

UNITED NATIONS FUNDS-IN-TRUST PROJECT DOCUMENT

Project number: GLO/11/X01

Project title: Internet Governance Forum

Country/area: Global

Start date: 1 April 2011

End date: 31 December 2015

Executing agency: UNDESA

Funding: Multi-donor – extrabudgetary

Budget: Long-term project framework – budget “A”

Purpose		
<p>The issue of Internet governance was one of the most controversial issues at the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), which was held in two phases in Geneva, 2003, and in Tunis, 2005. Cognizant of the need for development of public policy on matters related to key elements of Internet governance by governments in consultation with all stakeholders, WSIS requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene a new forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue – called the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The mandate and terms of reference of the IGF are set out in paragraphs 72 to 80 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, attached as Annex 1.</p> <p>The initial mandate was for five years, from 2006 to 2010. Recognizing the importance of the Forum to fostering the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet, as well as its role in building partnerships among different stakeholders, the United Nations General Assembly decided to renew the mandate of the IGF under the patronage of the Secretary-General for a further five years, from 2011 to 2015 (resolution 65/141 of 20 December 2010).</p> <p>A small Secretariat was established in 2006 under the responsibility of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), to provide a support structure for the IGF including the preparation of its yearly meetings. The Secretariat, which is located at the United Nations Office of Geneva (UNOG) is funded through extra-budgetary contributions.</p> <p>This project document describes the work programme and activities to be undertaken by the Secretariat effective 1 April 2011, with the commencement of the next 5 year cycle of the IGF mandate. Resources remaining under the first phase project, GLO/06/X01, as at 31 March 2011 will be transferred to this project.</p>		
Agreed on behalf of the Donors:	_____	_____ Date
Agreed on behalf of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs:	_____ Haiyan Qain Director DPADM/UNDESA	_____ Date

Background and context

Internet governance was found to be a very controversial issue during the first phase of WSIS (WSIS-I), held in Geneva in December 2003. It was recognized that understanding Internet governance was essential in achieving the development goals of the WSIS process. It proved to be difficult, however, to define Internet governance. It proved a challenge to see how the roles of the different stakeholders involved in Internet governance would be managed and how the different stakeholders would come together given their different representations and constituents.

WSIS-I requested that the Secretary-General set up a Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) to look into this issue and to prepare a report for deliberation and appropriate action by the second phase of WSIS in Tunis in November 2005 (WSIS-II). Between the two phases of WSIS, the WGIG created an open process of consultations with the participation of all stakeholders on an equal footing, which contributed to a better understanding of the issues related to Internet governance. The WGIG report, together with a background report, was submitted to the third session of the WSIS Preparatory Committee.

WSIS-II by and large endorsed the main elements contained in the WGIG report. WSIS-II agreed on a broad definition of Internet governance that goes beyond domain names, protocol numbers and Internet Protocol (IP) addresses. It also identified the process of Internet governance as involving many stakeholders in a variety of roles. WSIS, in the Tunis Agenda, placed the discussions in a development context and called for greater efforts for capacity building to enable developing countries to participate effectively in Internet governance arrangements. Furthermore, it identified some priority issues related to the use of the Internet, which requires the attention of the international community, such as multilingualism, local content, spam and cyber security.

To continue the policy dialogue on Internet governance, WSIS-II requested the Secretary-General to convene an Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The Tunis Agenda set out in general terms the IGF mandate, the nature of its work and its working methods (cf. Annex 1). However, many elements were left open, such as the nature of the IGF, the duration and periodicity of its meetings as well as the substantive work programme. A first round of consultations took place in Geneva in February 2006. These consultations established common understandings regarding the key elements, first and foremost the open and inclusive nature of the IGF. It was also established that the IGF should meet once a year for three to five days.

To assist him in convening the annual Forum, the Secretary-General established an advisory group, which was later named the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG). The main task of the MAG, which is made up of members from governments, private sector and civil society, including the academic and technical communities, representing all regions, is to prepare the substantive agenda and programme for the IGF meetings taking into consideration stakeholders views. He also appointed a Special Adviser for Internet Governance as Chairman of the Group.

The preparatory process chaired by the Special Adviser, with its open consultations and collaborative approach, has allowed all stakeholders to move closer to a common understanding of the character of the IGF, its working methods, and how to structure and prepare its meetings.

In order to ensure the effective process of its implementation, the Under-Secretary-General (USG) of UNDESA was entrusted by the Secretary-General to support and oversee the work of the IGF Secretariat, both in terms of policy and administration.

In 2009, DESA examined the desirability of the continuation of the Forum on behalf of the Secretary-General, in formal consultation with Forum participants and made recommendations to the UN Member States in this regard. Taking note of the Secretary-General's observations (A/65/78-E/2010/68), the General Assembly adopted the Resolution A/C.2/65/L.56 on "Information and communications technologies for development" on 24 November 2010, which called for the renewal and the extension of the mandate of the IGF for a further five years (2011-2015), and invited the Secretary-General to continue the convening of an open and inclusive process for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on the Internet Governance Forum according to its mandate as set out in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda.

In the first cycle of the IGF, meetings held in Athens, Greece in 2006; Rio de Janeiro in 2007; Hyderabad, India in 2008; Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in 2009 and Vilnius, Lithuania in 2010 have shown that there is a wide interest and need for an international forum of this nature. Attendance has averaged around 1450 participants

from all stakeholder groups, including over one hundred Member States participating, as well as strong showings from the business community, the academic and technical communities and civil society. Each of the IGF meetings has been accompanied by strong media interest with more than 150 media accreditations.

In an effort to be as inclusive as possible and ensure transparency, all the main sessions were rendered in real-time verbatim transcriptions. These transcriptions were made available on the IGF Web site¹ at the end of each session and remain there as an electronic archive. All main sessions were Web cast and the meetings allowed for virtual participation via email, chatrooms, text messaging and video conferencing. All main sessions were moderated by professional journalists and TV news anchors.

The IGF is a continual process, with a vibrant online life, where all stakeholders can bring forward issues of concern involving Internet governance. The IGF Web site is the portal into this process, it has an online forum for online discussion and stakeholders can also send the Secretariat comments, issue and position papers for posting in the contributions section of the Web site to stimulate discussion. There are also three open consultations held each year before the annual meeting to take stock of what has gone on before and to allow stakeholders to provide input into the programme and schedule of the next IGF meeting.

In many ways the IGF serves as a catalyst that helps focus public attention on issues related to Internet governance. The concrete effects of this public attention are exhibited by the many contributions that are submitted by all stakeholder groups during each of the phases of the preparation for the annual meetings. The discussions that take place within the annual meetings provide a rich source for both problem analysis and possible solutions that other stakeholders can take back to their respective home countries or institutions and induce local change.

The spread of national and regional IGF type processes in all parts of the world underscores the strength of the multistakeholder approach and has been an agent for empowering local communities and for promoting participatory democratic bottom-up processes.

The activities for the coming five years will follow the pattern established during the first mandate. The calendar will include open consultations and planning meetings in the first part of each year followed by the annual conference in the fourth quarter. The 2011 IGF meeting will be held in Nairobi, Kenya and Azerbaijan has offered to host the 2012 meeting.

To further enhance the value of the IGF and its Secretariat, the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2010/2 invited the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to establish a working group on improvements to the IGF. The report of the working group will constitute an input to the 66th session of the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, and may lead to changes in the Forum's working methods, preparatory processes and associated project activities.

The future of the IGF and its Secretariat beyond 2015 will be decided in the context of the 10-year review of WSIS by the General Assembly.

¹ <http://www.intgovforum.org/>

Logical framework

The project will contribute to the achievement of the following objective:

Objective To achieve increased understanding, through multi-stakeholder dialogue, on key elements of Internet governance as defined in the Tunis Agenda for Information Society

Expected accomplishment 1 **Creation of an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue related to the key elements of Internet governance**

Main activities

- 1.1 Organize and conduct the annual IGF, including conclusion of a host country agreement coordination of meeting activities with host country and other staff, running meeting sessions, producing reports for the various sessions and producing an overall report
- 1.2 Hold open consultations and advisory group meetings as necessary to set the groundwork for the annual IGF, including preparation of its agenda and programme, and to assess and improve IGF working methods
- 1.3 Coordinate the selection and appointment of advisory group members ensuring balanced geographic, gender and stakeholder representation
- 1.4 Set up and maintain a Web-based collaborative work environment for the IGF and its preparatory processes to minimize the number of face-to-face meetings required
- 1.5 Produce periodic syntheses of contributions received by the Secretariat
- 1.6 Coordinate remote participation for all consultations, preparatory and annual meetings

Indicators of achievement and sources of verification

1. Broad-based and balanced participation as evidenced by attendance records
2. Quality of meetings as evidenced by participant surveys
3. Diversity of views expressed by stakeholders and interdisciplinary nature of dialogue as evidenced by the content of the IGF agenda, programme, syntheses and reports

Assumptions and risks

Completion of the main activities assumes that offers will be received to host the annual meetings of the IGF and that there will be continued support for innovative use of Internet for remote participation.

Expected accomplishment 2

Enhanced collaboration among key organizations dealing with different Internet governance issues in support of development goals

Main activities

- 2.1 Analyze and map existing global and regional Internet governance initiatives and activities to identify gaps and synergies and to promote partnerships
- 2.2 Identify how the IGF can contribute to strengthening multi-stakeholder inputs to Internet governance
- 2.3 Expand the circle of participants and maintain a database of partners for the IGF
- 2.4 Facilitate dialogue between stakeholders on issues concerning Internet governance at national, regional and international levels
- 2.5 Attend national, regional and international meetings on Internet governance as a way to foster and encourage international collaboration in support of development goals
- 2.6 Promote dialogue between stakeholders and the setting up of multi-stakeholder fora at the national and regional levels

Indicators of achievement and sources of verification

1. Scope of collaboration on Internet governance issues as evidenced by number and objective of registered partnerships
2. Effective promotion of dialogue as evidenced by participation along the preparation of the IGF and in its own events, of organizations dealing with different Internet governance issues in support of development goals in national, regional and international meetings on Internet governance

Assumptions and risks

Completion of the main activities assumes that key organizations will actively respond to initiatives to engage in strengthening links between national, regional and international Internet governance mechanisms.

Expected accomplishment 3

Exchange of information to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet

Main activities

- 3.1 Establish and maintain an organized and searchable Web-based repository of all documentation and transcripts produced and received by the IGF
- 3.2 Publish meeting proceedings including contributions received from stakeholders and any reports generated by the Secretariat
- 3.3 Publish Internet governance policy reviews and guidance notes on topics of concern to stakeholders
- 3.4 Support, as appropriate, an online collaborative work environment for dynamic coalitions
- 3.5 Assist in the publication of dynamic coalition reports as appropriate
- 3.6 Set up and maintain mailing lists appropriate to IGF activities

Indicators of achievement and sources of verification

1. Website utility as evidenced by number of website visits by region, language and subject

Assumptions and risks

Completion of the main activities assumes that dialogue among stakeholders will generate suitable input for information sharing.

Expected accomplishment 4

Strengthened capacity of developing country stakeholders to participate effectively in Internet governance arrangements

Main activities

- 4.1 Assist and facilitate regional preparatory meetings and regional engagement
- 4.2 Sponsor participants from developing countries to IGF meetings and preparatory processes
- 4.3 Interface with intergovernmental and Internet community organizations on efforts in Internet governance capacity-building
- 4.4 Create internship and fellowship opportunities for future policy leaders from developing countries

Indicators of achievement and sources of verification

1. Balanced participation of developed and developing countries in IGF meetings as evidenced by attendance records
2. Expanded developing country capacity as evidenced by number of national and regional IGFs assisted by the IGF Secretariat

Assumptions and risks

Completion of the main activities assumes that developing country stakeholders participate in capacity-building opportunities.

The main task of the Secretariat under project GLO/11/X01 is to substantively prepare the meetings of IGF in cooperation with the respective host country. The first meetings of IGF were hosted by the Governments of Greece, Brazil, India, Egypt and Lithuania respectively from 2006-2010. The Government of Kenya is hosting the 2011 meeting, while the Government of Azerbaijan has offered to host the 2012 meeting. It is expected that in the period when this project will be pursued there will be five meetings of the IGF and there will be an average of three open consultations and multi-stakeholders advisory group meetings in between the annual meetings.

Problem statement/challenge

A critically important concern in the process of convening the IGF is to ensure transparency, neutrality and inclusiveness with open participation by all relevant stakeholders. Furthermore, in convening the IGF it is important to address the issue of the need to improve participation of developing countries in existing governance mechanisms. These two issues were emphasized at the Athens and Rio de Janeiro meetings as well as at all of the consultations held to date. In Rio de Janeiro there was an improvement in developing countries attendance, partly due to donor help.

Another important goal is to promote the sharing of best practices for Internet governance. A long-term aim is to contribute to a convergence of national policies by promoting regulation that is conducive to the development and deployment of the Internet. The tools used towards this objective will be best practices forums, which were started at the Rio de Janeiro meeting and received wide support. The IGF Web site can be used to provide an online repository of best practices and lists of contact people and organizations.

Achieving these goals involves, among other activities, the production of synthesis papers, as well as topical reports and meeting proceedings. It also involves outreach to all of the stakeholders and the ability to deliver content in multiple languages and in many locations through various communication channels.

One of the challenges ahead will be to strike a balance between the need to allow for the full and active participation of all stakeholders and the efficiency of the process. In addition to face-to-face meetings, this will involve extensive and innovative use of Internet technologies for remote participation and collaborative online work.

Institutional arrangements

The Secretary-General has established a small Secretariat under the supervision of UNDESA to ensure that the IGF is reliably supported. The Secretariat is independent of any specific stakeholder interest but must interface with all of the stakeholder groups. The staff of the Secretariat are recruited based on functional competency.

In order to carry out the project's key tasks, the Secretariat requires the services of the following key personnel:

1. The Executive Coordinator;
2. A Programme Expert with substantive knowledge of ICT for development, Internet-related public policy issues and capacity-building;
3. A Technology Expert with hands-on experience in designing and managing dynamic Web sites, virtual collaboration processes, online multi-channel information services and systems support; and,
4. Short-term substantive and conference support consultants as the need arises.

Fellowships and internships

Based on past experience with sponsoring fellowships jointly with the DiploFoundation, the IGF Secretariat has developed a permanent programme for fellows from developing countries. Each fellow is sponsored for three months with the possibility of extension for a further three month period with the IGF Secretariat. There are roughly three fellowships a year.

Apart from providing day-to-day support to the Secretariat, such a fellowship programme will have the additional benefit of enhancing the geographical diversity of the Secretariat and contributing to capacity building in developing countries as the candidates benefiting from this programme gain experience in the policy

debate related to Internet governance. It should be noted in this context that capacity building is an overarching priority for the IGF.

In addition, the Secretariat will make a proactive effort to develop internship programmes with academic institutions involved and interested in the Internet governance debate.

Evaluation

In its resolution 65/141 of 19 December 2010, the United Nations General Assembly welcomed the decision of the Economic and Social Council to invite the Chair of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to establish, in an open and inclusive manner, a working group which would seek, compile and review inputs from all Member States and all other stakeholders on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum, in line with the mandate set out in the Tunis Agenda and would submit a report to the Commission at its fourteenth session, in 2011, with recommendations, as appropriate, that would constitute an input from the Commission to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council.

The General Assembly stressed that consideration of improvements to the Internet Governance Forum should be based on the inputs to be provided to the working group by all Member States and all other stakeholders, including those comments received during the online consultation and the consultation undertaken by the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs during the fourth meeting of the Forum held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in November 2009, with particular consideration of, inter alia, enhancing the participation of developing countries, exploring further voluntary options for financing the Forum and improving the modalities of the preparation process and the work and functioning of the Forum's secretariat.

The project will need to allow for a possible review in early 2012 in light of decisions that the General Assembly may wish to take in consideration of advice from CSTD and the Economic and Social Council. The IGF Secretariat will also engage an external evaluator to produce an independent review of the project in 2014 in time to be used as an input into discussions on the desirability of continuation of the Internet Governance Forum and its Secretariat by Member States in the General Assembly within the context of a ten-year review of the implementation of the WSIS outcome in 2015.

Funding

During the first cycle of the IGF (2006-2010), the Internet Governance Forum was supported through a multi-donor trust fund managed by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (project GLO/06/X01). The IGF's next phase, covering the period 1 April 2011 to 31 December 2015, will be managed under the same multi-donor trust fund mechanism (Phase II project – GLO/11/X01).

Corresponding to the extension of the mandate for the IGF for 5 years, the project's overall budget which defines the funding requirements until 31 December 2015 is reflected in Annex 2. For resource mobilization purposes, a two year budget for 2011 and 2012 has been outlined in Annex 3, which reflects the core financial requirements during the first two years to ensure continuity of the Secretariat's work to support the IGF. Future budgetary requirements (current year plus one future year) will be updated during annual mandatory budget revision exercises, drawing on the 5 year budget plan as the overall framework . The residual funds from the first phase project, GLO/06/X01, will be transferred to this project, to ensure a smooth transition for the project's activities.

Annex 1 – Mandate of the Internet Governance Forum

Paragraphs relating to the Internet Governance Forum in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (Doc. WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/6 (Rev. 1)-E)

“72. We ask the UN Secretary-General, in an open and inclusive process, to convene, by the second quarter of 2006, a meeting of the new forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue—called the *Internet Governance Forum* (IGF). The mandate of the Forum is to:

- a. Issues, opportunities and risks. Discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet;
- b. Facilitate discourse between bodies dealing with different cross-cutting international public policies regarding the Internet and discuss issues that do not fall within the scope of any existing body;
- c. Interface with appropriate inter-governmental organisations and other institutions on matters under their purview;
- d. Facilitate the exchange of information and best practices, and in this regard make full use of the expertise of the academic, scientific and technical communities;
- e. Advise all stakeholders in proposing ways and means to accelerate the availability and affordability of the Internet in the developing world;
- f. Strengthen and enhance the engagement of stakeholders in existing and/or future Internet governance mechanisms, particularly those from developing countries;
- g. Identify emerging issues, bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public, and, where appropriate, make recommendations;
- h. Contribute to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise;
- i. Promote and assess, on an ongoing basis, the embodiment of WSIS principles in Internet governance processes;
- j. Discuss, *inter alia*, issues relating to critical Internet resources;
- k. Help to find solutions to the issues arising from the use and misuse of the Internet, of particular concern to everyday users;
- l. Publish its proceedings.

73. The Internet Governance Forum, in its working and function, will be multilateral, multi-stakeholder, democratic and transparent. To that end, the proposed IGF could:

- a. Build on the existing structures of Internet governance, with special emphasis on the complementarity between all stakeholders involved in this process – governments, business entities, civil society and inter-governmental organisations;
- b. Have a lightweight and decentralised structure that would be subject to periodic review;

- c. Meet periodically, as required. IGF meetings, in principle, may be held in parallel with major relevant UN conferences, *inter alia*, to use logistical support.

74. We encourage the UN Secretary-General to examine a range of options for the convening of the Forum, taking into consideration the proven competencies of all stakeholders in Internet governance and the need to ensure their full involvement.

75. The UN Secretary-General would report to UN Member States periodically on the operation of the Forum.

76. We ask the UN Secretary-General to examine the desirability of the continuation of the Forum, in formal consultation with Forum participants, within five years of its creation, and to make recommendations to the UN Membership in this regard.

77. The IGF would have no oversight function and would not replace existing arrangements, mechanisms, institutions or organisations, but would involve them and take advantage of their expertise. It would be constituted as a neutral, non-duplicative and non-binding process. It would have no involvement in day-to-day or technical operations of the Internet.

78. The UN Secretary-General should extend invitations to all stakeholders and relevant parties to participate at the inaugural meeting of the IGF, taking into consideration balanced geographical representation. The UN Secretary-General should also:

- a. draw upon any appropriate resources from all interested stakeholders, including the proven expertise of ITU, as demonstrated during the WSIS process; and
- b. establish an effective and cost-efficient bureau to support the IGF, ensuring multi-stakeholder participation.

79. Diverse matters relating to Internet governance would continue to be addressed in other relevant fora.

80. We encourage the development of multi-stakeholder processes at the national, regional and international levels to discuss and collaborate on the expansion and diffusion of the Internet as a means to support development efforts to achieve internationally-agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals.