

# **WSIS – The Review**

## **Hacking a Dictatorship**

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**WSIS - Lessons learned**

# Background

- **United Nations Social Cycle & Millenium Declaration**
- **Bridging the digital divide**
- **define a common vision of the Information Society**

# How the discussion was organized

## **Tons of meetings**

- **Prepcoms, thematic and regional conferences**
- **Summit (two of them)**

## **WSIS 1 - Geneva 2003**

- **about Goals and Principles**

## **WSIS 2 - Tunis 2005**

- **"A summit of solutions" (ITU)**

# Multi-Stakeholder: Actors

## **Governments**

- **Grouped by region and other ways**
- **Like Minded Group**
- **Common Ground Group**
- **G77 Group**
- **United States**
- **EU**

**WSIS Secretariat**

**ITU**

# Multi-Stakeholder: Actors

## **UN Agencies / International Organizations**

### **Observers**

- **Business Entities**
- International Chamber of Commerce

### **Civil Society**

- Activists, nerds, lobbyists, ...
- Perspectives: tech, development, human rights, environment, ...

## Multi-Stakeholder: Interaction

**"A new kind of summit" (ITU)**

**We could**

- **observe, speak, submit input**
- **organize parallel events (well attended)**

**Informal talks and consultations (and drinks)**

**Experts or citizens with political interests?**

# Internet Governance

## **Main Question of the Second Summit: ICANN or ITU?**

### **Who controls the core resources?**

- DNS root server A
- new Top-Level Domains
- ICANN / US DOC
- who owns ccTLDs?

### **Also:**

- Internationalized Domain Names
- Capacity-building
- Security / Privacy

# Internet Governance

## The Positions

- **US: "good steward for internet freedom"**
- **"Likeminded Group": ITU / governments should get it**
- **EU: "new cooperation model"**

## Outcome

- **USA still control ICANN**
- **Global Internet Governance Forum**

# Financing

## Background

- Bridging the digital divide requires resources
- can't be done by one country alone
- everybody had hoped for .com bubble money
- Afterwards:  
demands for official development assistance rose

## Financing

### **Discussions and Positions**

- **African countries wanted “Digital Solidarity Fund”**
  - created like the Tobin Tax
  - Levy on ICT purchases
- **Rich Countries / business insisted on market**
- **Civil Society: Internet a global public good**

### **Outcome**

- **Voluntary funding**
- **Digital Solidarity Fund was "welcomed"**
- **need for public financing where markets don't exist**

# Tunisian Repression

## Why Tunisia as a host country ?

- **Good Question - Did they raise their hands first?**
- **History behind selecting Tunisia**
  - Politics at the ITU
  - Battle with Switzerland
    - Oh, oh - do we really want to have it in Tunisia?
    - Switzerland offers to host the summit instead
- The compromise
  - let's do it in two parts..A summit in two phases..

# Tunisian Repression

## **The Situation in Tunisia**

- **A country well known as a violator of human rights.**
  - Grave issues related to Freedom of expression
  - Torture
  - Lack of opposition - The current president won well over 99.2% in the last election
- **Dictatorship since 1987**
  - Fear & repression
  - Infiltration of social movements & opposition by government and its agents

# Tunisian Repression



## Citizens' Summit on the Information Society

### - Alternative summit

- To discuss topics the WSIS didn't really want
    - Privacy, Human Rights, Freedom of expression
    - Media diversity
  - Solidarity with Tunisian "critical" civil society
  - Problems with finding rooms.
  - The action at the Goethe Institute
- 
- Results obtained
    - During the summit.
    - After the summit - Creation of joint solidarity group.

# Tunisian Net Censorship

## The Situation in Tunisia

### -Filter Report by Open Net Initiative

- Which sites are blocked ?
- How does the filtering work ?



What's next ?

## **Tunisia**

- Close contact, monitoring & regional level
- Public is aware now

## **Summit Outcomes**

- Implementation
  - Local, national & regional level
  - Coordination by UN agencies
  - “Best practices”, “Stocktaking database”
  - Review in 2015

What's next ?

## **Political Debate**

- New issues emerge, old conflicts remain
- ECOSOC commission on Science and Technology for Development.
- Other Forums (EU, WIPO, ITU, etc)

## **Internet Governance Forum**

- Broad definition, more than just ICANN
- First preparations in Geneva (Feb 2006)
- First meeting of the forum Q2 2006 (Athens)
- “A watchdog that can't bite, but can bark”

## Lessons learned

### **After four years - what are the highlights/lessons**

- Experience as part of a national delegation
- Inside / Outside strategy
- Tactics learned
- Was it worth it?

More Questions?

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