

Internet Governance Forum 2018

Paris, France 12-14 November, 2018

The 13th Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was held in Paris, France from 12-14 November, 2018. Over 3000 delegates from 143 countries attended 171 sessions. Approximately 1400 online participants joined in from 101 countries via 35 remote hubs from across the world, with the majority joining in from France, Brazil, United States, Nigeria, United Kingdom, India, Iran, Bangladesh, and Germany..

Gender Report Cards were obtained for 76 sessions out of a total of 171 sessions, which is only 44.4% of the total number of sessions. This number is higher than the 88 reports (out of a total of 220 sessions, 40%) obtained at the 2017 IGF in Geneva, Switzerland. But even now, less than half the total number of sessions are submitting completed Gender Report Cards.

Participation

Estimates of women's participation was provided for 85 sessions.

Percentage of women participants	No. of sessions IGF 2017	No. of sessions IGF 2017
More than 75%	6	1
More than 50%	8	17
50%	18	29
Less than 50%	43	37
Less than 25%	6	1
Zero	0	0
Total	81	85

As seen in the table, no workshop reflected zero female participation. 29 sessions reported an equal number of women and men in the audience. The majority is held by 37 sessions, where

women participants ranged between 25% and 50%, little less than half of the total participants. This report distinguishes between sessions in which women’s participation was closer to 50%, and those where women’s participation was below 25%. The latter was the case in 1 session. Only one session had more than 75% women’s participation, and this was Gender Issues and Democratic Participation: reclaiming ICTs for a Humane World session.

The sessions with a clear majority of women participants are:

1. Gender Issues and Democratic Participation: reclaiming ICTs for a Humane World
2. Working together at the regional level – projects & forums
3. Refugees digital rights: Necessities and Needs
4. Future of IGF: “The world is much better with the IGF than without it!”
5. Who is in charge? Accountability for algorithms on platforms
6. Accessibility Improved: building inclusive societies with AI Towards a Decentralized Internet Constitution?
7. CLOUD Act & e-Evidence: implications for the Global South
8. Multi-stakeholding cybersecurity in Africa
9. Blockchain for Social and Humanitarian Applications
10. Tackling Internet Disruptions via Multi-stakeholder Advocacy
11. Fostering multi-stakeholder debate on Internet & Elections
12. Balancing Cybersecurity, Human Rights & Economic Development
13. NRI Session on Emerging Technologies: impact of emerging technologies on national levels
14. Decentralized Governance in Blockchain-Based Systems and its Relation to Blockchain for Social Good
15. 5G, IoT and AI - Addressing Digital Inclusion and Accessibility
16. Refugee rights and the online environment: Building Digital Futures for all?

Speakers

Information on the gender diversity of panels was recorded for 109 sessions.

Percentage of women speakers	More women speakers than men	Equal number of women and men speakers	More men speakers than women	Total
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No. of sessions	35	10	64	109
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A majority of the sessions had more men than women speakers, and the total number of women speakers (273) was significantly lower than of men speakers (330) in the 109 sessions where this data was recorded. The following six panels were all women panels:

1. Algorithmic transparency and the right to explanation
2. What does the data say? Analyzing the Gender Digital Divide
3. Preventing Youth Violence Through ICTs
4. BPF Gender & Internet Governance
5. Refugee rights and the online environment: Building Digital Futures for all?
6. Dynamic Coalition on Gender and Internet Governance

Moderators

The gender diversity of session moderators was recorded for 113 sessions. 32 sessions had a single woman moderators, which is slightly lower than the 38 sessions which had a single male moderator. 12 sessions had two male moderators, and only 7 had two female moderators, whereas 24 sessions had both male and female moderators. There were a total of 112 women moderators, 71.7% of the total 156 moderators in the recorded sessions. This is a significant jump from the 2017 IGF where only 48.9% of the moderators were women.

Gender(s) of moderators	No. of sessions
Single male moderator	38
Single female moderator	32
Two male moderators	12
Two female moderators	7
Male and female moderators	24
Total	113

Information on the gender diversity of the speakers and moderators was not recorded as a part of the Gender reporting section of the workshop reports as there was no specific questions pertaining to this in the section. They were garnered from the final session reports submitted by the session organisers.

Relevance of gender to the discussion

There were 89 sessions which recorded details on the relevance of gender in their session and discussion.

Category	No. of sessions
Direct engagement	20
Partial focus	32
No engagement	37
Total	89

20 sessions directly engaged with gender, and 32 briefly discussed gender with a partial focus on it. In some cases, the gender perspective was briefly brought in by a participant intervention or question. 37 sessions did not engage with the topic of gender at all. We received 47 report cards which did not answer this question.

Conclusions

In order to streamline and systematise the Gender Report Cards so that it is practically useful in improving gender diversity at the IGF, it is recommended that Gender reporting be mandatory for all DC session reports, and the main sessions to the degree possible, and not just the workshop sessions. Some parameters which can be incorporated into the reports to make them more comprehensive include questions pertaining to the genders of the speakers and moderators, and a more diversified set of parameters for the evaluation of participation. The former especially will allow some space to expand the understanding of 'gender' in the Gender Report Cards and the IGF itself, as it will allow the speakers and moderators to identify with their chosen gender identity without forcing them into choosing between the binary genders of

'man' and 'woman'. In order to ensure that the IGF spaces meet Goal 5 of the Sustainable Development Goals, efforts need to be taken to ensure that not only is women's participation encouraged, but the very purview of gender needs to be expanded.

Though 136 reports were submitted in total, only 76 of the reports were complete. We know from the previous section that 47 of the reports did not answer the question pertaining to the relevance of gender in the session.

This is the 9th year of gender reporting at the annual IGF. Though the percentage of Gender Report Cards completed has gone up from 40% to 44.4%, the fact that nearly half the reports were incomplete is a cause for concern. The reporting is still very much under 50% of the total number of workshops, in spite of the reduction in the total number of workshops in the 2018 IGF. It's imperative to ensure that the mandate of filling in the gender report cards by session organisers is met in its entirety as soon as possible, and be treated as urgent.