

PNIF Multistakeholder Working Group of experts (MWG)
Meeting IV, 23 August 2022

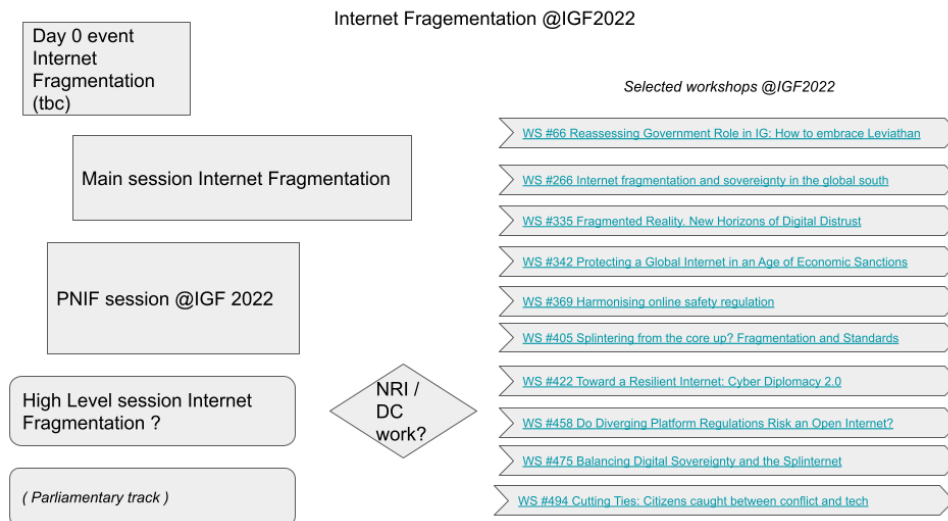
Summary

Global Digital Compact consultation

1. The deadline for submissions to the GDC consultation has been extended from 30 September to 31 December 2022 - after IGF 2022. The MWG revisited the plan to submit a high level contribution as discussed at the previous call :
 - The new extended deadline allows for more substantive community feedback and discussion ahead of and at the IGF before submitting.
 - It may still be useful to consider an earlier high level contribution by the PNIF that explains the importance of the issue and indicates that it will be taken to the IGF for community consultation and discussion. A second, more substantive contribution can then reflect the discussions at IGF 2022. Such an approach puts the issue earlier on people's radar (visibility) and showcases the IGF as a place for discussion and consultation.
2. Related, the MWG had a brief exchange on how the PNIF can contribute to the global debate without replicating or duplicating existing efforts. It was noted that
 - Existing Internet Fragmentation discussions risk to remain within their silos and that most discussions and publications are driven by the global north.
 - The PNIF can build on the existing literature while bringing more voices.
 - The PNIF survey needs to be shared more widely to collect more views.
 - The PNIF (and IGF) will be successful if it manages to connect different discussions and bring more people to the debate.
 - The PNIF should avoid duplication and not try to create something new, but rather foster the global debate on Internet Fragmentation by:
 - Reiterating the importance of the issue and explaining why it is important;
 - Highlighting principles that are being discussed, and explain their importance;
 - Using the IGF as a space where the international multistakeholder community can weigh in, and to connect rather than aiming to replace discussions going on elsewhere.
3. Next steps:
 - Before the end of September, a draft paper that follows the content discussed at the 30 June meeting will be shared with the MWG before taking it to the list for review.
 - Efforts will continue to distribute the survey. MWG member are invited share the survey also within their networks.

PNIF session at IGF 2022 and opportunities for collaboration & synchronisation with other programme elements

- The MWG exchanged ideas on the focus for the 90 min PNIF session at IGF meeting and possibilities for collaboration or synchronisation with other sessions. Some coordination is considered valuable to avoid duplication of discussions without interaction between sessions. Below is an overview of relevant sessions.



- According to the draft schedule, the PNIF and main session are back to back on the same day. It was noted that both sessions have different audiences and purpose, and suggested that a clear call to action from one session to the other could tie both discussions together. Such a synchronisation would also enhance the value of having a Main session and a PNIF session on the agenda.
- It was noted that main sessions usually serve well as eyeopener sessions on a certain issue and have a high level panel with representatives from different stakeholder groups. A PNIF session could be conceptualised as a ‘working consultative session’ and work through some issues in more detail, for example, concrete practices to deal with internet fragmentation, the role of the PNIF/IGF, etc. It could be requested to adapt the order of the Main and PNIF sessions in the schedule to fit with the chosen logic.
- Next steps:
 - Reach out to the MAG organising team for the main session on Internet Fragmentation.

Intersessional PNIF calls

- The MWG discussed the preparation of intersessional PNIF calls. It was suggested to have one session focussed on the ‘problem space’ (definitions, concepts, etc.) and another on the ‘solution space’ (policy and technical solutions, mitigation strategies and practices).

9. It was also suggested to map existing and emerging policy spaces where the free and interoperable internet is being discussed (for example the [Future Tech Forum](#) (UK); the [Declaration on the Future of the Internet](#) (US/EU); [Tech for Democracy](#) (Denmark))
10. A session could look at policy spaces where the free open and interoperable internet is being discussed and ask how they will affect the future of the Internet (e.g. the Future Tech Forum (UK), declaration on the future of the internet (US) , tech for democracy (Danish report), etc. As such the PNIF can further the discussion on how the GDC and Summit of the Future can pull from these existing initiatives.
11. Next steps:
 - A first PNIF call to be scheduled in September. MWG members are invited to join the organising team.

List of participants: Anja Gengo, John Hughes, Jorge Cancio, Lynn St Amour, Marek Blachut, Marielza Oliveira, Nnenna Nwakanma, Sheetal Kumar, Timea Suto, Wim Degezelle.

Recording: An online recording is not available due to technical reasons; but can be shared upon request