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FROM PERIPHERY TO CORE: TOWARDS AN ASIA PACIFIC AGENDA FOR THE
WSIS+10 REVIEW
SESSION 73

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>> PAUL WILSON: Well, good morning again everyone. We
have a very limited window for this session. We are, I think,
preparing to join the opening session of the Communic Macau
meeting over at the other hotel. So the planned finish time is
11:45, which gives us not more than half an hour, I'm afraid.
So we will get started now I think.

I'm Paul Wilson from APNIC. And I'm joined by co-
moderators here for this session on the WSIS+10 process. Thip
from ISOC, and Shahzad Ahmed from Bytes For All.

So we have some short presentations and hopefully time for
this discussion as well. So if we could start with the first of
the presentations.

The purpose of my presentation was to give some very brief
background about the WSIS+10 process, so I'll do that without
the presentation if I need to. The World Summit on Information
Society was a UN sponsored event that was held as two major

World Summits at the beginning of the last decade. So there were two major summits. One that concluded in Tunis in 2003, and the second phase which concluded in agenda, in 2005.

So it's about the Information Society and the aspects of the Information Society as the next generation, I suppose, from the industrial society, and how it was possibility for Governments and communities worldwide to make the best results out of the Information Society social and economic development.

Now the event didn't start off speaking about the Internet as such, but I think it was clear during the first phase that the Internet was an essential element of information communications technologies, and an essential precursor therefore to the best development of the Information Society. So that advent of the Internet during the first phase, I think, raised a question about what is the Internet and how it is governed.

This was a Governmental conference, of course, and so the question about how something is governed is pretty natural. And the question therefore about Internet governance came up during that first phase as something that was very important.

Because of a lot of confusion, I think, and a lot of sort of growing awareness about what could be kind of something unique about Internet governance, at the end of the first phase of the summit was formed something called the Working Group on Internet governance. It was a special group that was supposed to investigate Internet governance and produce a report as input to the second phase. And they did that. The Working Group on Internet Governance was a large and diverse group of people, a multistakeholder group, that produced a report about Internet Governance that went into the second phase.

I think the thing about that report and the thing about the discussion about Internet governance in WSIS was not the Internet governance -- that Internet governance was somehow invented or the term was somehow first invented at that time. It was more actually a process of discovery I think about by the participants at conference. That the Internet being an extremely important thing that people had already started to rely on heavily was governed in a particular way that was rather unique.

And so the discovery of that governance is what happened during the WSIS process. And part of that was the label applied which was called the multistakeholder governance. And that was important to the governance of the Internet.

And by the end of the second phase, this is to cut a long story short, by the end of the second phase we had a report recognizing the Internet governance and the challenges involved. It called for the establishment of the Internet Governance Forum, and this is how we come to be here today. It called for

a number of other things, but I think for the purposes of this meeting, it's the Internet Governance Forum that is particularly important.

Because that, since that time, ten years ago, the Internet Governance Forum has happened nine times. The tenth is happening this year. And what we're coming up to now is something that is quite traditional in these UN summit circles, which is a 10 event. So plus years after the second WSIS summit, we are preparing for the WSIS+10 event, which has been a series of processes to look at how the WSIS outcomes have been implemented and what have been the impacts.

And there are decisions to be made. We know that there are some decisions to be made about whether or not there will be a WSIS+10 summit. Is that a full summit activity to follow? There is also a decision to be made by the future of the IGF.

There are interesting things that happened during this process. Because while the WSIS process ten years ago talked about a multistakeholder open and inclusive process, and that embodied that in the IGF, there were questions about how the WSIS+10 preparatory process will make its decisions. Because it appears potentially to be a much more InterGovernmental Process located within the UN General Assembly in New York.

So there are some open questions about exactly how that is going to happen. The UN General Assembly meets towards the end of this year and will make decisions. There are preparatory processes underway right now, in fact, that many people are participating in, and watching.

So I think the point of this session is to bring an update about WSIS+10 and also to look at WSIS+10, how the review is happening and how it affects and how we can be a part of the WSIS+10 process in this region.

I'll leave it there with that short introduction and I'll hand over to Thip, who is able to tell us in quite a bit more detail about what is happening with WSIS+10. After that, Shazad will talk to us about what is happening in the Asia Pacific region. We don't have a lot of time so I'll hand over and hopefully we will have time for comments or feedback and comments and discussion at end.

>> DUANGTHIP CHOMPRANG: Thank you, Paul. Are my slides --

As you know, ISOC is heavily involved and invested in the WSIS+10 process. So two days ago, July 1 and 2, was one of the key meetings that is happening right now in New York, to determine the preparation for the high level meeting. But I will go briefly on that later.

But just I prepared a short set of slides just to give you an idea where we are, where we're heading, and what are the -- where do we stand from an Asia Pacific standpoint in terms of preparation for this very important meeting. As Paul was

saying, this is the year that decides a lot of things about the Internet, especially the Internet Governance Forum as well as the WSIS agenda.

So I'll go briefly on the history. The same of the WSIS+10's review. The status of APAC together and the process. Basically, the timeline of the process in 2015.

So as you can see, it all started with two key initiatives. The Geneva 2003 phase as well as the Tunis 2005 phase, where the Internet governance definition was agreed by the different Governments. I just want to note that those familiar with the Geneva 2003 phase, originally it started off as a means to address the digital divide, especially a development issue among developing countries. And because of that particular agenda, it gave birth to what is called the Millennium Development Program, which ends at the end of this year.

And from the Geneva 2003 Phase I, two things happened. One was a set of goals and principles of the Geneva phase. And the second one is the 11 action items, which are owned by different groups or stakeholders predominantly by the different UN agencies, which basically are the key coordinators for the different goals and implementation. The important thing to notice is that the 11 action item line will be up for review at the end of this year.

The Tunis Agenda, which is another important proceeding after the Geneva, is taking up how do you operationalize a lot of what was discussed at that level? And what you see is the introduction of what the multistakeholder in this phase as well as the creation of an Internet Governance Forum, which effectively has a five-year term, which basically ends this year again.

So here is APAC's contribution. That the time we produced two declarations. The first one is the Tokyo Declaration 2003. And the second one is the Taiwan Declaration 2005. Basically, those principles is to endorse the Geneva principles and to endorse the 11 action items.

So after that, there were no further contributions from the APAC region. And of course these are just to let you know that there are 11 items, what they are. And this is where the United Nations General Assembly will review all of the 11 items to see, for instance, in terms of achievement, challenges, general trends of where the development of these 11 items are, and policy recommendations. And that would include policy recommendation of whether to carry on with IGF and what are the -- beyond the WSIS+10 agenda on development.

So to put it shortly, the WSIS+10, which is the high level meeting, not the review meeting, is scheduled on the 14th and 15th of December in the United Nations General Assembly in New York. And, basically, aims to endorse the WSIS+ statement of

implementation of WSIS outcome, basically the review of the 11 items. And to form, based on the policy recommendation, the beyond 2015 vision of what are the, you know, what is the next agenda. Basically, connecting the next building was one of the key items.

So here the important thing is the discussion on the review will focus on the role of ICT development, which is basically still addressing the digital divide topics as Internet governance, human rights, access to ICT and also security.

This is to give you an idea of why the United Nations General Assembly is involved in this. And you can probably read this. It's towards creating an Information Society, which is connected through the Internet. This is the important one. This is the timeline for this year and how this preparation will work towards the December meeting, which is on the 14th and 15th of December.

So the first major initiative in 2015 was the WSISd oc taking, which was held in Geneva on June 10 and 11. And, basically, that is where the different coordinators of the 11 action items produced these reports and they basically came together and reviewed them and reported.

Of course, there is also other ceremonial type activities, for example the award and things like that. But the important thing is a lot of these reports were generated prior to this meeting.

For instance, you have the UNESCO report, which was the first review which took place in 2013, and the UN ESCAP and other regions produced a lot of reports prior to this meeting. All of which is to form the so-called first review -- the second review, so to speak, of taking stock of what has happened in the different regions.

The next meeting is actually the one that just passed, which is the preparatory meeting. And this is an intergovernmental -- this is the first intergovernmental meeting by which all of the governments come together and decide what are the inputs and agenda for the December meeting. So it's a two-day event. The first one is purely intergovernmental. The second one, the United Nations Secretary General decided that there should be an informal consultation with other multistakeholders, which are not Governments. So that is held on July 2. And so there was an appointment of two co-facilitators, from Latvia and UAE, who basically coordinates the consultation.

Basically, the exercise is really for the Governments, the different Governments, to come together to what we call "policy negotiate" what needs to be done in preparation for the written submission in mid July.

The different Governments will also then need to come up

with proper recommendations or proposals, which is called a nonpaper submission. And the deadline is the third week of September. We don't actually have the exact day. But, basically, this meeting forms the basis for the submission of this nonpaper submission.

So if you look at Asia Pacific, ISOC actually was in consultation with ESCAP and also with APT, which is the telecommunication regional grouping. And ITU, actually. None of them actually have a -- an event to address a WSIS+10 review. And we checked with our regional groups in other regions, like Latin America and Africa. So, interestingly, they actually have a reviewing process in the regions. So APAC or APT is the only region that doesn't have a reviewing process. If you just check at the genre of events.

So that was the case -- I'm not sure what happened, but the APT Secretary General has agreed that they will table this idea of having a WSIS review perhaps as a submission of a sort from the APT region by consulting the member countries in August. They have what we call an Asia Pacific regional policy forum, which basically determines the planning activities for post-2015 for APT region. So they have added that as -- as a meeting agenda.

We have also invited ITU to basically present what happened in the WSIS stocktaking, as well as the -- what happened in the July meeting, which just passed. Basically, the APT secretary will ask the Governments what would you like to do next? Would you like to submit a regional paper of a sort?

But it's going to be a tight schedule, as you can see. The deadlines are pretty close. But that's all we know, so we will be participating in that particular meeting as an observer.

>> AUDIENCE: What happened at the meeting yesterday?

(Off microphone.) To what extent do the stakeholders focus...

>> DUANGTHIP CHOMPRANG: Again, it's an informal consultation. So from what I know from my colleague who did attend, ISOC was invited to make an address. And our position is -- I can circulate it, but if you visit our website you'll see our position. We would like to support an open WSIS process.

As you know, the December meeting is where countries actually vote --

>> AUDIENCE: My question related to what transpired at meeting yesterday. The meeting happened yesterday.

>> DUANGTHIP CHOMPRANG: Yes. I don't know. That is what I'm saying. The only thing I can report to you is that we made a statement there, and we are still waiting for -- again, the InterGovernmental Session, I do believe it's closed door. I don't know if we were allowed to observe it. Again, I wasn't

there, but I'll check.

But in general, United Nations type meetings are generally closed door, anyway. And when you take the voting, it's strictly for Governments. It's not for other stakeholders. If there is anyone who actually attended one of these, please of course raise your hands.

And so we are strongly urging all the different UN agencies to support us to ensure that we are able to participate openly at every stage of the process itself.

So coming back to the APT region, our wonderful region, well, there is not much time left. And preparation would be extremely -- we would need to rush quite a bit to do this. But it would be a shame if Asia Pacific actually does not submit a proposal, given that we did have two, you know, in the original meeting. And given that a lot of the agenda on the ICT development and digital divide happens in this region and I feel that our voice needs to be heard at that level.

I understand that a lot of specific countries are attending this meeting, as individual countries, like Japan is there. I understand my country is there. But again, I can't -- I don't know who else has been there. But let's put it this way, we don't have a regional presence, we don't have a regional submission, unlike other regions in the past who have actually made regional submissions.

So this is just to give you an idea. Prior to 2015 there have been lots of reports generated, basically, to review. And this document is used as part of the consultation with the different Governments and also to review, you know, what are the next steps beyond 2015.

So I've already mentioned that. So one thing you could do is -- two things you could do. One is go into this website and basically put your name and support the letter of endorsement to the UN agency to say that we would like to have an open WSIS process.

Two, all of the members here, I'm sure, belong to the APT Secretariat -- I mean, APT group. You can actually push this agenda back to your Governments. The meeting is August 3 to 5 in Singapore. You can also ask to be part of the delegation for this meeting. And push this agenda that we would like to have a WSIS proposal or submission from the APT region. And I believe the Secretary General was very open. If the Member States feel the need that they want to do that, that you know they could do that.

Yes, and that's it for me.

>> SHAHZAD AHMED: Thank you.

A very quick update. I think we were a bit late starting on this. This is an update from the Civil Society perspective. I would not have ideas of what different Governments are doing

on this.

Jakarta was one opportunity for us, early June. We had 140 different people and organizations delivered there for a feel of expression in the context of religious freedoms. And on the sidelines of this event, we organized a WSIS+10 review session as well.

Some of the priorities, there were about 30, 35 people, so we organized some of the priorities for the region over there. Then some commitments were also made by different organizations. So the identified priorities for the region, and these are all the Civil Society groups, is freedom of expression, server (inaudible) access, gender, and net neutrality. So, basically, the organizations in the room, all of them, first were identified and then voted. What are the key priorities for the region, where different organization would say want to work and where would want to contribute or submit input to the process.

The other priorities were cybercrime, cybersecurity, Civil Society participation, and the Internet governance and open Government, open data. So that was the priorities.

And the important thing to mention over here is that everybody agreed that the human rights based approach to all policy processes, that is crucial and extremely important. Since Jakarta, what happened quickly to update that, so Civil Society groups are preparing the contributions to the process, which is due by the 31st of July. So different organizations or different -- in the region or elsewhere as well are really getting towards this. Then the first preparatory meeting, Thip mentioned it happened 1st and 2nd July. It was an interactive dialog and then the priority meeting.

And this is the devised roadmap which Thip also showed, but I wanted to mention that this is the timeline this was revised the day before yesterday. And for us the opportunity is to comment on the zero draft report, then that line for comments on zero draft day is October. Then again, there is a preparatory session on the 19th of October. That is an informal interactive WSIS consultations. That will be 19 and 20 and 21st October for people gathered in New York for input in this process.

And then the second draft and the event itself is on 15th and 16th December. Thip already mentioned about it.

Preparatory process is InterGovernmental, With very little space for Civil Society, unfortunately. And we hope the draft outcome will be available in September 2015 and that is when we hope we can actually try to provide input in the process.

A way forward for us, I mean, all of us need to be really trying to provide input -- stakeholder input by the 31st of July. That is about like 3 weeks down the line. Then we have planned to organize and issue regional consultation in September. So the idea is when this draft outcome document is

available, we can have some input to that process. So we are planning an Asia Pacific regional. We are not sure of the plans. But I'm sure in a few weeks' time to try to reach out to as many stakeholders and all get together and have one unified voice to this process. Those who can attend may prepare the preparatory meeting as well on the 19th of October. It's beyond the September consultation.

There is a possibility of a best practices meeting somewhere around IGF or the time before that on the WSIS+10 review. We know that a delegated meeting on the sidelines of the Global IGF in Brazil is also planned in November. That is a also place where Civil Society groups can gather and provide their input. And then the WSIS+10, that is in 15, 16, December 2015, in New York.

So that was a quick update. So what I was share with you is that probably before -- the important opportunity for all of us is this September consultation, where probably the cross community gathering can happen and can have some complete input to the Process.

Thank you.

>> PAUL WILSON: Thank you, Shahzad, and Thip as well for the updates. I thank you very much for keeping it short as well. We have got approximately 10 minutes for input. So now I'd like to open the floor.

>> AUDIENCE: Thank you for the presentations. I have a question for Thip. I'm seeking clarification.

You're saying that for the other regions, like Latin America and Africa, they have -- the local telecommunity and the ITU bureaus in the region have preparatory meetings. But for APT and ITU, we do not have that? And so there isn't an opportunity for the region to have a declaration, as opposed to the other regions? I'm seeking clarification on that.

>> DUANGTHIP CHOMPRANG: That is correct. Other regions will have a regional submission like the one we did many years ago, simply because we don't actually have a mechanism in this region. Okay, this is -- this is televised, right, so I can't say that much, then.

Let's just say that we don't have that mechanism. But APT is willing to provide that platform. But, again, this is closely within the Government's space. But as we are the nonGovernment group, we can still do the submission, whether through, you know, your own constituencies. But I don't know how that works in the different countries. One of them would be also ISOC and the various multistakeholder organizations that are following this. But it would not be, say, a regional position nor a country position. But you may work with your Governments, if they are already seeking to do something to be part of that delegation, and do the input.

But again even though you see that Shahzad said we have the ability to comment, but you see those are comments on drafts already given, not based on what we would craft ourselves. That would be to our disadvantage, I would assume. Because we did a pretty good job with the Taiwan declaration and the Tokyo declaration. So that I think took some time and coordination. Whether that would be realistic, I wouldn't know.

>> AUDIENCE: I was seeking a clarification on the 3 to 5 August Singapore meeting.

>> DUANGTHIP CHOMPRANG: That is the APT policy and regulatory forum. That is the meeting to set the agenda for the post-2015 development strategies in the APT region. So we asked them to please include the WSIS review agenda there. You might want to go there, too, ICANN.

>> AUDIENCE: (Off microphone.)

>> DUANGTHIP CHOMPRANG: Yes. Now it's an announced agenda. And we asked them to invite ITU because they have to provide the updates on the WSIS stock taking process, and what basically came to bear in the July 1 and 2, which I am not aware. At this point we're not aware of what happened, because it's the intergovernmental one that we would like to know, you know, what surfaced or not surfaced.

>> AUDIENCE: (Off microphone.)

>> DUANGTHIP CHOMPRANG: Yes. We have the verbal agreement, and I understand that the ITU has also accepted, because I think that they have sent an invitation to ITU in Geneva that they need to send someone to basically brief the Governments in the APT region. So they have taken up that --

>> AUDIENCE: (Off microphone.)

>> DUANGTHIP CHOMPRANG: Well, I have no idea.

>> AUDIENCE: Hi. Chat from APC. It's basically along the same lines. Is there any scope for participation from other stakeholders, aside from Government in this August 3 to 5 meeting at all?

>> DUANGTHIP CHOMPRANG: Two ways. Either you go through your country and become a delegation under that. Or I would need to speak to my boss whether you could come under ISOC, because we're an affiliate member. You are also an affiliate member, APNIC. Well, we're considered affiliate members.

So there are two other avenues, APNIC, ISOC affiliate members. So only affiliate members can participate. It's past the deadline.

>> PAUL WILSON: I think the other channel would be ECOSOC. Consult with staff, or is that not the case? (off microphone) I thought that might give you access, and APC has ECOSOC status. But that's speculative.

>> DUANGTHIP CHOMPRANG: But I'm not sure they would be accredited under the APT meeting. I don't know how that works.

>> AUDIENCE: (inaudible) Thank you for organizing this session. I think the process seems to be very intensive. So you explained there will be like a nonpaper process and zero draft, which it sounds very unfamiliar with us, because they are all UN languages.

So do you understand how this nonpaper and zero draft are going to work out? Like how we can give input to this nonpaper process and zero draft, and how they can get reflected in the final stage of the document?

>> DUANGTHIP CHOMPRANG: It's not clear at this point -- we're not talking about Government inputs. We are talking about nonGovernment inputs, right?

>> AUDIENCE: Well, I think altogether. Because I was watching yesterday the stakeholder consultation meetings. Unlike a lot of this appears as concerns in some kind of the, how can I say, the attitude towards Civil Society. Yesterday's consultation was very friendly. For example, the co-facilitators were the ICANN and also (inaudible) and another lady from Microsoft. They were together with Government representatives. They, four of them, were co-facilitators. So that means I think that will sort of like accept the Civil Society's input as much as Government input.

So I would be interested in how this nonpaper NGO draft are going to work out. Like is there any mechanism sort of like for us to give input as independent actors? Or as you sort of like suggested, you know, we work with our Government? So it's very unclear, this whole nonpaper and zero draft process.

>> SHAHZAD AHMED: I would say groups like us or like APC who have ECOSOC participation, so if you want to send input it's one way of doing that.

But I think that there is a zero draft last week of September. And then they are again going to a preparatory process on the 19th of October. So that is when we can provide inputs for this.

For this recent preparatory meeting, they provided some slots for speaking on the second day, on the 2nd of July. And there were some Civil Society representatives who got the slot to speak at there. So probably that is where, if all of us work together, can provide input to these people and they can, you know, highlight it in a main session.

So I don't think that there is a lot of opportunities to directly interact. But it is to, as was mentioned, to this process that we have at hand.

>> DUANGTHIP CHOMPRANG: I can find out more to your question. Because it's relevant for those of us who might not have those avenues, how do we do that.

But given the fact that we're supporting the open WSIS, I'm not sure how open, as much as they say it's open, how open our

contributions will be seriously included as part of the final document that they actually use to vote.

>> AUDIENCE: Just maybe for information for this meeting, yes. Yesterday, was it yesterday, July 2, there was a process that the UN started. So they actually nominated or selected people to, in a selection Committee, to select the people who will speak in that July -- in that. So that's what happened. So what happened was there was quite a rushed process. Because there were, in fact, complaints from Civil Society to say look, this is a closed process. We need who are going to speak at this session in July. It was also the -- we were only given like maybe three weeks. They set it up three weeks before. So very, very rushed process.

So there was a selection Committee. There were people who were then accepted by the UN to select the speakers. And from there there were nominations of speakers. So that is what happened in this particular process.

Now for the October process it could be the same. We don't know. I think they -- they seem to be making this issuance as we -- you know, not a very -- they don't have enough time. They don't give a lot of time in relation to this meeting.

>> SHAHZAD AHMED: And also the invitations to the people who they selected for speaking are observing the session. For example, like me, came on the 1st of July. And there is no way that somebody from Asia can go all the way to New York to participate on that. It's impossible. So it was a very ad hoc, very problematic process. And probably this is also another important issue that we need to raise with the UN as best as possible. I mean, ISOC cannot say something about it. They need to include more (inaudible) and it should give ample time to prepare. It's not like you open it up like five days before the event and say okay, nominate yourself and then submit the form, and only on the 1st of July, you know, like tomorrow you can come and participate. It's impossible for people to come and participate there.

>> AUDIENCE: Sivasubramanian M. All of this points to the fact that there is an increasing tendency to make this process as multi-lateral as possible. And there is an increasing and more influence of Governments in the process. Isn't that something that we could do to step up the pressure to make the process more multistakeholder? Apart from giving inputs and participating as observers and all of that, there must be something that we can do to make the process truly multistakeholder.

>> DUANGTHIP CHOMPRANG: I think the other avenue is IGF. There needs to be a strong presence of IGF. I don't know what you want to call it. View or some sort of an outcome from the last IGF before this meeting might help raise that again.

Although it's very close -- the timeline doesn't fit the submission. But it will give greater pressure, so to speak, if you'd like.

I think I might need someone to help me, because I'm not good with the so-called policy lobbying. It's not my job. I don't know how it's done. But someone who is an expert in this area can probably give better advice.

>> AUDIENCE: (Off microphone.)

>> PAUL WILSON: Well, I'm just being reminded that we are past time for the close of the session, I'm afraid. So I'm sorry about that. I think I need to ask Yannis to let us know what the next steps are. I'm not sure if this discussion can continue while some of us move on, or whether we will all move on to the next session.

Yannis, can you tell us what is next? Alex.

>> Hello. This is Alex.

There will be a coach waiting outside for attending. You are invited to the Communic Macau opening. So now there will be a coach waiting outside. And I think the opening will be around until 1 o'clock. And then there will be a coach again to take you guys all back to here.

>> PAUL WILSON: Sorry to call it to a quick ending.

But thanks very much to Thip and Shahzad and to all of you. Thanks.

(Applause)

(End of session 11:47)

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