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**ICTS FOR DEVELOPMENT:  
IS THIS AN INTERNET GOVERNANCE ISSUE?**

# ICT for Development (ICT4D)

NOTE: We are starting from the notion of Development and ICT4D as a practice and an institutional field (and discourse), which may be questioned but this is not the purpose of this short presentation.

- In that context, what is ICT4D?
  - Applications of ICT to development
  - Focus on developing economies
  - Emphasis on the needs of the poor
- ICT4D => Development is the END while ICTs are the MEANS

# Development and ICTs

- ⦿ Various dimensions to development: economic, social, political, etc.
- ⦿ Development in terms of ICTs => Bridging the Digital Divide
- ⦿ Digital divide = the usual development divide through the *availability, access and use of digital technologies*
- ⦿ ICT4D = Bridging the digital divide + using ICTs to support other development activities (to make them efficient and more effective)

# Development and Digital Divides

- Just as the traditional development divide manifests itself in economic, social and political terms, so does the digital divide, reflecting those lines of divide through the Internet and digital technologies.
- However, Internet-based social spaces may also amplify the existing lines or add more lines (or sublines) of divide.
  - Due to the reach and scope of the technology network, giving a virtually global stage and exposure to online communities (plus the relative anonymity by default of the interacting parties online.)
  - See the discussion of the class on the issue of gender equality and Women rights on the Internet, during the session on Human Rights

# ICT4D an Internet governance issue?

- ⦿ Does Internet governance address ICT for development?
  - This is a variation of the question in front of us
  - From how it is done, Internet governance is not meant to address ICT4D as such
- ⦿ Is Internet governance an ICT for development issue?
  - This is turning our question upside down, which may help address our initial question
  - In other words, does Internet governance impact development, and if so how?

# Suggestions for answers...

- ⦿ Access: making policy inclusive not only in its process but also in its effects
- ⦿ Rights on the internet (freedom of expression, privacy, etc.)
  - The level of rights protection (online) may be reflective of development challenges

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- ① Management of the DNS and IP addresses
  - Paying attention to potential entry barriers to the DNS and network services markets for developing economies when making related policies.
  - Account may be taken of the particular conditions of developing economies with regard to the financial requirements and economic implications

# Thank you for your attention!

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