

vIGF 2020 Main Session: Trust

1. **Internet Fragmentation - Is Digital Sovereignty the Problem or the Solution?**
2. **Date: 10 November from 12:30-14:00 UTC**
3. **Time (length of the session)**
90 mins
4. **Associated Programme Theme(s)**
Trust
5. **Brief Description/Objective**
[in 200 words or less - this should be a high-level 'marketing' pitch to participants - i.e. - why should they join the session and what should they expect to get from it?]

This main session on Trust focuses on the debate surrounding Internet Fragmentation. The discussion will consider the historical, geographical, and evolving political, technological and economic factors that shape the network of networks. Digital Sovereignty is not an established concept and different actors interpret it in various ways that advance their goals. This concept can be understood as being part of national sovereignty, or as a broader concept and strategy to address fragmentation tendencies, and some advocate the concept not only as a State-focused endeavor, but rather a way to further a user-centric approach. The [IGF 2019 Berlin Messages](#) noted the need for informed dialogue on the feasibility of the various digital sovereignty models being considered and their implications for Internet governance.

Technological evolutions have presented challenges to established protocols. The Internet Governance community has advocated for and strives to maintain the integrity of a unified and open Internet, but political and technological changes still push the debate on how feasible that is. In times when security, safety, stability and resilience have come under pressure and infrastructures and systems as well as users are in need of protective measures to ensure a healthy and empowering digital environment, it is a necessity and a challenge to leave the well-trodden paths and think ahead. Multistakeholder and multidisciplinary perspectives will be

discussed in this session and advanced in the backdrop of current shared global priorities (COVID-19, Elections, Disinformation).

6. Policy Questions *[up to 5]*

Internet Fragmentation: Trust in the network of networks

What are the potential risks of Internet Fragmentation? How does national and international law apply in this context? What would the technical (protocols, standards, compatibility) landscape look like in a fragmented scenario? How should the technical standards and protocols evolve to answer the current and future needs of the Internet? What is the role of the technical community and the private sector within this context?

Digital Sovereignty: Trust in your digital life

What is digital sovereignty? In a reality where states, companies and people are increasingly digitally interdependent on each other, digital cooperation is seen to be the way forward to address many things: is digital sovereignty the barrier or the solution towards greater digital cooperation? How do policy-makers, legislators and regulators view the concept of 'digital sovereignty'? Are there dimensions for the concept that go beyond territoriality/jurisdiction? How does digital sovereignty challenge the current model of Internet Governance?

Disinformation and Fragmentation: Trust in information

Unprecedented situations such as the COVID-19 global pandemic exacerbates the need for trustworthy information and other events such as elections have global ramifications: what should be the role of governments, international organisations and stakeholders in responding to these developments? How can trust be enhanced by using already available resources and what more needs to be done? How correlated are the challenges brought by disinformation to a potential acceleration of fragmentation? What is the role of multilateral organisations in building trust, and how important is it to have multistakeholder participation in these multilateral organisations? What are the multistakeholder and multisectoral roles and

responsibilities to ensure that the Internet remains interoperable and connects all users?

7. Session Agenda

- Introduction and scene setting (10 mins)
- First policy question round table reactions (15 mins)
 - Audience question 1 poll/multiple choice (concurrent)
- Second policy question round table reactions (15 mins)
 - Audience question 2 poll/multiple choice (concurrent)
- Third policy question round table reactions (15 mins)
- Reaction from panel re poll 1 and poll 2, Audience interaction, Q&A (25 mins)
- Concluding remarks and way forward (10 mins)

8. Chair(s) and / or Moderator(s)

Moderator(s): Bertrand de La Chapelle or Paul Fehlinger :(Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network)

MAG Facilitators :

- Jennifer Chung, MAG member
- Lucien Castex, MAG member
- Jutta Croll, MAG member

9. Speakers

Name	Title	Org	Regional Group	Country	SG	Gender	Perspective/ Expertise	Status
Stefan SCHNORR	Head of Digital & Innovation Policy, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi)	German Government	WEOG	Germany	Gov	M	Internet Fragmentation and Digital Sovereignty is a major topic under the German EU presidency	Invited
Alissa COOPER	IETF Chair	Internet Engineering Task Force	WEOG	USA	Tech	F	Internet fragmentation and scenarios from the technical perspective	Invited

Paul Mitchell	Senior Director, Technology Policy, Microsoft	Microsoft	WEOG	Canada	Private sector	M	Perspective from the private sector	To be invited
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10. Rapporteur(s)

Dalsie Baniala, MAG member
Jennifer Chung, MAG member

11. Plan for participant engagement/interaction

Zoom Webinar format suggested. Q&A pod will be open for participants throughout the session, online moderator will be keeping track and selecting questions to be answered live by the panelists. There will be two concurrent polls out for audience reaction during the first and second segments, these will be responded to by the panelists during the longer audience interaction and Q&A segment.

12. Desired results/output. Possible next steps for the work

To produce a starting list of definitions for the topic which in turn may go into a set of norms that inform possible scenarios. To feed strategically into ongoing [IGF intersessional work](#) (BPFs, DCs, WGs) as well as being an input to the [UN SG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#) (Key areas 7 & 8: Promoting trust and security in the digital environment, Building a more effective architecture for digital cooperation) with the goal of strengthening and evolving the IGF.

13. Annex Documents and Sources

- Narrative prepared previously for Trust track

https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/9615/2003

- Internet & Jurisdiction Project: Internet & Jurisdiction Global Status Report 2019

https://www.internetjurisdiction.net/uploads/pdfs/GSR2019/Internet-Jurisdiction-Global-Status-Report-2019_web.pdf

Berlin workshops on this topic -

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-ws-59-digital-sovereignty-and-internet-fragmentation#undefined> and

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-ws-180-splinternet-what-happens-if-network-sovereignty-prevails#undefined>

- NRI session on digital sovereignty this year at the vIGF [[placeholder to link to session description](#)]

14. Links to SDGs (*list all SDGs as in the workshop form*)

Associated [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#): [3](#), [5](#), [9](#), [16](#), [17](#)