Mapping Internet Governance and Public Interest Representation in Information Society

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2012-03-08
Keeping the main goal in mind
Public Interest Representation

- Goal: Governance institutions acting according to the public interest.
- There is a variety of public interest perspectives, and correspondingly a variety of CSOs.
- Problem: Powerful special interests! (↔ Framing!!!)
- Problem: Complexity and rapid change!
- Problem: Self-interested techno-enthusiasm.
- Problem: Incentives of decision-makers!!!
Biggest problems for civil society at large in coordinating its participation in institutions of governance in information society

- No coordinating framework or process 26
- Poor communication between CSOs 30
- Too many institutions to cover 20
- Forum shifting to bypass CSOs 19
- Lack of funding for participation 47
Network analysis (E. Pavan)

Source: Elena Pavan 2012
Addresses: Domain names, IP numbers

- Objective: Prevent US copyright industry abuses
- Objective: Web address freedom (i18n, ability to change service providers)
- Institutions: ICANN, IANA, RIRs (AfriNIC, APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, RIPE NCC), CNRI
- CCTLDs might deserve more CSO attention.
Human Rights and the Internet

- Objectives: Human dignity, digital sustainability
- Key strategic topics for pushing back against the current imbalance in favor of corporate interests
- Institutions: Regional human rights institutions, UN Human Rights Programme, IGF
- Really the human rights emphasis should be increased in all discourses of information society governance!
Intergovernmental fora

- UN institutions: UNESCO, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Development Programme (UNDP), ECOSOC, CSTD, WIPO
- Others: ACTA, Asea-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Council of Europe, G8, G20, Mercosur, OECD, Organization of American States, South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, Transatlantic Economic Council, WTO
Standardization

- In principle, standardization could be a very effective mechanism for shaping information society according to the public interest.
- Institutions: IETF, W3C, IEEE and ISO/IEC.
- Need for governments and human rights focused bodies such as the Council of Europe to become active!
- Need for increased long-term participation of technical experts with public interest objectives!
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Special cases of institutions

- National governments + EU + EPO
- ITU
- Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
- Regional and national IGF-like for a
- ISOC
- National/regional IPv6 taskforce
- Universities
- WEF
Map of Internet Governance

- Goal: Collect practically useful information about the various fora and institutions.
- Empower strategic planning: Where should my organization be present, where should we focus our advocacy work?
- This requires mapping institutions and issues as well as the relations between them!
- http://idgovmap.org/
References


Both of the above papers are published in the Proceedings of the present conference.