Open Forum - Digital Economy for Innovation, Growth and Social Prosperity: towards the 2016 OECD Ministerial
Day 4, November 13, 09:30-10:30, Workshop Room 2
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wE_gX2Wi6do
Transcript: http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/187-igf-2015/transcripts-igf-2015/2471-2015-11-13-open-forum-oecd-workshop-room-2

1. Brief substantive summary of the workshop and presentation of the main issues that were raised during the discussions:

The forum focused on informing the IGF and consulting with the global stakeholder community on the preparations for the upcoming OECD Ministerial meeting on the Digital Economy in Cancun, Mexico, on 22-23 June 2016. The objective of the Ministerial meeting will be to foster a common understanding on how to maximise the growth, innovation and social prosperity potential of the digital economy. This event will bring together the 34 OECD members plus 19 non‑members and they stakeholders who work on a regular basis with the OECD - the business community, trade unions, civil society and the Internet technical communities. Discussions will centre on the four main themes of the Ministerial: 1) The Internet Openness; 2) Building Global connectivity; 3) Trust in the Digital Economy; and 4) Jobs and Skills in the Digital Economy.

Key issues highlighted by the panelists included: the need for trust frameworks and to manage risk across all stakeholder groups, the challenges faced by SMEs in becoming more digital, the role of civil society and that they will likely focus on human rights and fundamental freedoms, digital convergence and the Internet of Things, the work already the OECD has already done in areas like data driven innovation, internet policy making.

Audience interventions reinforced some of these issues. There were additional comments around the OECD's first Ministerial in Ottawa as an incredibly important scene setting event and the unique thing about Ministerials is the Ministers can all come together and say at a very high level "this is our goal."

2. Conclusions drawn from the workshop and possible follow up actions

Audience members and panellists concluded that there is a need: to address data localization issues, for transparency, to address intermediary liability, for national privacy strategies, for a strong framework to promote trans-border data flows based on OECD guidelines, to understand the growing significance of individualizing workers in the workforce and a need to send invitations to African Ministers. There was also reference to the value in a multi-stakeholder approach to digital economy policy development.

Follow up actions could include developing key messages/"bumper stickers" for the Ministerial and identifying African associations or Ministers to invite.

Estimate the overall number of participants present at the session
20

Estimate the overall number of women present at the session
Less than half

To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?
It was not seen as related to the theme and was not raised