeholder environment, some of the best practices that have been adopted with regard to the key IGF themes in general and to the development and deployment of the Internet in particular. The sessions can have either a thematic or a country focus. The presentations will be based on a common template. Presentations should not only cover practices that were successful, but also focus on challenges and mistakes. Thus, 'lessons learned' would be an important output of these sessions. They will be moderated by independent experts/hosts and participants will be given the opportunity to ask questions and make comments. The aim is to provide a space to discuss what constitutes a 'best practice' and share relevant information that can be transferred to other situations and strengthen capacity-building activities.

- Duration of Best Practice Forums: 90 minutes.
- Each Best Practice Forum will be required to produce a report on the meeting.
- Deadline for providing speakers list: 30 June 2009.

## **F. Dynamic Coalitions**

The meeting will provide space for active Dynamic Coalitions to meet and further develop their proposals. Meetings of Dynamic Coalition should not be workshops. They should be action oriented and make an effort to ensure that a broad range of stakeholders can bring their expertise to the discussions. Only Dynamic Coalitions that have submitted a report of their activities for 2008 will be scheduled for a meeting slot.

All Dynamic Coalitions are requested to present a report on their achievements so far in general and on their activities since the Rio meeting in particular. The reports will be posted on the IGF Web site.

Dynamic coalition on specific themes may also be invited to participate in the planning of Round Table Discussions.

- Duration of these meetings: 90 minutes.

- Deadline for submission of reports: 31 August 2009.

## **G. Other Meetings**

In general, meeting rooms that are not otherwise booked will be given, as available, to interested stakeholder groups on a first-come-first-served basis, in accordance with United Nations procedures and practice. A number of rooms will be reserved to accommodate ad-hoc requests.

## **V. Logistics**

### **A. Meeting Rooms**

The following meeting rooms will be available:

- Main Meeting Hall, for opening and closing ceremonies and main sessions, seating 1000 participants in a mixed classroom/theatre style setting. All proceedings in this room will be video cast and will be rendered in real-time transcription. Interpretation will be provided in all the six UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish) for all meetings taking place in the main hall. Remote participants will be encouraged to participate actively. (Technical details for remote participation are dealt with below.)
- The following additional meeting rooms are available:
  - 4 rooms seating 180 participants in a classroom setting. One of the above room will have facilities for interpretation (interpreters can be provided by workshop organizers, if desired).
  - 2 rooms seating 80 participants in a classroom setting.
  - 4 rooms seating between 40 and 60 participants in a round table setting.
  - All events held in breakout rooms will be audio cast and will have access to remote participation facilities.
  - Each meeting room will have a computer and projector available for presentations.

The Secretariat is responsible for the allocation of all meeting rooms.

### **B. Other facilities**

- An AV-studio to record prepared statements. The studio can also be reserved for TV interviews.
- A media centre, with a room for media conferences, seating 250 journalists in theatre style setting and workspace for journalists.
- An “IGF village”, located next to the Main Meeting Hall, to allow interested entities to present themselves for free and have meetings and poster sessions. The village will include squares (with chairs and rostrum) for ad-hoc meetings and poster sessions. This “IGF village” will be organized in the form of

- different “neighbourhoods” or thematic clusters.
- Restaurants/refreshments:
  - A restaurant with moderately priced food is available in the Conference Centre.
  - Coffee/Tea will be served in the conference premises.

Event organizers and participants with special needs are requested to contact the Secretariat and communicate their requirements, including requests for interpretation, by 31 August 2009.

### C. Remote participation

A public remote chat capability will be provided for the Main Meeting Hall and all other meeting rooms. Other provisions for remote access, including Regional Hub meetings, will be announced in September. Regional stakeholders interested in organizing a hub are advised to contact the IGF secretariat as soon as possible.

## VI. Schedule

A proposal for a main session schedule is made available below. The titles in the schedule are working titles. They are indicative of the broad themes to be dealt with and will need to be discussed at the next open consultations and defined at the next MAG meeting.

	Sunday 15 Nov	Monday 16 Nov	Tuesday 17 Nov	Wednesday 18 Nov
1000 – 11:30	Internet governance – setting the scene	Critical Internet Resources	Access	Taking Stock and Looking forward: Tunis Agenda Para 76
11:30 – 13:00	National and Regional Meetings			
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch			
15:00 – 16:30	Opening Ceremony/session	Security and Openness	Reporting back from Round Tables and Workshops	<i>tbd</i>
16:30 – 18:00	Keynote panel			Closing /Ceremony