

Internet Governance Now

Presentation for the Internet Architecture Board on 28 Feb 2024

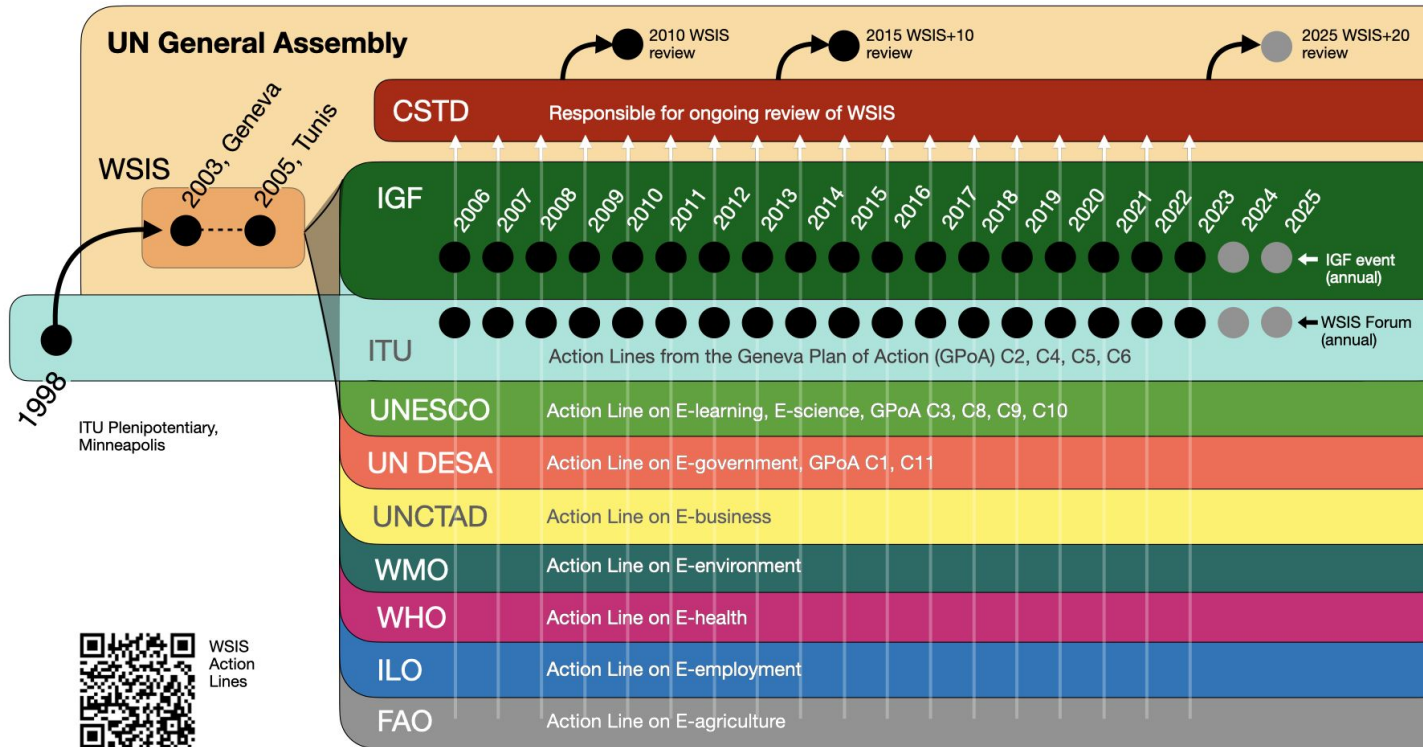
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Agenda

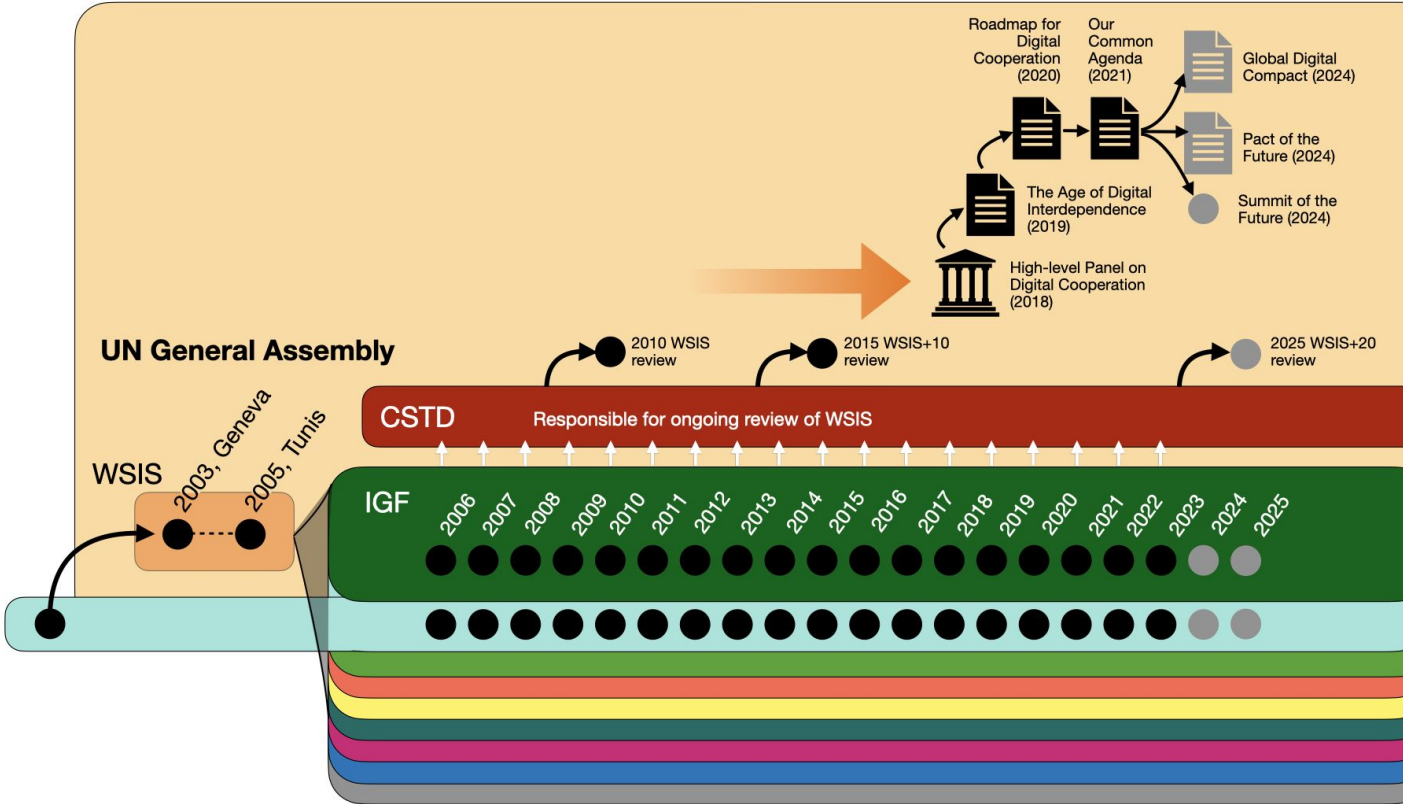
- The Background
- The Achievement
- The Dynamics
- The Risks
- The Challenge(s)
- The Responsibility
- What next?

The Background

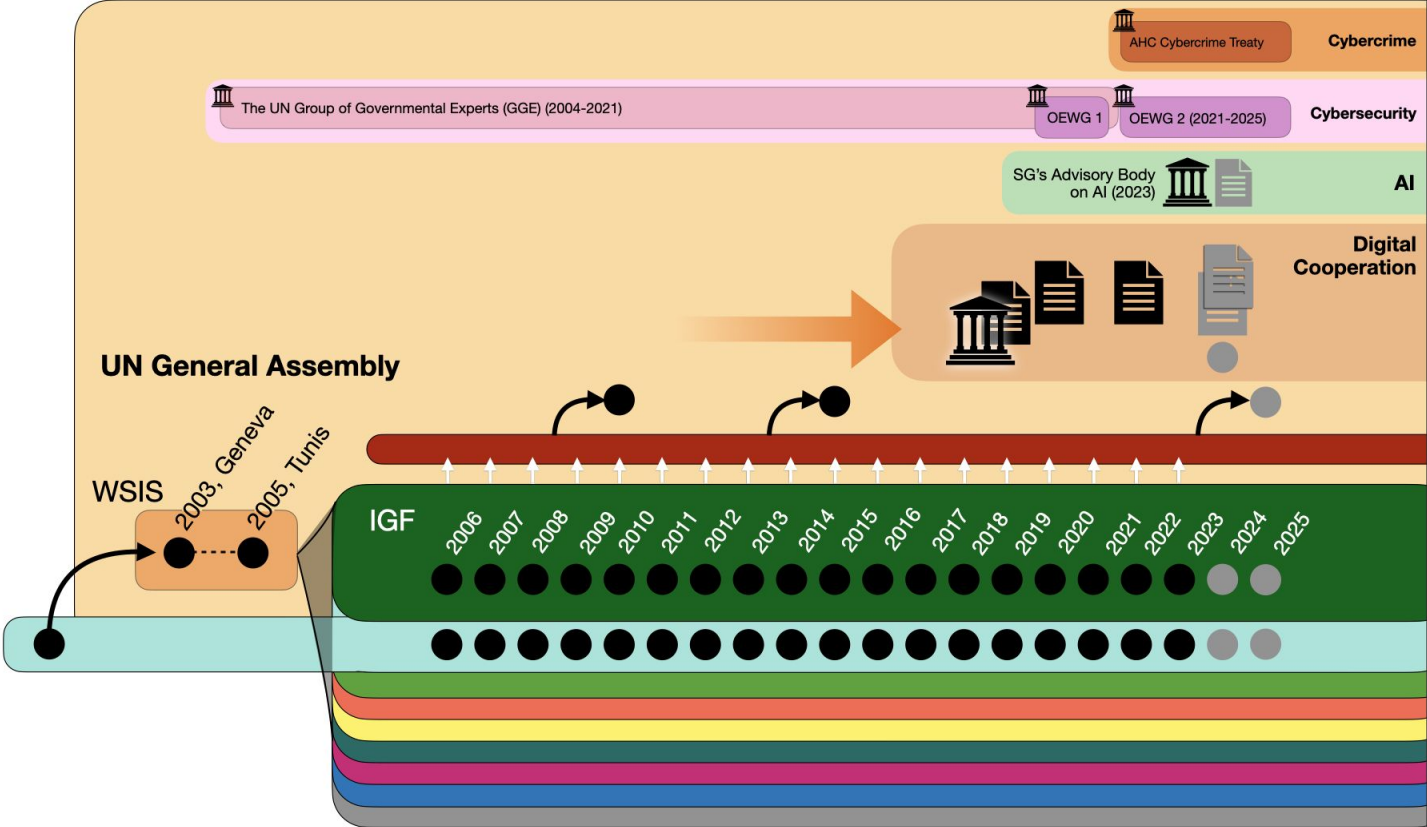
The WSIS Process - a timeline



Digital Cooperation - the plot thickens



Digital Streams in the UN



The Achievement

The WSIS Achievement

- We achieved something important in wsis/tunis
 - Recognition/support of existing approach, cast as “multistakeholder approach”
 - This was not a given - other approaches exist!
- **BUT**, WSIS was agreed at a very different time
 - Digital technology is now far more intricately linked to daily life
 - Existing examples of multistakeholder governance are not universally successful
 - In 2003-2005, multistakeholder technical governance was essentially a success story
 - Geopolitics is changing

The Dynamics

The Dynamics

- Increasing impact of technology on society
- Increased (intergovernmental) focus on technology governance
- A current Internet governance system that doesn't meet everyone's needs
- A Global South majority in the United Nations system
- Challengers with a persuasive story
- Ambition - both institutional and individual

The Risks

Some Risks

- The proposed Digital Cooperation Forum
 - If mandated in the Global Digital Compact, the IGF would be unlikely to continue
- Intergovernmental decisions about SDOs (hypothetical)
 - Root servers operators in NIS2; DNS4EU
- Failures of individual institutions (AFRINIC) seen as failure of the whole system
- Ongoing lack of participation and engagement from/with Global South continues to challenge legitimacy (and effectiveness) of current institutions

An immediate UN takeover of ICANN or the SDOs is not likely a risk... but that's not all we need to worry about!

The Challenge

The Challenge

- How do we exercise 'systemic responsibility' when we all come to this situation with narrow mandates and functions?
 - Finding out what is happening
 - Dedicating resources to engaging
 - Challenge of shaping our communities of practice or participation?
- How do we support novel governance efforts to deal with new problems, without compromising our existing (highly successful) governance system?
- How do we engage with stakeholders whose language and approaches is irrelevant to our day to day work?
- How do we tell / sell our story more effectively?
- How do we lead in this context?

The Responsibility

Why the Internet Technical Community should engage

The battle lines are shifting, but the Internet technical community needs to be an **active player** in these discussions:

- To ensure accurate understanding of the architecture and the potential for policy decisions to have damaging impacts
- To ensure accurate understanding of how the architecture and business models intersect
- To ensure accurate understanding of the multistakeholder processes in place and how they work
- To ensure consistency in engagement, build strong long-term relationships and trust

Others are there, ready to take the seat and the microphone if the Internet technical community is absent!

What next?

What next?

- How can the IAB / IETF instigate stronger collaboration with other technical community organisations / leaders?
 - How can it engage given its role and mandate?
 - How can it resource such work?
- How to strengthen and diversify the IETF's participant community?
- How to tell the story of success the IETF has had to date?

Upcoming:

- ICANN campaign launching – March 2024
- WSIS Forum – June 2024
- Summit of the Future / Global Digital Compact – September 2024
- WSIS+20 Review – September 2025