

Compilation of Proposed Definitions

Source: ITU

In light of the discussions at the World Summit on the Information Society on the topic of “Internet governance” and in order to contribute to the work of the working group that UN Secretary General Kofi Annan this paper offers some definitions of the terms “Internet” and “governance”

The definitions in this paper are copied from definitions contributed to the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG), to ITU-T Study Group 2, and from the document prepared by the Director of ITU TSB (the document is at: <http://www.itu.int/ITU-T/tsb-director/itut-wsis/files/zhao-netgov01.doc>).

Each definition is numbered, in order to facilitate referencing it.

Governance

1. The set of shared rules, procedures, and processes, including government involvement in the form of laws and regulations (for example for country code top level domains, generic top level domains, and security issues including combating SPAMs), that results in practices and operations that are consistent with the sovereign rights of states and the market interests of the operators and end-users.

Such governance shall be exercised primarily by States acting as national sovereigns. For issues requiring international collaboration and coordination, states should collaborate via intergovernmental organizations, assisted by the private sector, civil society and end-users. (Source: Syria, input to ITU-T Q.3/2)

2. The collective rules, procedures, and related programs intended to shape social actors' expectations, practices, and interactions concerning Internet infrastructure and transactions and content. (Source: William Drake, input to WGIG)
3. Collective action, by governments and/or the private sector operators on the networks connected by the Internet, to establish agreements about the standards, policies, rules, and enforcement and dispute resolution procedures to apply to global internetworking activities. (Source: Milton Muller, input to WGIG)
4. Governance is the sum of the many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs. It is the continuing process through which conflicting or diverse interests may be accommodated and cooperative action may be taken. It includes formal institutions and regimes empowered to enforce compliance, as well as informal arrangements that people and institutions either have agreed to or perceive to be their interest. (Source: Wolfgang Kleinwachter, input to WGIG)
5. All management/ regulatory/ legal/ treaty issues (national, regional, global) pertaining to any layer (Source: Siemens, input to WGIG)
6. A process through which related parties, including governments from each country, manage, regulate, and control their decisions and implement Internet policies with consistent authority and means (Source: Korea, White Paper Internet Korea 2004)

7. Governance consists of the collective rules, procedures, processes, and related programs that shape social actors' shared expectations, practices, and interactions and result in practices and operations that are consistent with the sovereign rights of states and the social and market interests of end-users and operators. It includes agreements about standards, policies, rules, and enforcement and dispute resolution procedures. (Source: Director of ITU TSB, input to ITU Council Working Group on WSIS)

Internet

1. The set of protocols, facilities, and arrangements that enable end-user access to IP-based applications such as the world-wide-web, electronic mail, "IP Telephony" and/or "Internet Telephony", etc. (Source: Syria, input to ITU-T Q.3/2)
2. A global packet switched network of networks that are interconnected through the use of the common network protocol IP. (Source: ITU-T Q.3/2, not agreed, work in progress)
3. An IP based network for transporting IP packets for different applications between end users who may be computers or computer functions or people. (Source: ITU-T Q.3/2, not agreed, work in progress)
4. The global data communication system formed by the interconnection of public and private telecommunication networks using Internet Protocol (IP), TCP and the protocols required to implement IP networking on a global scale, such as DNS and packet routing protocols. (Source: Milton Muller, input to WGIG)
5. Internet refers to the global information system that -- (i) is logically linked together by a globally unique address space based on the Internet Protocol (IP) or its subsequent extensions/follow-ons; (ii) is able to support communications using the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) suite or its subsequent extensions/follow-ons, and/or other IP-compatible protocols; and (iii) provides, uses or makes accessible, either publicly or privately, high level services layered on the communications and related infrastructure described herein. (Source: US Federal Networking Council, 1995)
6. Internet is the publicly accessible global packet switched network of networks that are interconnected through the use of the common network protocol IP. It encompasses protocols; names and addresses; facilities; arrangements; and services and applications. IP-based services consist both of applications made available to the public on a large scale such as VoIP using E.164 identifiers, as well as signalling and directory services critical to providing infrastructure protection and meeting national public policy (including security and safety) mandates. (Source: Director of ITU TSB, input to ITU Council Working Group on WSIS)