



Open spectrum for development in the context of the digital migration

Internet Governance Forum - Workshop 121

29 September 2011 - 16:30 – 18:00

Workshop room 7 (Conference room 14, UN Complex, Nairobi)

While the communication technologies that use the radio spectrum continue to develop at a brisk pace, our general approach to regulating the spectrum has not changed much since the 1930s when the spectrum was regulated to a very high degree in order to assure that interference between signals would not occur. However, as technology rapidly changes, approaches to managing the spectrum should change as well and more open, trusting and collaborative forms of spectrum management should be established.

In order to enable the spectrum to be used by everyone to their fullest potential in terms of social, cultural and economic development, policy-makers, civil society organisations, industry and users themselves should begin to consider more flexible forms of spectrum use and regulation.

Participants in this workshop will:

- . Explore alternative spectrum regulatory frameworks, considering how technological developments can shape the future of spectrum-based communications. In particular, in order to improve access to the internet;
- . Debate different perspectives on policy and regulatory issues involved in spectrum management and its impacts on development;
- . Identify current practices that are contributing to build the spectrum commons.

Panellists

- . Carlos Afonso - Member of the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee (CGI.br) (Brazil)
- . Willie Currie - Councillor, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (South Africa)
- . Giacomo Mazzone - Head of Institutional Relations, European Broadcasting Union (Switzerland)
- . Sascha Meinrath - Director, Open Technology Initiative, New America Foundation (USA)
- . Paul Mitchell - Senior Director, Technology Policy at Microsoft Corporation (USA)
- . Muriuki Mureithi - Researcher, Summit Strategies ltd (Kenya)
- . Steve Song – Founder of Village Telco (South Africa)

Moderator

- . Claire Sibthorpe, Director and Senior Consultant, Maple Consulting Services (UK)

Background paper

[Spectrum for development](#)¹

Steve Song. September 2011

Programme

16:30-16:40 - Introduction

- . Contextualisation of this workshop as part of the initiatives that APC is developing in this area - in particular, the “digital migration” and “open spectrum” research and advocacy projects. Introduction of the panellists.
Claire Sibthorpe

16:40 – 17:20 - Questions for panellists

- . Can spectrum management contribute to meet the challenge of affordable access in developing countries?
Steve Song [7 mins]
- . What is the context of spectrum regulation in Africa and Latin America and how is it changing in light of the digital migration?
Willie Currie [7 mins] and Carlos Afonso [7mins]
- . What is the open spectrum concept? How could it be implemented in Kenya?
Muriuki Mureithi [7 mins]

17:20 – 17:35 – Open discussion

17:35 - 18:00 – Questions for panellists

- . How can new technologies contribute to a commons-based approach to spectrum management?
Sascha Meinrath [7 mins]
- . What is the state of the debate around the unlicensed use or television whitespaces in the European Union?
Giacomo Mazzone [7 mins]
- . What opportunities for multistakeholder collaboration are there around spectrum use and regulation?
Paul Mitchell [7mins]

18:00 – 18:25 – Open discussion

18:25 – 18:30 – Summary of the main themes and key points

¹ <http://www.apc.org/en/node/12949/>