Internet Governance….

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WSIS and Internet governance

- Internet governance involves a wide wide range of topics and issues

- Depth of debate in WSIS reflects a conflict of regimes

- Reflects importance of understanding the Internet, and ensuring that politics do not drive poor decisions

- At risk is 35 years of values and a regime that has created the Internet into what it is today

- True aspirations of WSIS as envisioned by the Secretary General have not been explored

- All levels involved in issues surrounding the Internet. And all stakeholders need to be involved

World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)

- Following a proposal by the Government of Tunis, the ITU resolved at its Plenipotentiary Conference in 1998 to hold a World Summit on Information Society (WSIS)

- In December 2001, the UN General Assembly endorsed holding the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in two phases

- Phase I took place in Geneva on 10–12 December 2003 and the second phase took place in Tunis on16–18 November 2005

- The Phase I objective was to develop and foster a clear statement of political will and take concrete steps to establish the foundations for an Information Society for all, reflecting all the different interests at stake

- The Phase II objective was to put Geneva's Plan of Action into motion and to find solutions and reach agreements on Internet governance, financing mechanisms, and follow-up and implementation of the Geneva and Tunis documents

WSIS – Phase I: Internet governance debate

- "Internet governance" is yet to be defined
- Some believe that it is all about management of Internet resources
- Others see that Internet governance encompasses other elements
- Debate about the multi-stakeholder model and the role of governments in public policy issues
- Set up a Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG)

WSIS – Phase I: Declaration of principles

The international management of the Internet should be multilateral, transparent and democratic, with the full involvement of governments, the private sector, civil society and international organizations. It should ensure an equitable distribution of resources, facilitate access for all and ensure a stable and secure functioning of the Internet, taking into account multilingualism.

WSIS – Phase I: Plan of action

- Ask the United Nations Secretary-General to set up a working group on Internet governance, with the full and active participation of governments, private sector and civil society from developing and developed countries
- The group should
  - Develop a working definition of Internet governance
  - Identify public policy issues that are relevant to Internet governance
  - Develop a common understanding of the respective roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders
  - Prepare a report on the results of this activity to be presented for at the second phase of WSIS in Tunis 2005
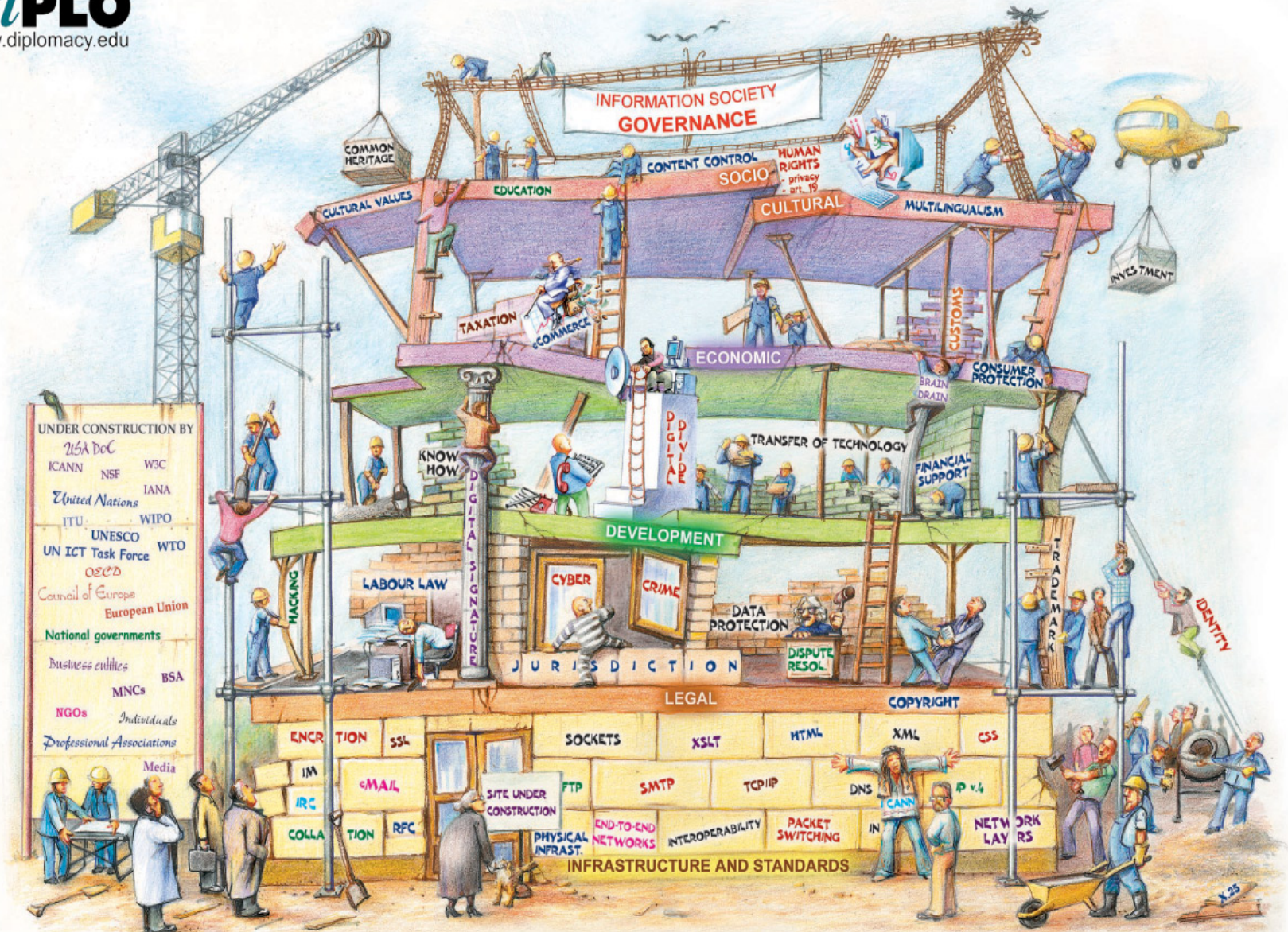
WGIG report

- Proposed a definition of Internet governance
- Identified public policy issues relevant to Internet governance
- Identified roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders
- Proposed further internationalization of Internet governance arrangements
  - 4 optional models + forum

WGIG definition of Internet governance

The development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.
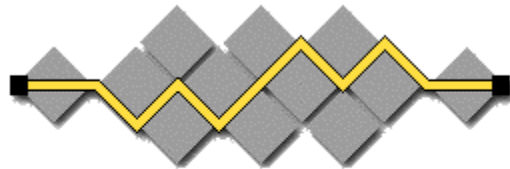
INFORMATION SOCIETY **GOVERNANCE**

Concept: BALDI · GELBSTEIN · KURBALIJA   Illustration: ZORAN MARČETIĆ - MARČA
More information is available in the Information Society Library at http://www.diplomay.edu/isl

www.diplomacy.edu © 2003, **DiPLO**
This is an illustration of Diplo's research and training methodology on internet governance.

The Internet ecosystem

Some of the organisations concerned with the Internet

Internet Governance Forum

WSIS – Phase II

- Recognize that Internet governance includes more than Internet naming and addressing
- It also includes other significant public policy issues such as critical Internet resources, security and safety of the Internet, developmental aspects and issues pertaining to the use of the Internet
- Recognize the effectiveness of the existing Internet governance arrangements, and the need to initiate a process for spurring the evolution of the current arrangements
- Two specific outcomes:
  - Invite the UN Secretary-General to convene a new Forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue - called the *Internet Governance Forum* (IGF)
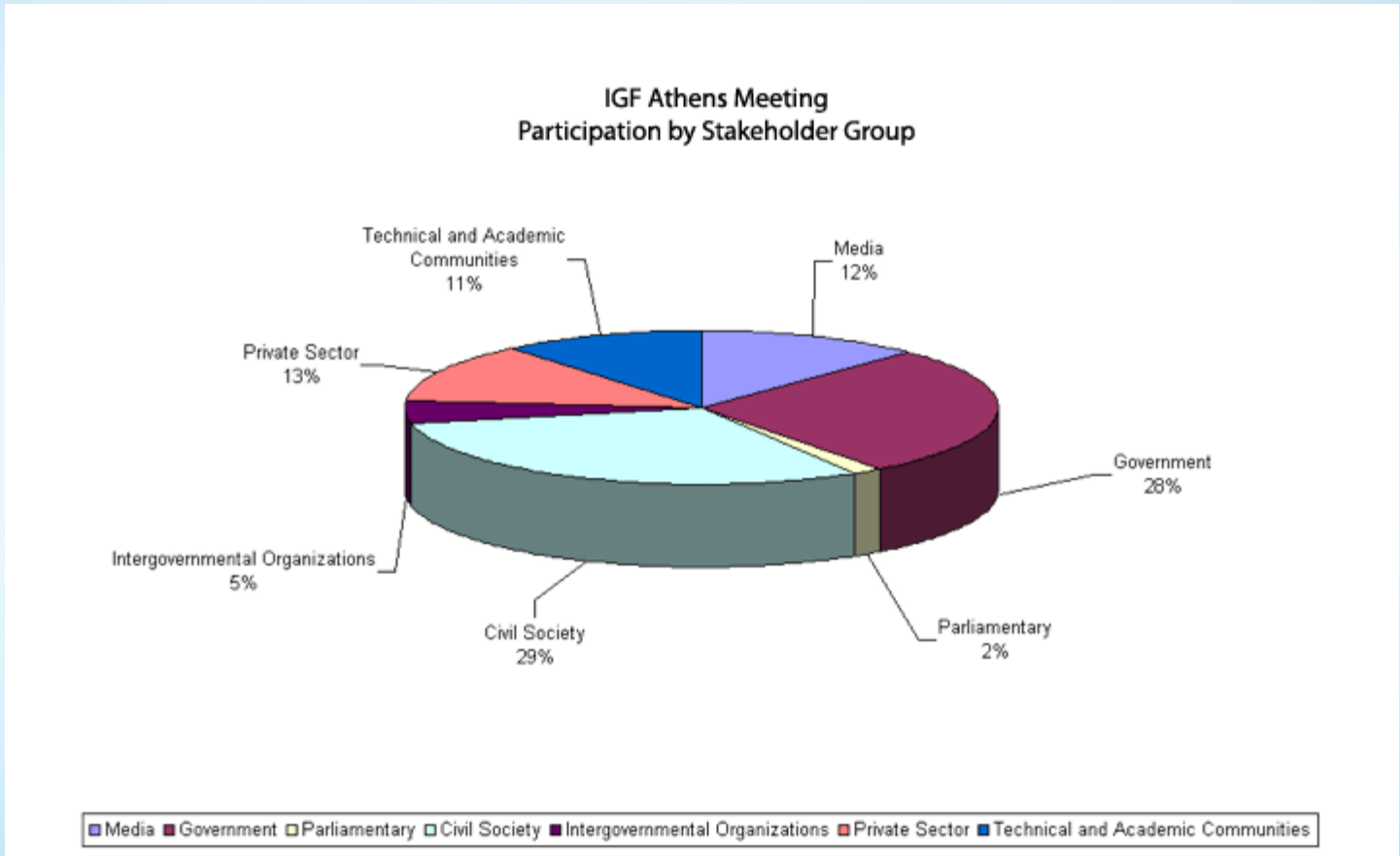 - Enhance cooperation

Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

- The "Forum" was a key outcome of the Tunis Phase
- It made all parties "equally satisfied"
- IGF mandate:
  - Discuss public policy issues
  - Facilitate exchange of information and best practices
  - Facilitate discourse between international bodies dealing with international public policies
  - Enhance engagement of various stakeholders particularly those from developing countries
  - Identify emerging issues, bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and, where appropriate, make recommendations
  - Contribute to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries

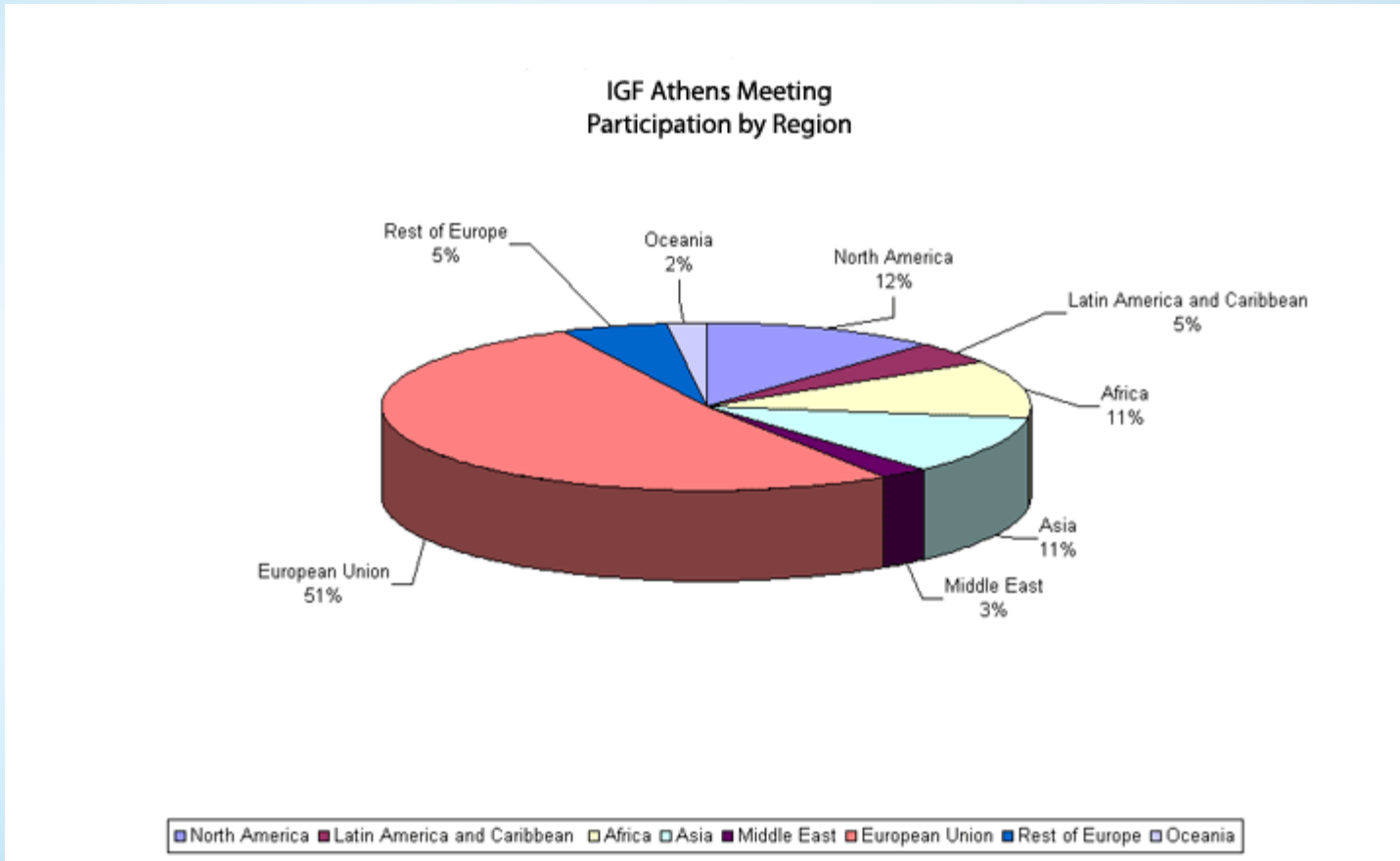# First IGF meeting

- Held in Athens, Greece, from October 30th to November 2nd 2006
- Appointed the Advisory Group to help develop the meeting agenda, structure, themes, etc.
- Themes:
  - Access
  - Diversity
  - Openness
  - Security

Participation in Athens

IGF Athens Meeting
Participation by Stakeholder Group

Technical and Academic
Communities
11%

Media
12%

Private Sector
13%

Government
28%

Intergovernmental Organizations
5%

Parliamentary
2%

Civil Society
29%

Media ■ Government □ Parliamentary □ Civil Society ■ Intergovernmental Organizations ■ Private Sector ■ Technical and Academic Communities

Participation in Athens

IGF Athens Meeting
Participation by Region

Dynamic Coalitions

- A key outcome of Athens
- A group of institutions or people who agree to pursue an initiative on one of the Internet emerging issues
- There are currently "coalitions" for areas like:
  - Spam
  - Privacy
  - Open standards
  - Internet Bill of Rights
  - Access to knowledge
  - Freedom of expression
  - Online participation
  - Access for rural communities

Second IGF Meeting

- Will take place in Rio de Janeiro on 12–15 November 2007

- Build on and learn from Athens

- Two rounds of open consultations have so far been held in Geneva to discuss the meeting structure, format, themes, etc.

- While the Rio meeting may maintain the same themes of Athens, it is expected to address specific topics more thoroughly

Second IGF meeting (cont)

- Themes:
  - Security
  - Diversity
  - Openness
  - Access
- Some interested in broader issues about the Internet's infrastructure and resource
- Interest by developing countries
  - Access and capacity

ICANN and Internet governance

- ICANN has a limited, defined and global role in the Internet arena
- Numerous organizations involved – both governmental and private sector
- ICANN's approach to Internet governance discussions –
  - Engage regarding its limited area of responsibility

Joint Partnership Agreement

- The MoU relationship between the US Department of Commerce and ICANN has been replaced by a Joint Partnership Agreement
- ICANN's responsibilities include:
  - Fulfilling its responsibilities, including transparency and accountability to stakeholders
  - Now only publish one public annual report
- Joint commitment to strengthening:
  - root server security
  - Governmental Advisory Committee
  - performance monitoring
- Evolution of the private sector multi-stakeholder model

Moving forward

- Globalization of Internet governance must continue to build on existing and evolving international constituencies
- A billion-plus users require focus on stability, integrity and security of Internet operations
  - New players will emerge as key contributors to the Internet space
  - Geographic and technological
  - Internet operations must remain independent of day-to-day politics and political influence
  - Existing Internet mechanisms and operations must remain independent of day-to-day politics and political influence
- Internet's coordination of unique identifiers must enable the continued innovation at the edge, the stability and integrity of a single interoperable Internet on which business, communication and development rely

Links

- http://www.itu.int/wsis/

- http://www.wgig.org/

- http://www.intgovforum.org/

Thank You

www.icann.org