WSIS and WGIG Update
An APNIC Perspective

AP* Meeting

Kyoto

APRICOT 2005 KYOTO

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Overview

- Background on WSIS
- WGIG Status
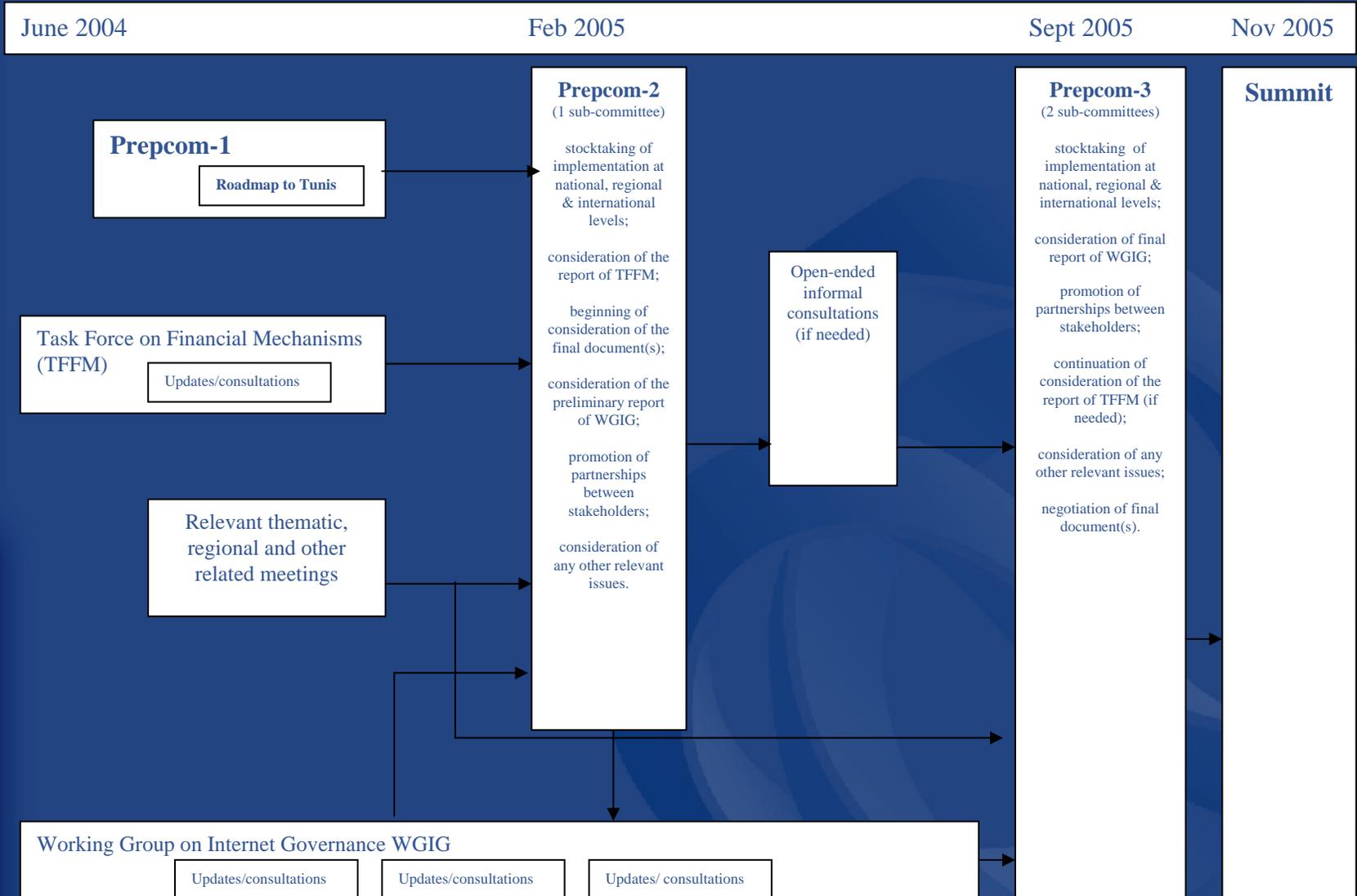- Recent APNIC Activities
- Outlook

Background

- Intergovernmental summit on all aspects of the "Information Society" organized under the auspices of the UN
    - Originally proposed by the ITU
    - Looking at the broad impacts of IT on society, maximizing the benefits and opportunities, and mitigating many of the associated risks
    - Phase I
        - 2003-2003, Geneva Summit
    - Phase II
        - 2004-2005, Tunis Summit

Background

- WSIS Phase I Outcomes
  - Declaration of Principles
  - Plan of Action
  - Task Force on Financial Mechanisms
  - Working Group on Internet Governance

WSIS Phase II

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June 2004	Feb 2005	Sept 2005	Nov 2005

Prepcom-1

Roadmap to Tunis

Prepcom-2
(1 sub-committee)

stocktaking of implementation at national, regional & international levels;

consideration of the report of TFFM;

beginning of consideration of the final document(s);

consideration of the preliminary report of WGIG;

promotion of partnerships between stakeholders;

consideration of any other relevant issues.

Open-ended informal consultations (if needed)

Prepcom-3
(2 sub-committees)

stocktaking of implementation at national, regional & international levels;

consideration of final report of WGIG;

promotion of partnerships between stakeholders;

continuation of consideration of the report of TFFM (if needed);

consideration of any other relevant issues;

negotiation of final document(s).

Summit

Task Force on Financial Mechanisms (TFFM)

Updates/consultations

Relevant thematic, regional and other related meetings

Working Group on Internet Governance WGIG

Updates/consultations

Updates/consultations

Updates/ consultations

* from http://www.itu.int/wsis/preparatory2/hammamet

WGIG Status

- Tasked by WSIS to develop a working definition of Internet Governance, and identify relevant public policy issues
- November 2004
  - Membership announced (7 AP members)
  - Initial Meeting
- February 2005
  - Release of first draft of Issue Papers
  - Second Meeting, Geneva (14-16 Feb)
- July 2005
  - Submit final report to UN Secretary General

APNIC's Position

- Promote the need for continued stability in IP address distribution systems
- Dispel misconceptions and misunderstanding relating to the address community's policy process, the address distribution system and address distribution outcomes
- Promote a position of "do no harm", and be mindful of cross-impacts when proposing changes to infrastructure administrative functions

Recent APNIC Activities

- IPv6 Address Distribution Arrangements
  - discussion paper from ITU-T proposing competitive IPv6 address distribution arrangements using national agencies to operate in competition with RIR structure
  - NRO response highlighted the risks of such a proposal in terms of address fragmentation, inherent inefficiencies in a dual system, industry confusion and potential network instability
    - http://www.nro.net/documents/statements/nro-clarification.html
  - APNIC's position notes the differences between the APNIC NIR arrangements in place today and the ITU-T proposal. The NIR structure underlines the benefits of coherence of address distribution policy and practice.

Recent APNIC Activities

- Dispel misconceptions and misunderstandings
  - December 2004 publications on
    - The myth of address shortage in China
    - A background briefing paper on ICANN, the ITU, WSIS and Internet Governance
    - IP Addressing schemes – a comparison of geographic and provider based IP address schemes
- Responded to WGIG paper on Domain Names and IP Addresses
  - WGIG paper http://www.wgig.org/docs/WP-IPaddresses.pdf
  - APNIC response http://www.wgig.org/docs/Comment-APNIC.pdf

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Recent APNIC Activities

- Added Internet Governance area on APNIC web site to publish digest of recent developments

  http://www.apnic.net/news/hot-topics/internet-gov

- Support the development of AP regional perspectives on the WGIG activity

  - Collaboration with APDIP to launch ORDIG (Open regional dialogue on Internet Governance)

  - Supporting the UNDP APDIP Internet Governance Portal

  - Loan of 2 APNIC staff members (Kapil Chawla, Sam Dickinson) to assist APDIP in project

Recent NRO Activities

- NRO Statement in December 2004
  - Supporting the role of ICANN and its path to genuine internationalization and independence in its role
  - Calling on the US government for a clear plan for independence of ICANN
  - Support the involvement of the public sector, in the context of the current models of management of administrative functions

Outlook

- There are a number of pressing Internet-related issues driving the WSIS process
  - The evolution of many traditional communications services into Internet-based services and the various impacts of this change
  - Integrating the increasing role of private sector within the data communications activity domain into the established international public sector structures
  - The adoption of international Internet administrative structures that are robust, independent, fair and effective in a mixed public and private sector domain

- On a larger scale
  - This is not an ICANN vs ITU debate, but a deeper consideration into the most effective manner of meeting a very diverse set of expectations relating to the global role of the Internet over the coming decades
  - The WSIS process will have far-reaching implications for the future of the Internet

What can we do?

- Recognise threat to "Internet tradition"
  - Needs lobbying at Government level
  - May need further evolution to current model (for instance, ICANN)
- Attend WSIS prepcoms, and regional preparatory meetings
- Organise and attend information sessions
  - APRICOT, APNIC meetings
- Prepare and submit formal submission
  - To WGIG and other committees
  - To ICANN regarding WSIS

Questions?