

2013 Internet Governance Forum  
Panel - Building Bridges-The Role of Governments in Multistakeholder Cooperation  
Bali, Indonesia  
October 22nd, 2013

Mr. Chairman, Moderators, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for the opportunity to talk to you today.

As a representative of the technical community, I look at this issue from the angle of what kind of co-operation we need with governments. I wanted to raise three comments. First, historically, the Internet technology was largely under the radar and there was little real need for regulation, policies, and government involvement. Fast forward to year 2013, the Internet is critical to all our daily lives.

Now we are finding that there are areas where there is a need to discuss between the governments and the technical community. I think the engineers at IETF and elsewhere have realized that they cannot work on the technology alone in all cases, and that things like emergency calls are something that we have to work on together in the larger community. For instance, we are working on IP-based emergency call technology at the IETF. Standards in this area are of course safety critical. It is also very much a case for needing one standard for the whole world on this topic, because otherwise when I roam from Finland to Bali my smart phone may not be able to place an emergency call here.

Another example is technology for dynamic radio frequency allocation, using something we call whitespace for wireless communications. The technical community is not in the business for deciding what frequencies are whitespace, or setting the requirements on how static or dynamic allocation happens. Governments are. But the technical community is building the protocol components for the dynamic negotiation between an access point and an administrative agency. Such as the IETF PAWS effort. We need to understand the requirements for this, and the various agencies need to be comfortable with the types of solutions being built.

Secondly we all talk about how the Internet has enabled incredible innovation. When we talk about governance issues this week, it is important to think about them in terms of what the future will bring and not just today's Internet. I wanted to highlight something that we see at the technical community and the IETF very clearly: the speed of innovation is increasing. For instance, the web protocol stack is undergoing significant change with the HTTP 2.0. Voice-over-IP is moving to browsers with WebRTC - real-time communication for the web. The Internet of Things is working its way to more and more devices. Fundamental changes in even the basic networking technology are on the way too, such as moving from IPv4 to IPv6.

Many of these changes have fundamental impacts to Internet governance. Governing an almost limitless address space is very different from managing scarcity. Having any web server be capable of becoming a voice provider will make it difficult to regulate voice traffic.

Finally, I wanted to talk about the practical issues in working together between governments and the Internet technical community. I think we both have suddenly both sides realize that we have to talk to each other, and have motivation for the co-operation.

But there are a number of practical issues. First, there's usually little knowledge of what the other side does. I do not have a full picture of how governments address technical

issues or how regulation processes work. Similarly, the governments have historically talked to other types of organisations about technical or telecommunications matters. Now, the situation is quite different as the expertise and most of the work on Internet technology is elsewhere. Standards organisations are different, and may even work in different ways. We both need to learn how the other side works. For instance, at the IETF we have an open model where anyone can contribute and comment, and the adoption of our standards is on a voluntary basis.

Thank you.

Jari Arkko, Chairman of the IETF

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A. using rough consensus based models for governmental/treaty like situations

B. how the internet technical community and governance and regulation have come closer

. See above

1. Are governments which pitch for multi stakeholderism in the international arena adopting the same in internet related policy making in their respective countries?

. limited experience, but yes

2. In the post NSA leak scene, will increasing focus on multi-laterism affect multi stakeholderism?

. I have many fears about the leakage scene, this included

. good things...

. bad things: national internets, too much focus on governments

3. Are governments taking efforts to encourage and ensure participation of all stakeholders in national delegations to international internet policy forums or conferences?

. limited experience, but yes

4. There is a lot to do about governments trying to regulate the internet through the ITU. A lot of work however currently takes place in self-regulatory bodies, governments may not or insufficiently be aware of. An important question could be: How can governments be integrated in self-regulatory internet bodies, so that their concerns are heard and where possible mitigated, without impeding on the (economic) developments and freedom of information flows? Who need to be brought into contact to establish this and where?

. education

. ISOC and IETF experiences: bringing in regulators and policymakers to the self-regulatory bodies, reaching out to policymakers by the technical experts and leaders

. but also important to bring in additional parties who often have more time and expertise. For instance, vendors that provide equipment for government-regulated functions.

5. What do governments need to consider when promoting the multistakeholder model?
6. How can governments facilitate and support multistakeholder structures?

. The internet is a richer environment than the old telecoms world. There is a bigger set of affected parties,  
users, content providers, operators at many different levels, infrastructure providers, software vendors, ...

- . Recognising the richer environment leads naturally to a multistakeholder model
- . Cannot dictate, have to work together in an ecosystem

7. What support do governments require for building multistakeholder models?

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