

IGF 2016 Workshop Report Template

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| Session Title | Inclusive Responses to Intentional Internet Disruptions |
| Date | December 7, 2016 |
| Time | 10:45am – 12:15pm |
| Session Organizer | Deji Olukotun, Access Now Andreas Reventlow, International Media Support David Sullivan, Global Network Initiative |
| Chair/Moderator | Deji Olukotun, Access Now |
| Rapporteur/Notetaker | David Sullivan, Global Network Initiative |
| List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations | Ken Adu-Amanfoh, National Communications Authority, Ghana Gigi Alford, U.S. State Department Judith Lichtenberg, Global Network Initiative Andy O’Connell, Facebook Deji Olukotun, Access Now |
| Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue): | This workshop was convened to address the growing instances of network shutdowns, with more than 50 such disruptions recorded in 2016. We identified success stories, challenges that need to be addressed, and next steps for collaboration to strengthen international norms against shutdowns. |
| If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation | <p>Deji Olukotun described the work of the #KeepItOn coalition of more than 100 organizations from nearly 50 countries around the world, which had gathered almost 50,000 signatures from concerned individuals around the world, to be presented to governments. He described how internet shutdowns often precede atrocities, harm economies, and impede emergency services. He described recent successes in Ethiopia, Chad, and Gambia in convincing states to turn the internet back on.</p> <p>Judith Lichtenberg discussed the necessity of a multi-stakeholder approach to network shutdowns. Although national law allows governments to take control of networks during emergencies, these are drastic measures that are disproportionate in their impact. It is important for all stakeholders to view shutdowns not only through a security lens, but through the lens of human rights and economic development.</p> <p>Gigi Alford from the U.S. State Department described the diplomatic coordination that led to the June 2016 Human Rights Council resolution condemning shutdowns, as well as the work of the</p> |

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| | <p>Freedom Online Coalition, which is preparing a statement on this issue.</p> <p>Ken Adu-Amanfoh from the National Communications Authority of Ghana described how the President of Ghana assured the country that the Internet would not be shut down on Election Day, which coincided with the workshop. He also described the importance of looking at the social and economic aspects of this issue, and not just elections.</p> <p>Andy O’Connell from Facebook provided an industry perspective and noted the need for better measurement of disruptions, and the importance of developing economic research about the costs of shutdowns, describing two studies on this issue from the Brookings Institution and Deloitte.</p> |
| <p>Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)</p> | <p>The workshop split into three breakout groups for in-depth discussion of points of progress, challenges, and solutions:</p> <p>I. Elections</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Progress: Ghana’s decision to not shut down the Internet on Election Day, helped by the President’s awareness of ICT issues and pressure from civil society and companies, could resonate internationally. b. Challenges: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Decision-makers may not understand ICT issues ii. Legal frameworks and election laws may permit shutdowns c. Solutions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop a 1 page document with arguments against shutdowns that can be used to engage decision-makers ii. Look to examples such as Australian government’s guidelines on website blocking to develop good practice that could deter shutdowns. <p>II. Economic Impacts</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Progress: Publication of reports quantifying the economic costs of internet disruptions by the Brookings Institution and Deloitte b. Challenges: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Diversity of types of disruptions and challenges documenting the costs leads to conservative estimates c. Solutions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Develop better measurement systems to create robust data sets. Get economists to study and debate this issue, and involve the |

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| | <p>International Financial Institutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. Localize studies with in-depth research on particular disruptions at the national level, and put this issue on the agenda at regional and local events. <p>III. Technical Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Progress: Technical blog posts documenting recent shutdowns by Cloudflare and OONI demonstrate the potential for accountability through monitoring of disruptions. b. Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Technical measures can be informed by political biases, with a tendency to assume certain shutdowns are politically motivated and others are not. ii. Need for external assistance, such as active measurements from other data sources or in-country expertise, to complement measurement efforts c. Solutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Bring together passive measurements from service providers with active measurement from purposeful tools to improve data collection. |
| <p>Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs)</p> | <p>See the solutions noted above.</p> |