India’s Position on Multi-stakeholderism vs Multilateralism

2011
6th Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Nairobi/
UN General Assembly Meeting (UNGA),
New York City
ATTENDED BY Dushyant Singh, Ministry of
External Affairs (MEA) - proposed Committee
on Internet-related Policies (CIRP)

MULTILATERAL

2012
7th IGF, Baku
ATTENDED BY Kapil Sibal, Minister for
Communications and Information
Technology (MCIT)*

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER

*As Sibal was minister for both, DoT and DeitY, it
cannot be confirmed which department within the
Ministry he was speaking on behalf of

World Conference on International
Telecommunications, Dubai
ATTENDED BY R.N. Jha, DoT

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER

They did not allow national security to
become an excuse to deploy an Internet kill
switch.

2013
8th IGF, Bali
ATTENDED BY Rakesh M. Agarwal, DoT

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER

2nd WGEC Meeting, Geneva
ATTENDED BY B.N. Reddy, MEA

NUANCED MULTILATERALISM

Stated that Enhanced Cooperation is a multilateral
mechanism but called for a MS approach solely to
enhance dialogue and discussion with policy making
upto Governments only.

3rd WGEC Meeting, Geneva
ATTENDED BY B.N. Reddy, MEA

NUANCED MULTILATERALISM

Multi-stakeholder models were useful in public policy
formulation but not in their implementation and
enforcement. Governments have sovereign public policy function over Internet-related public policy issues
relating to coordination and management of critical
Internet resources, as well as specific issues such as
cyber-security and child online protection.

NETmundial, Sao Paulo
ATTENDED BY Vinay Kwatra, MEA

MULTILATERAL

Internet governance should be “multilateral
... with the participation of governments,
private sector, civil society, and international
organizations, in their respective roles".
Language similar to the CIRP proposal.
Called for internationalisation of structures
that manage and regulate core Internet
resources
India’s contribution did not use the word
‘multi-stakeholder’ in its approach apart from
describing the IGF.
9th IGF, Istanbul
ATTENDED BY R.S. Sharma, DoIT

**NUANCED MULTILATERALISM**

DeiT's stance moves in favour of a more nuanced and narrowed support for multi-stakeholderism.

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International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Plenipotentiary Conference, Busan
ATTENDED BY Ram Narain, DoT

**MULTILATERAL**

“India was not opposed to multi-stakeholderism, but needed greater clarity”

MEA’s statements at the meeting may be interpreted as accepting changes in stakeholder roles only if and when governments are willing to permit such change; this is in opposition to the view of multi-stakeholder advocates.

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10th IGF, João Pessoa
ATTENDED BY Rahul Gosain, DoIT

**NUANCED MULTILATERALISM**

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2015

Working Group on International Internet-Related Public Policy, Geneva
ATTENDED BY DoT

**MULTILATERAL**

India reiterated that the management of the Internet should be “multilateral, transparent, and democratic” with the key institutions regulating the Internet needing to be internationalized.

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2016

*DeiT and DoT were part of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT). In 2016, these both were subsumed within the newly created Ministry of Communications and Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).*

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11th IGF, Mexico
ATTENDED BY Aruna Sundararajan, DoT
Rahul Gosain, MeitY
No relevant comments were given

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2017

12th IGF, Geneva
ATTENDED BY Rahul Gosain, MeitY
No relevant comments were given
This should not be surprising given their continuous frustration with the perceived lack of progress at various IGF's.

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2018

WGEC PHASE II

**NUANCED MULTILATERALISM**

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2nd WGEC 2.0 Meeting, Geneva

Working Group on International Internet-Related Public Policy, Geneva
ATTENDED BY Kishore Babu, DoT

**MULTI-STAKEHOLDER**

Clear in their support for the multi-stakeholder form of internet governance stating that India was in favor of governments having “equal footing in IG with involvement of stakeholders”.
3rd WGECE 2.0 Meeting, Geneva
ATTENDED BY Pradeep Verma, MeitY

**NUANCED MULTILATERALISM**

“WGECE should encourage all stakeholders to come forward, participate, and make their voices be heard in the formulation of public policies pertaining to the Internet.”

4th WGECE 2.0 Meeting, Geneva
ATTENDED BY Bhavna Saxena, MEA

**NUANCED MULTILATERALISM**

While debating a proposal regarding policy making at local and national levels, India made it clear that they do not support this. They believe it is in the best interests of everyone to “confine ourselves to the international platforms on Internet policy making”.

5th WGECE 2.0 Meeting, Geneva
ATTENDED BY Rahul Gosain, MeitY
Bhavna Saxena, MEA

No relevant comments were given