International Initiatives and Organisations

Professor David Souter
University of Strathclyde

ictDA

International Initiatives and Organisations

• Part 1 – The International Context
• Part 2 – Mapping the ICT for Development Environment
• Part 3 – Challenges for national representation and international involvement
• Part 4 – DOT Force, UN ICT Task Force and WSIS
Part 1 – The International Context

a) telecoms / ICTs
b) ICTs and development
The restructuring of national markets for telecoms/ICTs

- The last twenty years have seen:
  - massive diversification of telecoms services, accompanied by huge cost reductions
  - liberalisation of former monopoly markets
  - privatisation of a previously state-run sector
  - new competition between technologies
  - convergence with other ICT sectors because of digitalisation and bit transmission
  - introduction of independent regulation
The internationalisation of telecoms

- The last twenty years have seen:
  - massive expansion in international voice and data traffic
  - massive expansion in transmission capacity on high-volume international routes (and reduction in transmission costs)
  - establishment of IP networks in place of traditional international telephony structures
  - collapse of the accounting rate system for international telecom settlements
  - establishment of wholly international facilities businesses
  - transition from national to international ownership of telecoms businesses
  - development and disintegration of global partnerships, alliances and new global ventures
The history of international telecoms

- is dominated by:
  - the ITU (International Telecommunication Union) as standards-setting body for international telecoms relations
  - bilateral relationships to exchange traffic between monopoly PTOs governed by bilateral accounting negotiations
  - treaty-based arrangements to manage specific internationally-owned facilities (e.g. INTELSAT and INMARSAT)
These arrangements:

• assumed and depended on:
  • government ownership of most telecoms operators
  • national monopoly provision of services
• enabling national positions to be reached, agreed and enforced
• but are challenged by:
  • liberalisation
  • privatisation
  • diversification of services
  • diversification of international infrastructure
  • advent of bypass technologies (callback, VoIP, IP networks)
Today ...

• there is increasing diversity in the bodies that make important decisions about international telecoms/ICTs
• including:
  • traditional treaty-based organisations (such as ITU)
  • privatised former treaty-based organisations (such as INMARSAT)
  • non-ICT sector international treaty organisations (such as WTO and regional associations including EU)
  • private sector standard setting fora
  • miscellaneous governance arrangements for the Internet originating outside traditional treaty-based structures
  • and many others
In addition:

- the telecoms sector is no longer independent of wider global concerns because of:
  - convergence with other ICT sectors
  - the telecoms/ICT sector’s growing share of global GDP
  - and increased awareness of the role which ICTs can play in social and economic development
- this has led to new international institutions seeking to bridge the paradigm gap between the ICT and development sectors
Telecoms/ICTs, social & economic development: a short history

- *The Missing Link*
- ICTs and development orthodoxy – 1985 to 1999
- The new orthodoxy/fashion for ICTs and development – 2000ff
- International initiatives
  - DOT.Force and UN ICT Task Force
  - WTDC and WSIS
- The current international decision-making environment
The Missing Link

- Report by the Maitland Commission in early 1980s
  - noted the disparity between developing and developed countries
  - noted the relationship between teledensity and GDP p.c.
  - called for development of universal access to telephony

- “Universal access” = availability of affordable telephony for use in local community – NOT ownership of a telephone at home (which is...
ICTs and development orthodoxy, 1985-1999

- Substantial growth in access to telephony in developed and newly industrial countries; but no significant growth in teledensity in most developing countries or LDCs
  - “most people in the world have never used a telephone”
  - “more telephones in Tokyo than in Africa”
- General development agency perception that:
  - ICTs were unimportant for development and/as irrelevant to poverty alleviation (“you can’t eat a laptop”)
  - ICT development could be left to the private sector (i.e. investment should be commercially financed by investment houses, not developmentally funded)
The new orthodoxy/fashion

- Since 1999, ICTs have become fashionable within development agencies:
  - World Telecommunications Development Conference – the old style
  - G8 DOT.Force – the new style
  - UN ICT Task Force
  - New ICT strategies of bilateral development agencies
  - National ICT strategies of developing country governments
  - leading to World Summit on the Information Society
- WSIS is concerned with the Information Society for all countries, not just with the relationship between ICTs and development
The new orthodoxy: why do ICTs matter?

- ICTs are considered valuable because:
  - they permit new applications specifically aligned with development objectives – focus on health and education
  - they enable more efficient performance of administrative, business and personal functions (especially those based on storage, analysis and dissemination/communication of information) – focus on e-governance and e-commerce
  - they empower citizens by enabling them to engage in society and economy in ways previously unavailable to them – focus on access
The World Bank view

- Information and communication technologies provide the basis for increasing and applying knowledge in the private and public sectors. Countries with strong information infrastructures that employ innovative information technology applications have many advantages for sustained economic growth and social development.
ICTs and the MDGs

• Mainstreaming ICTs in development includes identification of approaches in which ICTs support programmes to achieve the Millenium Development Goals

• This implies that ICT decision-making needs to be more closely related to or integrated with that of mainstream development agencies

• WSIS provides an opportunity for this interaction of objectives to take place
Characteristics of the new style

- Belief that ICTs should be ‘mainstreamed’ in development thinking
- Focus:
  - on enabling frameworks, applications, content, access
  - NOT on financing infrastructure
- Belief that ICT policy should be developed in partnership between the three main groups of stakeholders: government, business and
- Continued uncertainty about ICTs’ role on the part of mainstream development specialists
- Continued disparity (paradigm gap) between international ICT and international development communities
The continuing paradigm gap

- ICT agencies and professionals start with the development of ICTs (i.e. with technology), and then ask how this can be exploited to meet other people’s objectives (including social and economic development objectives).
- Development agencies and professionals start with social and economic development objectives (such as poverty reduction) and then ask if/how ICTs are relevant to these.
- They have very different understandings of:
  - ICT market dynamics
  - The interaction between technology, business and society
- Will they meet at WSIS?
Part 2 – Mapping the ICT Decision-Making Environment
Mapping international ICT decision-making

- There is now an enormous variety of agencies engaged in international ICT policymaking, including:
  - organisations in the ICT community (e.g. ITU, ICANN, Global VSAT Forum)
  - organisations in the development community (e.g. World Bank, UNDP, DFID)
  - regional trade and other associations (e.g. EU, SADC/TRASA, Pacific Forum)
- Decisions made within these agencies have a major impact on the deployment of technologies, products and services, and the application of ICTs in society
- It is very difficult for governments, companies and other organisations to keep track of all of these decision-making bodies
- It is especially difficult for small and developing countries to do so
Louder Voices

• Report to DOT Force and UN ICT Task Force by CTO and Panos Institute
  • assesses influence of middle-income and developing countries in international ICT decision-making
  • recommends national and international action to improve such countries’ participation
  • based on:
    • case studies of three institutions (ICANN, ITU, WTO) and six countries (Brazil, India, Nepal, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia)
    • case studies of three issues (ccTLD dispute resolution, IP telephony, WTO telecommunications offers)
    • interviews with decision-making participants
  • available from www.cto.int
Mapping International ICT Decision-Making

- *Louder Voices* project developed a mapping process to differentiate between different areas of ICT decision-making and locate roles of different agencies.
- This mapping can be readily adapted to help establish objectives and priorities of national organisations and decision-makers.
Mapping International ICT Decision Making:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results of International ICT Decision-Making</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laws and Regulations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Coordination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Assistance</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"Soft"    "Hard"

Exchange of ICT services & products between sovereign nations
Use of common ICT resources
Development of ICT technology, networks, services in all countries
Application of ICTs for equitable, sustainable global development

Scope of International ICT Decision-Making
Narrow → Broad

ictDA

# Mapping International ICT Decision Making:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results of International ICT Decision-Making</th>
<th>Development Assistance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Soft&quot;</td>
<td>Policy Coordination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Hard&quot;</td>
<td>Standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Hard&quot;</td>
<td>Laws and Regulations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scope of International ICT Decision-Making</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Narrow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Exchange of ICT services & products between sovereign nations | Use of common ICT resources | Development of ICT technology, networks, services in all countries | Application of ICTs for equitable, sustainable global development |

**ictDA**

### Mapping International ICT-Decision Making: Some Sample Questions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scope of International ICT Decision-Making</th>
<th>Narrow</th>
<th>Scope of International ICT Decision-Making</th>
<th>Broad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Results of International ICT Decision-Making</td>
<td>“Soft”</td>
<td>“Hard”</td>
<td>“Soft”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development Assistance</td>
<td><em>Does participation in trade agreements require all countries to adopt the same regulatory policies?</em></td>
<td><em>How can developing countries be more effectively engaged in the management of common ICT resources?</em></td>
<td><em>What can be done to help developing countries provide universal service to modern ICT networks?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Coordination</td>
<td><em>Can national sovereignty, public security and cultural identity be reconciled with open access?</em></td>
<td><em>How should developing countries deal with the policy and regulatory implications of convergence?</em></td>
<td><em>Does eCommerce require harmonized approaches to taxation?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standards</td>
<td><em>How should revenues from international telecom and Internet services be shared?</em></td>
<td><em>Should developing countries expend resources on ICT standardization? If so, in what areas?</em></td>
<td><em>Are standards needed to ensure electronic privacy and security? To guarantee the quality of eServices?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laws and Regulations</td>
<td><em>What principles should govern ICT relations between developed and developing countries?</em></td>
<td><em>Should international law and regulation continue to be based on “first come first served” principles?</em></td>
<td><em>Should “the right to communicate” be recognized in international law and regulation?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange of ICT services &amp; products between sovereign nations</td>
<td>Use of common ICT resources</td>
<td>Development of ICT technology, networks, services in all countries</td>
<td>Application of ICTs for equitable, sustainable global development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**ictDA**

Mapping International ICT Decision-Making: Some Sample Questions (bottom left-hand corner)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>• How should revenues from international telecom and Internet services be shared?</th>
<th>• How to reconcile the interests of established users of common resources with newcomers?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laws and Regulations</td>
<td>• What principles should govern ICT relations between developed and developing countries?</td>
<td>• Should international law and regulation continue to be based on “first come first served” principles?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exchange of ICT services &amp; products</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of common ICT resources</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mapping International ICT-Decision Making: Some Sample Issues

Results of International ICT Decision-Making

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>“Soft”</th>
<th>Development Assistance</th>
<th>“Hard”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Policy Coordination</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standards</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Trade in Telecommunication Services

Exchange of ICT services & products between sovereign nations

Use of common ICT resources

Development of ICT technology, networks, services in all countries

Application of ICTs for equitable, sustainable global development

Laws and Regulations

IP Telephony

The Digital Divide

The Global Information Economy And Society (The Networked Economy, eCommerce, eGovernment, etc.)

Internet Names And Numbers

Narrow ↔ Scope of International ICT Decision-Making ↔ Broad

ictDA


2003
The role of the ITU

- International Telecommunication Union
- UN agency (dating from before UN)
- General Secretariat
- Three bureaux:
  - Telecommunication Standardisation
  - Radio Communications
  - Telecommunication Development
- Lead role in organising WSIS
Mapping International ICT-Decision Making: The Role of the ITU

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)

Scope of International ICT Decision-Making

Narrow ← Scope of International ICT Decision-Making → Broad

Laws and Regulations
- Standards
- Policy Coordination
- Development Assistance

Results of International ICT Decision-Making

“Hard” ← “Soft”

Use of common ICT resources
Use of ICT technology, networks, services in all countries
Application of ICTs for equitable, sustainable global development
Exchange of ICT services & products between sovereign nations

## Mapping International ICT-Decision Making: The Role of the WTO

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results of International ICT Decision-Making</th>
<th>&quot;Soft&quot;</th>
<th>Policy Coordination</th>
<th>Standards</th>
<th>Laws and Regulations</th>
<th>&quot;Hard&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scope of International ICT Decision-Making</td>
<td>Narrow</td>
<td>Exchange of ICT services &amp; products between sovereign nations</td>
<td>Use of common ICT resources</td>
<td>Development of ICT technology, networks, services in all countries</td>
<td>Broad</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### World Trade Organisation (WTO)

- Laws and Regulations
- Standards
- Policy Coordination
- Development Assistance
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits of International ICT Decision-Making</th>
<th>Entities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exchange of ICT services &amp; products between sovereign nations</strong></td>
<td>ICANN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use of common ICT resources</strong></td>
<td>ICANN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Development of ICT technology, networks, services in all countries</strong></td>
<td>IETF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Application of ICTs for equitable, sustainable global development</strong></td>
<td>ISOC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Mapping International ICT-Decision Making: ICANN & other Internet bodies**

- **Development Assistance**
- **Policy Coordination**
- **Standards**
- **Laws and Regulations**

**Results of International ICT Decision-Making**

- "Soft" (Development Assistance)
- "Hard" (Policy Coordination, Standards, Laws and Regulations)

**Scope of International ICT Decision-Making**

- Narrow
- Broad

### Mapping International ICT-Decision Making: Example Roles of Other International Organisations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Results of International ICT Decision-Making</th>
<th>“Soft”</th>
<th>“Hard”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Development Assistance</td>
<td>UNCTAD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Coordination</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standards</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laws and Regulations</td>
<td></td>
<td>WIPO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**UNCTAD**
- Exchange of ICT services & products between sovereign nations

**UNESCO**
- Use of common ICT resources

**UNDP**
- Development of ICT technology, networks, services in all countries

**WORLD BANK**
- Application of ICTs for equitable, sustainable global development

**WIPO**
- Narrow

**Scope of International ICT Decision-Making**

*ictDA*
Mapping International ICT-Decision Making: Example Roles of Non-Governmental Actors

“Soft”

Results of International ICT Decision-Making

“Hard”

Development Assistance

Policy Coordination

Standards

Laws and Regulations

Exchange of ICT services & products between sovereign nations

Use of common ICT resources

Development of ICT technology, networks, services in all countries

Application of ICTs for equitable, sustainable global development

CIVIL SOCIETY NGOs

BUSINESS NGOs

PRIVATE SECTOR STANDARDIZATION FORA

REGULATORY PRACTITIONERS, LAWYERS, ACADEMICS, RESEARCHERS, ETC.

CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

The roles of ICT and development agencies

• ICT agencies are interested in the management and development of the ICT sector (very often, specifically the telecoms sector or the internet sector rather than the ICT sector as a whole)

• Development agencies are interested in the application of ICTs for the non-ICT purposes which are their core objectives

• The traditional international agencies do not provide a common forum for these two traditions (and the WTDC has not yet developed into one)
Development agency example: the World Bank

- Information and communication technologies provide the basis for increasing and applying knowledge in the private and public sectors. Countries with strong information infrastructures that employ innovative information technology applications have many advantages for sustained economic growth and social development.
Development agency example: the World Bank

- Global Information and Communication Technologies Department
  - broadening and deepening sector and institutional reform
  - increasing access to information infrastructure
  - lending for national ICT sector development programmes
- infoDev programme
Development agency example: UNDP

- **UNDP helps countries draw on expertise and best practices from around the world to develop strategies that expand access to ICT and harness it for development.**

- **ICT-related programmes include:**
  - Digital Opportunity Initiative
  - Sustainable Development Networking Programme
  - Asia-Pacific Development Information Programme
  - Internet Initiative for Africa
Development agency example: DFID (UK Department for International Development)

- UK government bilateral development agency
- Interest in ICTs developed in late 1990s
- Initially managed within Infrastructure Division
- Now managed with Communications sector
- Primary focus is on use of ICTs for poverty alleviation – the core DFID objective
- Aim is mainstreaming of ICT in other development sectors, not promotion of ICT sector itself
- Prefers to work jointly with other bilateral donors rather than on DFID-only programmes
Example DFID programme: Building Digital Opportunities (BDO)

- Programme of UK bilateral development ministry (DFID)
- Target: use of ICTs for poverty alleviation
- Focus on:
  - capacity-building in policy and regulation
  - community radio
  - information services and resources
  - national sectoral e-strategies
Example development programme: CATIA

- Catalysing Access to ICTs in Africa
- Joint programme of DFID, CIDA, USAID and other bilateral donors
- Nine components including:
  - promotion of community radio
  - promotion of VSATs for telephony and internet access
  - open knowledge network / open source software
  - capacity-building in policy and regulation
  - enhancement of African participation in international ICT decision-making (the Louder Voices agenda)
Problems for development agencies

- uncertainty of mainstream development workers
- limited resources:
  - emphasis on enabling frameworks
- country and project selection
  - identifying areas of potential impact
- cooperation and synergies with other donor agencies
- monitoring and evaluation
Part 3 – The challenges
Key issues for the ICT and development agencies

**ICT agencies:**
- evolution of telecoms and ICT technology
- technical standards and interfaces
- ICT sector restructuring
- ICT sector accounting reform
- telecoms regulation
- Internet governance
- globalisation and liberalisation

**Development agencies:**
- universal access (for telephony and internet), through (e.g.) telecentres
- application of ICTs to mainstream development functions (e.g. health, education)
- local content
- digital divide / opportunity
- policy and regulatory framework
Findings of the *Louder Voices* study

- Internationally-made decisions are increasingly important in determining the impact of ICTs in all countries, at all levels of economic development
- Small countries, developing countries (and especially LDCs) have limited impact in international decision-making on ICTs
- Governments and civil society in such countries lack the research and analytical resources and infrastructure for policy dialogue required for effective engagement in international fora
- Issues of particular concern in such countries are under-represented in international discourse on ICT policy and regulation, and are not taken into account into international decisions
- The outcomes of international decision-making do not feed effectively into national implementation plans
International ICT policy processes are complex

International decision-making

- Agenda setting
- Proposals
- Decisions

National and regional policy formulation

- Issue identification
- Policy formulation
- Policy coordination
- Implementation

Deep policy structures

- Policy assessment
- Policy research & analysis
- Evaluation
International ICT Decision-Making - requirements

- Coordination capacity
- Policy capacity
- Technical capacity
- National, regional & global ICT markets
Obstacles to small and developing country participation – international

• lack of easy, affordable and timely access to information about issues
• lack of functional participation in international fora
  • especially participation in the informal tier of decision-making
• ineffective use of financial resources available for participation
Obstacles to participation - national

- (lack of) linkage between ICT and mainstream economic/social/development agendas/institutions
- weakness of technical and policy capacity
- lack of stakeholder engagement in national policymaking
- (lack of) linkage between international decisions and national implementation strategies
Obstacles: Awareness

• Frequently cited by *Louder Voices* interviewees as the most significant barrier to developing country participation

• Perceived as a barrier at all levels of public and private decision-making
  • Political/governmental
  • Small businesses
  • Rural populations

• Key problem: people do not understand how ICTs can make a practical difference and why ICT-based development should be a priority
Obstacles: Access to Information

- The rapidly growing range of ICT-related issues on the international agenda and the number of players active in the field has led to an explosion of information.

- However, many interviewees in the study expressed frustration at the difficulty of accessing useful information in a timely fashion:
  - Technical and/or financial barriers to Internet access
  - Difficulty in tracking rapidly expanding number of events and decision-making fora
  - Difficulty in assessing value of information
Obstacles: Technical Capacity

- International ICT decision-making traditionally focused on technical and operational matters.
- Interviewees generally agreed that it is not possible to participate effectively in some areas of international ICT decision-making without technical and operational capacity, e.g.
  - ICT standards-making
  - Management of Internet addressing system
- Many small and developing countries, especially LDCs, currently lack the technical capacity to participate effectively.
- However, some interviewees expressed the view that many developing countries do not fully deploy their existing technical capacity in international fora – i.e. that the “wrong people” often attend meetings for the wrong reasons.
Obstacles: Policy and Regulatory Capacity

- Policy issues are an expanding part of the international ICT decision-making field.
  - Some policy issues are closely related to technical & operational concerns (e.g. the management of spectrum and other common resources)
  - Others are related to investment in infrastructure and services (e.g. commitments to liberalizing market access and regulatory policy)
  - Still others are related public and private sector applications of ICT technology (e-G-Strategies)
- Interviews and meeting observations confirm that developing countries overwhelmingly recognise independent, public interest-oriented regulation as the link between policy decisions and practical economic and social benefits
- However, many developing countries lack policy and regulatory capacity in key areas (e.g. telecoms, trade, competition, consumer
Obstacles: Policy-Making Processes

• Many interviewees identified deficiencies in national ICT policy-making processes as obstacles to effective participation at the international level
  • Information on upcoming events not shared, even within government structures
  • No process for consulting non-governmental stakeholders on issues
  • Failure to prioritise issues or to identify objectives clearly ahead of meetings/negotiations
  • Wrong people attending meetings for wrong reasons leads to failure to comprehend, analyse, assess, disseminate results

Lack of institutional memory / knowledge management
Obstacles: Funding

• Most interviewees identified funding obstacles, e.g.
  • Cost of attending meetings (e.g. in Geneva)
  • Expanding number of meetings on ICT-related issues
  • Cost of accessing high-quality information relevant to international ICT issues
  • Cost of preparatory processes (and informal meetings)
• However, many did not appear to assign a high priority to funding obstacles in comparison to other obstacles – perhaps because they are so obvious, perhaps out of a sense that “when there’s a will there’s a way”
Obstacles: Attitudes and Aptitudes

- Some interviewees spoke of the “intimidation factor” that developing country participants feel when attending international meetings held on the “home grounds” of developed countries.
- Observation confirmed that language can be an barrier to effective participation in meetings in the absence of simultaneous interpretation services.
Key recommendations to international fora

• promotion of awareness of ICT role in development
• provision of better information resources
• provision of independent development-oriented research and analysis
• improvement of accessibility of decision-making meetings to developing country participation
Key recommendations to developing countries

• improvement of information flows, policy coordination and knowledge management within government
• promotion of policy dialogue with and engagement of all stakeholders
• focus on determination of objectives
• prioritisation and better utilisation of resources for representation
• regional coordination of resources and decision-making input
• focus on implementation of policy changes following international decisions
Key recommendations to donors, DOT Force & UN ICT Task Force

1. Establishment of a network of regional institutes on international ICT policy and regulation.
2. Development of an authoritative website providing accurate and accessible information on international ICT policy issues and developments.
3. Establishment of a fund to support small-scale research studies, including country case studies, of issues relevant to international ICT decision-making.
4. Stimulation of public awareness and debate on (international) ICT policy issues.
5. Development of a code of practice for 'fellowship' and similar programmes intended to enhance participation in international decision-making.
6. Development of model policymaking processes to address international ICT issues.
Louder Voices follow-up programmes

- Implementation of Africa centres of expertise in DFID CATIA programme
- Proposals for other centres of expertise under consideration by DFID and other bilateral donors, and within framework of UN ICT Task Force
Proposed Centres of Expertise

- one global and up to nine small (four-person) regional institutes based in independent regional institutions (e.g. universities)
- providing information, guidance and analysis of international ICT issues to governments, private sector and civil society in countries within regions
- working as a network to coordinate resources and other activities in proposed programme
- Africa component included in DFID CATIA programme
Internet information resources: www.ictdevagenda.org
Proposed research fund

- to solicit and finance small-scale studies primarily proposed and undertaken by Southern institutions
- suggested scale of 25 person-days or $30k per study
- wide dissemination of findings through institutes, website, etc.
- examples: impact of WTO commitments, ccTLD disputes, spectrum allocation decisions
Stimulation of public debate

• programmes/initiatives to:
  • widen awareness and public debate on key international ICT policy issues
  • widen the stakeholder base involved in national policy formulation
  • improvement of media understanding and coverage
  • based on Southern-generated content
Development of a code of practice for fellowships etc.

• need to ensure that ‘the right people attend the right meetings’

• proposal that code of practice should be developed including common principles for:
  • selection of fellowships
  • support for beneficiaries to maximise value of attendance, contribution and interpretation of decisions

• Code of practice could be developed through members of DOT Force Implementation Network
Development of model policymaking processes

- support for the development of model national policymaking processes including all national stakeholders
- case studies of existing processes
- Southern leadership could be provided through members of DOT Force Implementation Network
Part 4 – Current Initiatives
ICT and Development Initiatives

- DOT Force
- UN ICT Task Force
- WSIS – World Summit on the Information Society
DOT Force

- established at the Okinawa G8 summit in 2000
- identified four priorities:
  - to foster policy, regulatory and network readiness
  - to improve connectivity, increase access and lower costs
  - to build human capacity
  - to encourage participation in global e-commerce networks
- implementation teams established in 2001
- final report at Kananaskis summit in 2002
- follow-up DOT Force Implementation Network
DOT Force participation

• G8 members plus eight developing countries
• participation from each participating country of:
  • government
  • private sector
  • civil society
• i.e. the three main stakeholder groups
DOT Force core areas of activity

- national e-strategies
  - International e-Development Resource Network
- access and connectivity
- skills development and human capacity
- entrepreneurship
- global policy participation
- ICT for health
- local content and applications
  - Open Knowledge Network
UN ICT Task Force

• Plan of Action adopted 2001
• The Task Force will provide overall leadership to the United Nations role in helping to formulate strategies for the development of ICTs and putting these technologies at the service of development and ... forge a strategic partnership between the UN system, private industry and financing trusts and foundations, donors, programme countries and other relevant stakeholders.
UN ICT Task Force strategy

• to facilitate application of ICT for achieving the Millennium Development Goals
• to make a substantive contribution to the preparations for WSIS
UN ICT Task Force Working Groups

- ICT Policy and Governance
- National and Regional E-Strategies
- Human Resource Development and Capacity-Building
- Low-Cost Connectivity Access
- Business Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
WSIS

• Two phase Summit scheduled for:
  • Geneva in December 2003
  • Tunis in 2005

• Summit preparations conducted through:
  • global PrepComs
  • regional PrepComs
  • sectoral meetings
  • intersessional drafting meeting
WSIS dates to come

- July 2003 – intersessional drafting meeting
- September 2003 – third and final Global PrepCom
- December 2003 – first session of Summit
- 2005 – second session of Summit
Assessments of WSIS

• an opportunity to put ICTs at the forefront of the global agenda

• a diversion of resources from genuine development programmes
WSIS – international responses

- Difficulties in coordinating UN agency involvement have been tackled reasonably effectively.
- Developing country governments have been more positive about the Summit than industrial country governments.
- There have been substantial problems over the role of the private sector and civil society.
- There is significant dissatisfaction with the draft core documents as they stand at present.
Core documents for WSIS 1

- Draft Declaration of Principles
- Draft Action Plan
Draft Declaration of Principles

- Common Vision for the Information Society
- Key principles and areas for strategic cooperation
  1. Infrastructure
  2. Access
  3. Role of government, business and civil society
  4. Capacity-building
  5. Security and confidence (the ‘trust agenda’)
  6. Enabling environment (policy and regulation)
  7. Applications
  8. Cultural diversity and content
  9. Ethical dimension
  10. International cooperation
Draft Action Plan

- Possible objectives:
  - *all villages to be connected by 2010, with a community access point by 2015;*
  - *all universities to be connected by 2005, all secondary schools by 2010 and all primary schools by 2015;*
  - *all hospitals to be connected by 2005 and health centres by 2010;*
  - *90 per cent of the world’s population to be within wireless coverage by 2010 and 100 per cent by 2015;*
  - *all central governments departments to have a website and email address by 2005 and all local governments departments by 2010.*
Draft Action Plan

- Cooperation between three sectors
- Fulfilment of coordination and promotion of ICTs in key areas of strategic cooperation
- International cooperation and financing
- Development between phase 1 and phase 2 of the World Summit
Issues in draft documents - 1

• Confusion between ‘the development of ICTs’, the ‘Information Society’ and ‘ICTs for development’

• Relationship between implementing sectors remains unclear (ICT sector and development sector)

• ‘Panacea-ism’
  • evidence base and development community perceptions
  • negative aspects of ICTs
Issues in draft documents - 2

• Comprehensive aspirationalism
  • differential adoption rates
  • deliverability

• Implementation resources
  • confidence in the market
  • development funding

• Prioritisation:
  • within objectives
  • between ICT objectives and other development objectives
Challenges for the inter-summit period

• Addressing the limitations of ICTs and contextualising them in overall development policy (in all economic groups)
• Turning comprehensive aspirations into realisable and prioritised programmes/initiatives with achievable targets that have direct meaning to people’s lives
• Understanding the financial context and identifying the financial means (commercial and developmental)
• Reaching effective trisectoral understanding as a basis for future cooperation