



**BOTSWANA**

**INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM  
(IGF)**

**DISCUSSION PAPER**

**August 2011**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was established by World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Tunis summit in 2005 as an open and inclusive multi-stakeholder policy dialogue. The mandate of the Forum is to:

- 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;
- 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;
- Interface with appropriate inter-governmental organizations and other institutions on matters under their purview;
- 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;
- Advise all stakeholders in proposing ways and means to accelerate the availability and affordability of the Internet in the developing world;
- Strengthen and enhance the engagement of stakeholders in existing and/or future Internet governance mechanisms, particularly those from developing countries;
- Identify emerging issues, bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public, and, where appropriate, make recommendations;
- Contribute to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise;
- Promote and assess, on an ongoing basis, the embodiment of WSIS principles in Internet governance processes;
- Discuss, inter alia, issues relating to critical Internet resources;
- Help to find solutions to the issues arising from the use and misuse of the Internet, of particular concern to everyday users;

The upcoming Sixth Annual meeting of the IGF will be held on 27-30 September 2011 at Nairobi, Kenya under the theme “***Internet as a catalyst for change: access, development, freedoms and innovation.***” The following key sub- themes will provide the basic architecture of the detailed programme plan at the IGF in Nairobi:

- IG4D / Internet governance for development (IG4D);
- Emerging Issues;
- Managing critical Internet resources;
- Security, openness and privacy;
- Access and diversity;
- Taking stock and the way forward

Botswana Telecommunications Authority (BTA) is facilitating the national discussion on the IGF and to that end it has developed a ‘Discussion document’. The main aim is to create awareness, instituting a consensus building process to develop a common understanding on the local Internet Governance issues as well as building

capacity in order to enable meaningful participation and contribution in global Internet policy, governance and development processes and initiatives. In the recent meeting of SADC Ministers of ICT there was an agreement to establish the Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum (SADC IGF) to coordinate the regional position for the issues to be discussed at global IGF at Kenya.

This paper is intended to stimulate the participation of Botswana ICT stakeholders in the Internet governance issues. The BTA invites the relevant stakeholders to provide the written comments on the various Internet Governance issues based on the sub-themes discussed above. The stakeholders should feel free to suggest any topics and issues which they feel should be discussed at the global Internet Governance Forum.

***The comments should be sent to the following email [info@bta.org.bw](mailto:info@bta.org.bw) by the 20th August 2011.***

## **2.0 IGF 2011 SUB-THEMES SUMMARY**

### **2.1 IG4D / Internet governance for development (IG4D)**

This sub theme considers specific global Internet governance issues that may have particular relevance to development. It also looks at how Internet Governance could be integrated into development approaches and developmental issues/concerns that to-date have not received sufficient attention in the IGF. The main question is “***What are examples of specific global Internet governance issues that may have particular relevance to development?***”

#### **Sub questions**

- How is Internet Governance decisions at the national and international level related?
- How can Internet Governance be integrated into development approaches?
- How can the IGF foster the development process?
- What are the developmental issues/concerns that to-date have not received sufficient attention in the IGF?
- What are the current substantive policy outputs of governance arrangements vis-a-vis developing country interests?
- What are the institutional processes vis-a-vis equitable participation of developing countries?
- How can an IG4D agenda be explored within IGF and moved forward to other international settings?

***Stakeholders are invited to provide inputs on the IG4D sub theme. Please provide detail reasons for your suggestions and inputs on the issues you want to be considered theme. The stakeholders may be invited to make a presentation on their proposal at the National IGF meeting.***

## **2.2 Emerging Issues**

This considers the governance for the mobile Internet from the wired Internet and the key development issues when considering strong mobile penetration in developing countries and the use of new equipment and applications that did not exist before. It also looks at how Internet policy and regulation choices in the mobile Internet context impact the range of human rights, openness and neutrality and opportunities in the mobile Internet space that foster innovation, skills building, entrepreneurship and maximizing the Internet for economic development. The main question ***“Is governance different for the mobile Internet from the wired Internet?”***

### **Sub Questions**

- What are the key development issues given strong mobile penetration in developing countries and the use of new equipment and applications that did not exist before?
- How do Internet policy and regulation choices in the mobile Internet context impact the range of human rights, openness and neutrality?
- What are the policy and governance choices and opportunities in the mobile Internet space that foster innovation, skills building, entrepreneurship and maximizing the Internet for economic development?
- In countries such as Botswana the mobile penetration is high compared to the fixed services, should the regulation and policy framework focus on using mobile for broadband access?

***Stakeholders are invited to provide inputs on the ‘emerging issues’ sub theme. Please provide detail reasons for your suggestions and inputs on the issues you want to be considered theme. The stakeholders may be invited to make a presentation on their proposal at the National IGF meeting.***

## **2.3 Managing critical Internet resources**

There is a need to identify the role of each Stakeholder in managing Internet resources. This also deals with the ways to evaluate accountability, transparency and inclusiveness the management of Internet resources. Botswana is currently

working on the establishment of country code top level domain name (ccTLD) administration and management system. There is an issue of promoting capacity building in critical Internet resources and the burdens, impacts and opportunities for developing and developed countries in IPv4 and IPv6 transition. The main questions are:

- What is the role of each Stakeholder in managing Internet resources?
- How to evaluate accountability, transparency and inclusiveness the management of Internet resources?
- How do we promote capacity building in critical Internet resources?
- IPv4 and IPv6 transition, what are the burdens, impacts and opportunities for developing and developed countries?

***Stakeholders are invited to provide inputs on the ‘managing critical internet resource’ sub theme. Please provide detail reasons for your suggestions and inputs on the issues you want to be considered. The stakeholders may be invited to make a presentation on their proposal at the National IGF meeting.***

## **2.4 Security, openness and privacy**

This discusses the cross-border Internet governance issues that are encountered at the intersection of security, privacy and openness, e.g. the “seizure” of domain names, proposals for blocking of websites and filtering of networks, and the impacts of action taken to cut access for individuals, groups or entire countries from the global Internet. The other issue considered is whether the content distribution and communication capacity that the Internet affords is important to fostering human rights. One other fundamental issue is whether the ability to read over the Internet is essential in a democratic society, the implications for Internet governance when online censorship is imposed by the private sector (e.g. a web hosting provider) and not the government and whether it a violation of human rights to cut Internet access that individuals, specific groups or entire countries rely on.

### **Sub Questions**

- What are the most significant cross-border Internet governance issues that affect security, privacy and openness?
- What is the role of traditional and new media, journalist and citizen journalist in the Internet 3.0 world?
- Is the ability to read over the Internet essential in a democratic society? What are the implications for Internet governance when online censorship is imposed by the private sector (e.g. a web hosting provider) and not the government? Is it a violation of human rights to cut Internet access that individuals, specific groups or entire countries rely on?

- What are the implications of those actions for online freedom of expression, assembly and association?
- Is the content distribution and communication capacity that the Internet affords important to fostering human rights?
- Should we identify self-regulatory policies, regulatory choices and best practices for players in the Internet eco-system that protect openness, privacy, and security for all individuals?

***Stakeholders are invited to provide inputs on ‘security, openness and privacy’ sub theme. Please provide detail reasons for your suggestions and inputs on the issues you want to be considered theme. The stakeholders may be invited to make a presentation on their proposal at the National IGF meeting.***

## **2.5 Access and diversity**

The main issue is the “Internet access as basic human right”. This considers challenges and opportunities that this pose for policy makers and the broader Internet community. It also addresses obstacles for universal affordable access, content online and policy options to address the obstacles, specifically in developing countries. In some developed countries broadband access is considered to be human right, the issue is whether broadband access is an important issue for Botswana, if so what should be done to ensure the availability of broadband access. The main question is *“Internet access as basic human right: What challenges and opportunities does this pose for policy makers and the broader Internet community?”*

### **Sub Questions**

- What are the main technical, commercial and policy obstacles on the ground for achieving universal affordable access to infrastructure (particularly to broadband internet access) in developing countries?
- What are the main current obstacles to access to knowledge and content online?
- What are the regulatory and policy options to address those obstacles to access to both infrastructure and knowledge/content and what are the roles of the policy makers and the broader Internet community on that regard?
- How access to infrastructure and knowledge in the context of developing countries can contribute to
  - a) foster transformation of education, innovation, entrepreneurship;
  - b) fight poverty and promote social and human development?
- How does access to the Internet and the regulation of digital content impact on the diversity on the Internet, especially on content production in developing countries?
- How can Internet governance enable a movement towards a participatory and inclusive internet, taking into consideration the right to access of people with

disabilities, multilingualism and the inclusion of the most socially excluded groups?

***Stakeholders are invited to provide inputs on 'access and diversity' sub theme. Please provide detail reasons for your suggestions and inputs on the issues you want to be considered theme. The stakeholders may be invited to make a presentation on their proposal at the National IGF meeting.***

### **3.0 Botswana Internet Governance Forum - Chapter**

The objective is to convene a National Internet Governance Forum (IGF) to consolidate all the local inputs/contributions which will be later harmonised with SADC IGF contributions for submission to the global IGF. It is BTA desire that the Botswana IGF Chapter should cover the broad based stakeholder in the ICT industry.