1. Title - Dynamic Coalition: Framework of Principles for the Internet
2. Organisers & Panelists

Organisers:
1. Alfa Redi, Peru. (http://www.alfa-redi.org/)
2. China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), China. (http://english.cast.org.cn)
3. Information Network for the Third Sector – RITS, Brazil. (http://www.rits.org.br/)
4. International Disability Caucus.
5. Internet Governance Project, USA. (http://www.internetgovernance.org/)
6. IT for Change, India. (http://www.ITforChange.net)
7. Panos Institute, West Africa – CIPACO project. (http://www.cipaco.org/)

Panelists:
1. **Erick Iriarte Ahon** – Executive Director, Alfa Redi, Peru
2. **Sylvia Caras** – International Disability Caucus
3. **Parminder Jeet Singh** – Executive Director, IT for Change, India
4. **Ken Lohento** – CIPACO Project, Panos Institute, West Africa
5. **John Mathiason** – Professor of International Relations, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, United States. Also involved with the Internet Governance Project
6. **Xiaofeng Tao** – Deputy Director, Department of Key Laboratory of Universal Wireless Communication (UWC), Ministry of Education, People's Republic of China

Moderator: Parminder Jeet Singh, Executive Director, IT for Change, India

3. Discussion
The objective of the dynamic coalition on '**Framework of Principles for the Internet**' is to incorporate a multi-stakeholder principle to understand, influence and contribute to the processes of making international laws, treaties, etc. in the area of Internet governance –

both of the soft law and hard law varieties.

The discussions attempted to map out the objectives and working methods of the dynamic coalition, apart from taking on aspects of the substantive agenda of exploring what kind of frameworks and principles will be suitable for guiding global public policy for the Internet.

Professor John Mathiason underlined that the IGF by its nature was set up for promoting discussions and not for specific substantive outcomes. However, this requires that people agree on a broad framework of principles – for any global regime we first need to have a set of underlying principles with respect to a broad understanding of what are the problems, what are the methods for solution, etc. This is even more critical to a global policy making space where there are heightened conflicts between regimes in the Internet age. Hence the dynamic coalition was well positioned to evolve principles to help this process forward. Some of the issues that the underlying principles should address would include the need to expand to IPv6, who will ICANN report to if not the US government, the need to interpret existing rights with respect to the Internet as well as issues of standards – technical, application, public policy, etc. Even basic definitions of the Internet and of governance are required in the framing of basic principles. Just as the Disability Caucus kept analysing the context and issues to create and synthesise ideas and views, the dynamic coalition should also start collating views and consensus and this should lead to a sharing at the New Delhi IGF

Sylvia Caras from the International Disability Caucus spoke in detail about the processes that they adopted to get the 'convention of disabled persons' framed and accepted. Regular interactions with different stakeholder groups, including government and international networks, email lists, the creation of a steering committee, drafting text and preparing policy papers were part of the movement. She also advised that the process of framing principles at this level was evolutionary and a time- and effort-intensive process and the framing of principles was in the nature of writing up a new constitution. This view was echoed by other members of the caucus.

Ken Lohento underlined the importance of a framework of principles that would underlie Internet governance and address issues such as inequitable interconnection costs, conflicting perspectives on issues as multi-lingualism, freedom of expression, etc. He suggested that we should again look critically at the WSIS principles as a basis for deriving the framework of principles.

Professor Xiaofeng Tao outlined some of the issues in China, including access in rural areas and for vulnerable people. He suggested that the World Internet Norm (WIN) 2.0 document could be an input to the framing of principles of Internet governance

Erik Iriarte Ahon spoke of the need to have a multi-stakeholder group to develop policies and rules and work for the idea of harmonisation of regulation – we have different laws in different parts of world, such as different legislations on privacy, and we need to make new global models. The Lima Declaration could be an input to the dynamic coalition processes. He stressed the need to have members from the government, international agencies and the business sector in the dynamic coalition. He wanted to look at the APC charter on Internet governance and WSIS principles.

Some useful questions and points came from the audience. Lee McKnight wanted the 'question of who makes public policy' as a part of the dynamic coalition work. Rabia from Senegal stressed that we should not set things in stone when the Internet is so young and the dynamic coalition is well-positioned to keep a dialogue process going. Fernando spoke of the parallels with the setting up of the development agenda at the WIPO.

Professor Milton Mueller wondered if the agenda of the dynamic coalition was too broad. We should focus on the principles that would govern Internet governance. He suggested that distributional equity issues should not be handled on a global level since they have no taxation power at a global level, so we need to restrict global discussion to only those that need global redressal.

John Mathiason suggested that the processes of framing governance principles would tend to be gradual and slow. The Internet itself is a new medium and ideas need to iterate and reform and refine.

Parminder Jeet Singh suggested that we also need to look at methods for the dynamic coalition. He also sought to discuss the possibility of the dynamic coalition engaging with global Internet public policy processes, including that of the WSIS mandated 'enhanced cooperation'. Parminder felt that the dynamic coalition work is broader and more fundamental in attempting to arrive at the principles underlying the balance of diverse interests, and hence a process of consensus would take time.

4. Inventory of events and actors related to the issue under discussion

This was the second meeting of the dynamic coalition following the successful meeting at the first IGF in Athens. A variety of actors – from the government (China), civil society (Panos, IT for Change,), Academia (Syracuse University, Alfa Redi) – have been keen to explore the frameworks of principles for the Internet.

5. Possible follow-up

The organizers intend to prepare a more detailed summary of the proceedings of the session to be made available via a number of

digital outlets, and will consider organizing a follow up session looking into more detail on possible future work in this area.

Secondly it was suggested that different members could look at the different sources available – the WSIS principles, Lima Declaration, Convention for Disabilities – and derive elements for a framework for the principles for the Internet from that.

A mailing list of all the members of the coalition will be setup for regular dialogue and exchange of views to build positions. A virtual space will also be established to keep a record of such exchanges, positions and facilitate larger dialogue with others. Lee suggested use of Wikipedia as a conceptualization, definition and text-development space.

We will also explore the possibilities of position papers that will explore different aspects of this issue and how this can be taken further in the next IGF in New Delhi.

John mentioned that the discussions had worked out a 'pre-consensus' which needed to be taken forward to Delhi and that face-to-face meetings would also be planned for more detailed discussions

6. Useful links

http://icannwiki.org/Brazilian_Internet_Steering_Committee
http://icannwiki.org/CGIbr
www.ITforChange.net
www.is-watch.net
http://www.internetpolicy.net/