

12th Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Press Background Materials

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IGF Background

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) serves to bring people together from various stakeholder groups and regions as equals, to discuss Internet policy issues, exchange information and share good practices with each other. Participants to the IGF do not make decisions or negotiate. The IGF has no decision-making abilities, but intends to inform and inspire those who do. The IGF facilitates a common understanding of how to maximize Internet opportunities and address risks and challenges that arise.

The IGF is a space where stakeholders from developing countries have the same opportunity as those coming from developed countries, to engage in the debates on Internet governance and to facilitate their participation in existing institutions and arrangements. Ultimately, the involvement of all stakeholders, from developed as well as developing countries, is necessary for the future and inclusive development of the Internet. The IGF is an open forum, not a membership forum, open to all people with an interest in Internet governance issues. It was established by the World Summit of the Information Society in 2006, and its mandate was renewed in 2015. Since its conception the IGF has become the leading global multi-stakeholder forum on public policy issues related to Internet governance.

IGF Mandate

The IGF mandate is set out in Paragraph 72 to 78 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society: (*Tunis Agenda for the Information Society*: <https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html>).

72. We ask the UN Secretary-General, in an open and inclusive process, to convene, by the second quarter of 2006, a meeting of the new forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue—called the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). The mandate of the Forum is to:

- Discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet;
- Facilitate discourse between bodies dealing with different cross-cutting international public policies regarding the Internet and discuss issues that do not fall within the scope of any existing body;
- Interface with appropriate inter-governmental organizations and other institutions on matters under their purview;
- Facilitate the exchange of information and best practices, and in this regard make full use of the expertise of the academic, scientific and technical communities;
- Advise all stakeholders in proposing ways and means to accelerate the availability and affordability of the Internet in the developing world;
- Strengthen and enhance the engagement of stakeholders in existing and/or future Internet governance mechanisms, particularly those from developing countries;
- Identify emerging issues, bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public, and, where appropriate, make recommendations;
- Contribute to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise;
- Promote and assess, on an ongoing basis, the embodiment of WSIS principles in Internet governance processes;
- Discuss, inter alia, issues relating to critical Internet resources;
- Help to find solutions to the issues arising from the use and misuse of the Internet, of particular concern to everyday users;
- Publish its proceedings

Its UN mandate gives the IGF convening power and the authority to serve as a neutral space for all actors. As a space for dialogue it can identify issues to be addressed by the international community and inform and shape decisions that will be taken in other forums. The IGF can thereby be useful in shaping the international agenda and in preparing the ground for negotiations and decision-making in other institutions. The IGF has no power of redistribution, and yet it has the power of recognition – the power to identify key issues.

In the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 December 2015, (70/125) 'Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society', the existing mandate of the IGF as set out in paragraphs 72 to 78 of the Tunis Agenda was extended for another 10 years. <http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN96078.pdf>

Governance Structure

The annual meeting of the IGF is convened by the UN Secretary-General. Substantive and administrative support to the IGF is provided by UNDESA through the Division for Sustainable Development (DSD). A small IGF Secretariat resides in Geneva. A group of advisers, representing all stakeholder groups from the five UN regional groups, are appointed by the Secretary-General to advise him in convening the IGF annual meeting (they are referred to as the Multistakeholder Advisory Group or 'the MAG').

The Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) was established to advise the Secretary-General on the programme and schedule of the IGF meetings. The MAG comprises of 55 Members from Governments, the private sector and civil society, including representatives from the academic and technical communities. The MAG holds meetings throughout the year to review the progress of the IGF and to substantively and logistically plan the IGF annual meetings. Each year the MAG is renewed by 1/3 through a nomination process from the IGF stakeholders.

On 27 February 2017, the UN announced the appointment by UN Secretary-General Guterres of the [2017 MAG](#) and of Ms Lynn St. Amour as [MAG Chair](#) .

Chronology

The twelfth annual meeting of the IGF will be held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 18 to 21 December 2017, on the theme, Shape Your Digital Future!

Eleven annual meetings have been held thus far:

- 2006: Athens, Greece;
- 2007: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil;
- 2008: Hyderabad, India;
- 2009: Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt;
- 2010: Vilnius, Lithuania;
- 2011: Nairobi, Kenya;
- 2012: Baku, Azerbaijan
- 2013: Bali, Indonesia;
- 2014: Istanbul, Turkey;
- 2015: João Pessoa, Brazil;
- 2016: Jalisco, Mexico.

Developments

The IGF continues to grow each year as more and more people are attending the meetings both physically and remotely via live remote participation. More than 2000 delegates from 123 countries participated in the approximately 200 sessions at the 2016 IGF in Mexico, with thousands more stakeholders actively engaging online.

Throughout time, the IGF developed a programme of thematic intersessional activities to complete its annual meetings and address the call for more tangible outputs to ‘*enhance the impact of the IGF on global Internet governance and policy*’ asked for in the 2012 report by the UN General Assembly Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) on Improvements to the IGF. (UNGA ECOSOC (16 March 2012). Report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (A/67/65 - E/2012/48): http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/a67d65_en.pdf).

The IGF platform has since strengthened with intersessional activities, including Best Practice Forums, Dynamic Coalitions and a multi-year community-driven process on IGF Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s). These discuss, track and present solutions and recommendations to the multitude of issues within the Internet ecosystem. The output papers produced as a result of their year-round work helps organisations and non-profits globally to bridge the digital divide and address digital rights issues.

Since its inception, the IGF community has witnessed the creation of numerous National, Sub-Regional, Regional and Youth IGF initiatives (abbreviated as NRIs). While the global IGF is not involved in the organisation of these local initiatives, it supports the establishment of their working mechanisms based on core IGF principles, as well as the interaction and exchanges between NRIs. In 2017 the IGF schedule will feature dedicated NRI sessions for the first time.

12th IGF Overview

The twelfth annual meeting of the IGF will be held from the 18th to the 21st of December 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. More than 2,000 participants from over 100 countries are expected to attend and participate in the 4-day meeting, with thousands more actively participating online.

The overarching theme for the 2017 IGF, derived by consensus of the MAG together with all IGF stakeholders is: ***Shape Your Digital Future!***

Discussions during the four-day Twelfth IGF meeting will address issues under the following sub-themes: **Access, Inclusion & Diversity; Critical Internet Resources; Cybersecurity; Digital Economy, Digital Work, Trade & Sustainable Development; Gender & Youth; Human Rights Online; Multistakeholder Cooperation & Governance; New Technologies & Emerging Issues - AI, IoT, Big Data, Blockchain, VR, Fakenews.**

The more than 200 sessions, organized by interested stakeholders, are expected to facilitate comprehensive debates among participants from different parts of the world.

The Twelfth IGF will aim to enhance linkages among discussions, recommendations and policy options, coming from the various national and regional IGF sessions and the rest of the Internet ecosystem. Furthermore, relevant Internet governance organizations are encouraged to take forward key ideas raised during the Twelfth IGF.

QUICK FACTS/ STATISTICS on IGF 2017

- **More than 2 900 participants** have registered for the meeting. The Secretariat many more to register on-site, particularly local delegates and international delegates, given the number of intergovernmental and international organisations based in Geneva.

Participation of Governments and policy makers has increased significantly this year, with a record number of scheduled Open Forum, session formats traditionally reserved for Governments and IGOs. **Organizers of these Open Forums (45) include Governments of Afghanistan, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, Indonesia, Israel, Latvia, Lebanon, Mexico, the Netherlands, Paraguay and the United States, as well as the IGOs among which are: UN Women, OHCHR, UNESCO, UNCTAD, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), the African Union, Council of Europe, OECD, the Organization of American States, the International Trade Centre and the International Committee of the Red Cross.**

- There will be strong participation from UN agencies, with **UN Women, UNICEF, UNESCO, WMO, WIPO and ITU hosting sessions at the meeting.**
- **The IGF Village** will include a record number of booths, with more than 50 - doubled compared to previous years - and give exhibitors from across the regional and stakeholder spectrum the opportunity to advance their work, network and create partnerships among the IGF's participants.
- In an effort to continue to bring in new stakeholders, and specifically young people, the IGF will feature a dedicated track of activities aimed at IGF first-time attendees. The **"Newcomers and Youth Track"** will launch on Day 0 and run through the meeting with informal sessions focused on putting newcomers in conversation with Internet policy leaders from all stakeholder groups.
- The UN Member States reaffirmed support to the IGF, through a 10-years renewal of the IGF mandate by the General Assembly in 2015, and the ECOSOC's 2016 annual resolution on the assessment of the WSIS outcomes. With this, the IGF gained a significant show of support for the advancement of the IGF process. Mentioned ECOSOC's resolution cited specific elements of the IGF's intersessional work, which is critical for engaging stakeholders throughout the year and confirms the IGF as more than an annual meeting.
- The 12th IGF on *'Shape Your Digital Future'* will address a wide-range of themes, including, but not limited to: Cybersecurity and Trust; Internet Economy; Inclusiveness and Diversity; Openness; Enhancing Multistakeholder Cooperation; Internet and Human Rights; Critical Internet Resources and Emerging Issues.
- IGF Contribution to the SDGs – In adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the international community spoke loudly and clearly on the need for wide-ranging efforts to achieve sustainable development. This means not only a broadening of scope in terms of what the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include, but also in the types of actors engaged, with particular emphasis placed on the multistakeholder action across the goals. Through its

intersessional work, the IGF has made a meaningful contribution to the Goal 9 – the objective to “build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation” - by bringing a community of stakeholders to bear on these issues. The SDGs and building bridges to areas of development where Internet governance can make an impact should be a target for the IGF over the coming years. This year's overarching theme for the annual meeting 'Shape Your Digital Future', reflects this.

- The IGF Secretariat and the MAG are committed to playing their parts in bolstering the engagement of stakeholders from developing countries, with an aim to support the SDGs, many of which in one way or another relate to the Internet, Information and Communication Technologies and with this, to the Internet policies.
- Capacity Building – The IGF is continuing its work to contribute to developing the capacities of stakeholders, especially those from developing countries, to actively and meaningfully contribute to global Internet governance processes.
- Community Growth - The [IGF](#) community has grown tremendously in its 11-year arc and continues to bring in new stakeholders. This is in part thanks to an emphasis on intersessional activities – such as [Best Practice Forums \(BPFs\)](#) and [Dynamic Coalitions \(DCs\)](#) – that keep the community engaged throughout the year and the IGF’s commitment to providing a truly open and inclusive platform for multistakeholder dialogue.
- Outputs – BPF reports and the comprehensive [‘Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion\(s\)’ \(CENB\)](#) reports, now in its third phase, represent a few examples of the IGF’s increasing emphasis on producing more tangible outputs to be used by its growing community of stakeholders. CENB in particular has garnered more than 100 contributions across its three phases and includes inputs from various stakeholders. These community driven intersessional activities have offered additional complementary platforms for multistakeholder dialogue on topical Internet policy issues such as Cybersecurity, Gender and Access and Local Content, among others.
- Expanding annual IGFs - Annual meetings have evolved from including some 30 workshops in the first years of the IGF to more than 90 today, with a variety of other session formats incorporated into the programme. The number of participants has also steadily increased to more than 2,000 on average in the last few years, with greater engagement and visibility of young people in particular.
- 18 [Dynamic Coalitions](#) of the IGF stand as an example of its successful efforts toward having a continuous, expert, multistakeholder discussions on various issues pertaining to the Internet governance.
- NRIs and the Exporting of the Multistakeholder Model – More than 95 countries and regions have established firm IGF processes for their respective communities. High level of enthusiasm, activities in addition to a sheer number of [National, Regional and Youth IGFs \(NRIs\)](#) is a testament to the success of the IGF’s multistakeholder model. By increasing the IGF Secretariat’s

linkages with the NRIs, the IGF has also benefitted tremendously from local, national and regional-level perspectives on issues pertaining to the Internet Governance. These important collaborations between the IGF and the NRIs are showcasing how Internet related issues are different across countries and regions, implying that a relevant change can only be made if we all work together through an open and inclusive, process.

Speakers List

Opening Ceremony

Ms. Doris Leuthard, President of Switzerland

Mr. António Guterres [**video message**]

Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Mr. Michael Moller, Director-General, United Nations Office at Geneva

Mr. Pierre Maudet, Canton Genève

Mr. Rémy Pagani, Maire de Genève

Opening High Level Session

Ms. Doris Leuthard, President of Switzerland

Mr. Anusha Rahman Khan, Minister of State for Information Technology and Telecommunication, Pakistan

Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General, ITU

Mr. Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Mr. Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman, World Economic Forum

Mr. Eric Loeb, Senior Vice President International External and Regulatory Affairs, AT&T)

Mr. Charles Ding, Global Senior Vice-President and President EU Public Affairs, Huawei

Mr. Masahiko Tominaga, Vice-Minister for Policy Coordination

Ms. Lakshmi Puri, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women

Ms. Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, European Commission

Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen, Director of Global Policy and Strategy, APC

Ms. Kathy Brown, President and Chief Executive Officer, ISOC

Mr. Martin Vetterli, President of Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology of Lausanne), EPFL

High Level Session The impact of digitisation on politics, public trust, and democracy

Ms. Nighat Dad, Executive Director, Digital Rights Foundation, Pakistan

Mr. Bobby Duffy, Global Director, IPSOS Social Research Institute

Ms. Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, European Commission

Ms. Kareen Jabre, Director of Programmes, Inter-Parliamentary Union

Ms. Malavika Jayaram, Executive Director, Digital Asia Hub

Mr. Frank La Rue, Assistant Director-General Communication & Information, UNESCO

Mr. Leonid Leonidovich Levin, Chairman of the State Duma Committee on information policy, information technology and communications, Russia

Ms. Dunja Mijatovic, former OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media

Mr. Gonzalo Navarro, Executive Director, Asociación Latinoamericana de Internet

Mr. Jean Paul Philippot, President, European Broadcasting Union

Ms. Snežana Samardžić-Marković, Director General of Democracy, Council of Europe

Ms. Nanjira Sambuli, Digital Equality Advocacy Manager, World Wide Web Foundation

Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu, Minister of Information, Bangladesh

Main Session on Cybersecurity

Dr. Amani Abou-Zeid, Commissioner, Infrastructure and Energy, African Union Commission

Mr. Frank Grütter, Ambassador, Head of the Division for Security Policy, Directorate of Political Affairs, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs Switzerland

Ms. Kaljurand, Chair of the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Estonia

Ms. Sarah Taylor, Director, Cyber, National Security Directorate, Foreign & Commonwealth Office United Kingdom

Ms. Carmen Gonsalves, Head International Cyber Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Netherlands

Mr. Long Zhou, Coordinator for Cyber Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs People's Republic of China

Mr. Andrey Krutskikh, Ambassador-at-Large, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for International Cooperation in Information Security Russia

Mr. Miguel Gutiérrez, General Director, Security Office for Computer Networks, Ministry of Communications Cuba

Ms. Anja Kaspersen, Director, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Geneva Branch UNODA

Mr. Marco Obiso, Cybersecurity Coordinator, International Telecommunications Union (ITU) ITU 5

Mr. Daniel Stauffacher, President, ICT4Peace Foundation Switzerland

Ms. Audrey Plonk, Senior Director, Global Cybersecurity and Internet Governance Policy, Intel Corporation

Mr. Jan Neutze, Director, of Cybersecurity, Microsoft Corporation

Main Session on Gender

Mr. David Kaye, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression

Ms. Dubravka Šimonović, UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women

Main Session on Local interventions, Global impacts

Ms. Anne Carblanc, Head of the OECD Digital Economy Policy Division

Mr. Vint Cerf, Vice President, Chief Internet Evangelist, Google

Mr. David Kaye, UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression

Main Session on Digital Transformation

Mr. Oscar Gonzalez, Secretary of Information Technology and Communications Regulation, Ministry of Communications, Argentina

Ms. Mariya Gabriel, the new EU-Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society

Mr. Nii Narku Quaynor, former ICANN Board Director, Chairman of Ghana Dot Com LTD

Closing Ceremony

Ms. Krystyna Marty Lang, Deputy State Secretary, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

Background Information on Main Sessions

1. Local interventions, Global impacts: How can International, Multistakeholder Cooperation Address Internet Disruptions, Encryption and Data Flows

The rapid growth and pace of innovation of new technologies and convergence with existing ones have outpaced traditional regulatory models and may prompt unilateral local actions that threaten the open, stable and interconnected nature of the Internet. Multistakeholder dialogue can help find the least intrusive methods of safeguarding recognized local interest, while maintaining a safe, secure and resilient global network that fosters social-economic development and innovation.

This main session discusses the impacts that national policy initiatives may have on the global Internet environment and the jurisdictional issues still to be solved. Experts will discuss three different but interrelated topics: Internet disruptions, encryption, and data flows. These were central aspects of digital policy agendas during the last decade and are still significant topics of discussion in many workshops at the 2017 IGF. This main session provides an opportunity for those workshops to feed into the debate and offers a common space for the discussion of those issues in a coordinated manner.

While there is widespread awareness about human rights-related aspects of these issues, there is little discussion about the aggregate effects that they might have on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Considering that the IGF 2017 will be held in Geneva, this session also aims at involving intergovernmental organizations that can feed into the debate and share their experiences in implementing cooperative efforts towards the solution of those problems.

Agenda

This session will serve as a focal point for coordinated and constructive discussions about the three different but interrelated aspects of Internet governance as described above. The session will benefit from the inclusion of all stakeholder groups, who shall be able to provide key insight on the global cooperation that is necessary for the Internet to improve human rights, peace, and well-being. The outline chosen to serve that purpose comprises both a gathering of specialists to kick-start the conversation as well as a traditional open mic space to increase the number of viewpoints on the matters under discussion. The session is structured around three main 50-minute segments, each one organized around specific policy questions that examine the respective topic, plus a concluding 10-minute segment:

- Session introduction [10 min]
- Segment 1 [50 min]: Internet disruptions
- Segment 2 [50 min]: Encryption
- Segment 3 [50 min]: Data flows

- Conclusion [10 min]: Multistakeholder cooperation for effective progress
- Session wrap-up [10 min]

The session introduction will include host country remarks and an explanation of the flow of the session by the moderator.

All three initial segments follow the same internal structure: (a) an invited specialist provides a preliminary response to the policy question(s) at hand (5 min); (b) a multistakeholder and geographically diverse round-table puts together a group of individuals who are tasked with reacting to the expert's intervention and presenting the situation of specific regions and communities to help shaping the issue to the audience (25 min); and (c) an open mic session follows to enable the audience and remote participants to join the conversation and present their experiences, opinions, suggestions, etc., on how to move the debate forward (20 min).

After the third round, a final segment will feature a discussant who will delve into how international organisations can play a prominent role in cooperative efforts and how multistakeholder dialogue can leverage that role towards the solution of major problems along the three lines discussed in the previous segments.

Policy Questions

- **Question 1: Internet disruptions.** How has the debate around Internet disruptions evolved during recent years, especially regarding new motivations and reasons for disruptions and how they impact on the global infrastructure of the Internet?
- **Question 2: Encryption.** Has the debate around encryption evolved to a point where it poses a threat to public and national security that requires international cooperation to solve the issues of "local interventions, global impact" regarding encryption?
- **Question 3: Data flows.** How can international cooperation help solve the issues of "local interventions, global impact" regarding data flows, especially if there is an inherent conflict between the collection/use of data as a tool for development and humanitarian projects and the protection of privacy?
- **Question 4:** Regarding issues of Internet disruptions, encryption and data flows, how can international organisations adapt to the ever-changing data policy environment while working on improving human rights, peace, and well-being?
- **Question 5:** How can efforts for cooperation and capacity development improve strategies, planning, outreach, and effectiveness in these areas to ensure concrete, positive communication and direction?

Desired results/outputs? Possible next steps?

- An overarching map of regional policy initiatives that impact the global Internet environment in relation to Internet disruptions, encryption and data flows;
- Documentation of expert knowledge from panelists of different countries and stakeholder groups in relation to the areas under discussion;
- Multistakeholder dialogue on the impacts that some policy initiatives may have on the global Internet environment as well as the jurisdictional issues that are still to be solved on that behalf;
- Recommendations and conclusions which show the way forward to outreach and networking to develop ideas generated during this session;
- Summary of the debates and the creation of a common and unified space for the discussion of those issues in a coordinated manner through intersessional activities carried out by the IGF community.

2. Special Session on ‘Data for Sustainable Development Road Maps’

Debates over the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) over its several years of effort led to a renewed and broader agreement about sustainability, and then led to the endorsement of the Sustainable Development Goals. These goals are not only built on the MDGs, but also supplant them, as of course, a greater awareness of the need for broader engagement to achieve the change that societally and economically is needed to shape our world into the world we want. The adoption of the SDGs by the United Nations, renewed understanding of how the major challenges that the world is facing are interdependent. No country can really expect to be its own island, whether in its need for food, water, energy, or jobs. The SDGs are a foundational platform that all countries are challenged with the adoption and the endorsement by the United Nations to consider how to address the challenges.

The SDGs provide a new vision for development, a vision that does not assume Development is isolated, but understands and admits that it is changing the role of women and youth; bringing access to ICTs to small farmers and midwives in developing countries; advancing access to information and education for children that have not school rooms, or limited access to books in their language to help them learn.

In response to growing awareness about the importance of sustainable development initiatives and activities and to meet what has been established as necessary goals for the world, the SDGs offer the potential guidelines to move the world toward a sustainable future.

Looking back at the MDGs, this session proposes to look at the learning of the MDGs very much like a prologue to what must be done now. In fact, the SDGs are already finding ways to gain supporting implementation initiatives. In addition, to take into account lessons learned about lack of data, and lack of focused reporting on achievements.

In order to know where we are, we need data. We cannot plan how we move toward achieving the SDGS unless we have better understanding. As a wise sage once said: If you do not know where you are going, any road will get you there. In addition, another study the past to know the future. Many reports are published by businesses, NGOs, and think tanks. Reports are published annually by UN agencies. However, it is very difficult to determine what is factual from all these reports, and who provides the input to the studies, so it is difficult to determine where “we” are.

The implementation of the [17 UN SDGs](#) in developing countries is only a fortnight away, and as it looks, the UN could be up against more than it really understood. Creating a form of standardized reporting is very challenging for developing countries, unless there is a sort of “road-map” that is built on their present status in terms of data gathering mechanisms and analysis.

According to World Bank Report (Poverty Global Practices Group and Development Data Group April 2015), a significant number of developing and least developed nations across Asia and Africa lack sufficient data to be used by business and policymakers in making estimates.

Lack of data and why the need for sufficient data:

Data helps experts weigh the feasibility of goals, provides clarity on the nature of the problem and facilitates statistic-based supervision and evaluation of development progress. It is paramount in intermediate outcome tracking and determination of whether the paths predicts that a country or the UN will achieve or miss on an SDG and its targets. Most developing countries lack data even in priority areas and that has come as one of the most pressing challenges the 2030 Agenda is likely to face. As has been suggested, a little under 30 of the world’s poorest countries have extremely limited data to measure the trend of SDGs indicators.

Mechanisms for gathering data:

One fundamental data collection method is through conducting household surveys, which will provide important data for evaluation and analysis of individual wellbeing in terms of health and education statuses, agriculture, energy and consumption levels. Another reliable method is the use of administrative records, which can provide statistics on demographic changes and trends, for instance, to aid in the formulation of health, education and social protection policies.

However, we must be realistic that developing countries often lack resources to conduct the aforementioned surveys; some have poor and unreliable registration systems, which may force analysts to rely solely on non-statistical estimates. To add to the challenges, one SDG target requires that legal identity, including birth registration, be provided for all by 2030. Relying only on telecom operators/mobile operators to report on connectivity, for instance, is a very flawed measurement, as has been demonstrated by Lirne Asia's research.

Data measurement mechanisms that are suitable for developing and developed countries need updating. Moreover, this needs to happen quickly. It may be that grants and training programs for developing countries will be needed to help strengthen the organizations at the national levels so that they can enhance their ability to gather reliable data and be more comprehensive with what they provide to the UN registry bodies if SDGs are to be met.

The workshop on "Data for sustainable development road-maps" session will bring together a diverse set of UN Agency representatives responsible for gathering statistics; other kinds of data producers, business professionals and users, as well as innovators in the field (national and international experts) to discuss the way forward, including exploring how new technologies and approaches that can be used to strengthen the data ecosystem globally.

The session would be organized around five themes aiming to achieving the following outcomes:

Theme 1: Addressing data gaps and financing

- present the current situation for countries to produce SDG indicators and highlight data gaps.
- discuss opportunities to strengthen census and survey regimes.
- discuss opportunities to further develop the administrative data system with the view of ensuring harmonization, comparability, and quality of data.
- present possibilities for using new data/ technology to address identified data gaps and engage new actors.
- determine how alignment with national and regional agendas will impact data collection in developing countries and indicator production and reporting.
- identify possible approaches for addressing the funding gap (both in terms of mobilizing additional resources and using those available more effectively)

Theme 2: Encouraging data use

- have an open dialogue with key users on how data/ statistics produced can better meet their needs.
- identify ways to harness the opportunity of the momentum around data for the

SDGs to strengthen the sharing, accessibility and presentation of data.

- raise the profile of data production and use with key stakeholders including policy-makers to encourage the use of improved data for evidence-based decision-making and accountability.

Theme 3: Strengthening the Data Ecosystem

- solidify the multi-stakeholder approach to achieving and measuring the SDGs, and create new data communities.
- Identify and discuss solutions to major funding gaps.
- Identify and discuss solutions to major capacity gaps.
- Provide an opportunity for country-to-country learning in the SDG indicator production process.
- ensure high-level political and policy-maker buy-in for the Roadmap process.
- Identify key issues for the policy and enabling environment for the data ecosystem.

Theme 4: Improving Systems

- How can the promotion of transparent data support the implementation of the SDGs at both the national and global levels?
- What kind of data regime is needed for the most effective and robust system for the implementation of SDGs?
- To what extent would data availability contribute to delivery of national and global goals?
- Learning from home grown and other non-traditional systems of information management in developing countries.

Theme 5: Policy and enabling environment

This theme will focus on the necessary policy initiatives in relation to data production, sharing and use as well as the enabling environment to ensure data quality, interoperability, security and protection.

3. High Level Thematic Session: ‘Impact of Digitization on Politics, Public Trust and Democracy’

The digital space, as a cornerstone of the public policy space, can be a great enabler for democratic discourse and participation, as well as inclusive policy-making. At the same time, the misuse of the digital public policy space can lead to the distortion of truth, mistrust in public information, and misrepresentation of public opinion.

This session will discuss both the opportunities and the challenges that digitisation brings to the digital political sphere, the public trust, and democracy. Discussions will revolve around ways of strengthening the benefits of democratic participation and inclusion via digital means, limiting the negative impact of the misuse of the public policy space, and rebuilding trust among online users.

The session will also address the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders. It will look at issues such as government policies aimed at creating more inclusive policy-making processes through the use of digital tools, the responsibility of Internet intermediaries for the dissemination of fake news and false news that can influence political processes, and the elements that can help rebuild trust among users. Also, the session will discuss the role of media actors in a democracy and the implications of the ongoing structural change in the media ecosystem. Most importantly, the session will look into whether and how digital literacy, education, and awareness-raising could be the key towards empowering citizens not only to take advantage of digital tools, but also to deal with the challenges related to the misuse of the digital public space.

‘Good stories’, ‘bad stories’, and lessons learnt will be explored as part of the discussions.

- Introduction - 10 min
- Part 1: Benefits - 75 min
 - Remarks from first group of panelists (6 people, 2min input each): 15 min
 - Discussion with audience: 60 min
 - Part 2: Challenges - 75 min
 - Remarks from second group of panelists (6 people, 2min input each): 15 min
 - Discussion with audience: 60 min
 - Conclusions and wrap-up - 20 min

Policy questions:

- Part 1 (Benefits): What are the benefits that digitisation brings/can bring to political processes, democracy, and the public trust? How can they be leveraged? How can digital tools be most effectively used to strengthen democratic participation and restore public trust in the online space? Who can make this happen?
- Part 2 (Challenges): What are the challenges that digitisation brings/can bring to politics, democracy, and the public trust? How can they be addressed, and by whom? What are the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders? How can we ensure that digital tools can be trusted as key resources for democratic participation and inclusive societies? Can digital literacy, education, and awareness-raising be the key towards empowering citizens to deal with the challenges related to the misuse of the digital public space?

4. Empowering Global Cooperation on Cybersecurity for Sustainable Development & Peace

Since the inception of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), Cybersecurity has been one of the key areas of concerns and discussions, with the Internet community stakeholders expressing grave concerns about the future of the Internet, its value for development, peace and preservation of our mutual interests in the cyberspace.

The global economic and development agenda as enshrined in the resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 2015, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, continue to be under a serious threat from being achieved if the global actors decline to shape into global actions commitments and ideas on global cooperation on cybersecurity and preservation

of the stability of the Internet. The existence of critical global cybersecurity issues have underscored the urgent need for a renewed multi-stakeholder dialogue on the security of cyberspace for peace and sustainable development.

However, there have been various institutional frameworks for dealing with cooperation on cybersecurity, which are operating in silos, and are yet to be translated into a meaningful global course of action.

It is expected that the IGF main session on cybersecurity would contribute to a global multistakeholders dialogue stream that empowers Global Cooperation on Cybersecurity for Sustainable Development & Peace. Furthermore, the session would build upon the previous efforts and outcome IGF 2015 and 2016 main session on cybersecurity.

5. Dynamic Coalitions: Contribute to the Digital Future!

Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) are some of the IGF's longest-standing community groups that do continuous work around a chosen theme in Internet Governance, during and between the IGFs. They were first formed at the IGF in Athens in 2006 with the aim of organizing discussion groups around Internet governance themes, both of particular interest to members and with a wider public significance. Starting out with a small number, there are now 17 active DCs whose work has evolved to encompass a range of activities and outputs.

Building on their successful main session held in 2016, DCs have agreed to come together again at IGF 2017 to discuss the topics they cover – from Accessibility and Disability, Internet of Things and Blockchain Technologies, to Child Online Safety, Community Connectivity and Gender and Internet Governance, Publicness and Core Internet Values.

The main session will strive to be as inclusive as possible of DCs' wide variety of themes and issues. Each of the participating coalitions will make brief interventions. These will be prompted by a moderator who, acting as an 'agent provocateur', will ask questions to challenge DCs and stimulate a defense or explanation of the major points in their work. A discussion with participants will follow. DCs will bring into this session substantive output papers, available online as background reading for IGF participants.

Agenda

I. Introduction on DCs and their Role within the IGF [~5 mins]

II. Q&A between Moderator and DC Speakers [~4 mins x 13 DCs, 55 mins total]

III. Interaction with Participants In-Room and Online [~30 mins]

Policy Questions

Policy questions will be wide-ranging and relate to the work of each of the DCs represented in the main session. The issues will be as diverse as the topics to which DCs have dedicated themselves, whether technical, rights-related or related to broader questions of "Internet values".

Specific questions will be identified by each DC and drawn from the following output papers:

DCAD Substantive Paper for IGF 2017 DCs Main Session (DC on Accessibility and Disability)

IGF 2017 Substantive Paper (DC on Blockchain Technologies)

Community Networks: the Internet by the People for the People (DC on Community Connectivity)

DC Core Internet Values discussion paper 2017: Focus on Freedom from Harm (DC on Core Internet Values)

An Internet For #YesAllWomen?: Women's rights, gender and equality in digital spaces (DC on Gender and Internet Governance)

Input Document for the DCs Main Session at the Internet Governance Forum 2017 (DC on Innovative Approaches to Connecting the Unconnected)

Internet of Things Good Practice Policies (DC on Internet of Things)

Zero rating Map (DC on Network Neutrality)

Preview of the 2017 DCPR Outcome: Platform Regulations (DC on Platform Responsibility)

Dynamic Coalition on Public Access in Libraries: Summary (DC on Public Access in Libraries)

Open Digital Trade: Background Paper [Full Report] (DC on Trade)

The Charter of Human Rights and Principles for the Internet Educational Resource Guide (v2)(Internet Rights and Principles Coalition)

Chair(s) and/or Moderator(s)

Moderator: Tatiana Tropina, Senior Researcher, Max Planck Institute

Connections with other sessions

DCs have individual sessions in the programme that will help shape their interventions in this main session. The majority of DCs' individual sessions are scheduled before the main session so as to facilitate this.

Desired results/outputs & Possible next steps

This session will be an opportunity for DCs to raise the profiles of new or under-the-radar issues, particularly ones that have been little discussed at the IGF, like blockchain technologies, or are seldom even discussed in the IG context, like increased accessibility for persons with disabilities. New DCs, such as the DC on Trade, will also have the chance to brief on their respective topics and work. After the session, participants should be inspired to take these issues back into their own communities for further discussion.

Feedback in this session will also be valuable in helping each DC determine the future course of its work. Participants may confirm, question or challenge any of the conclusions and assertions put forward by DCs, as well as introduce new ideas that could be formative for their discussions. At the same time, DCs will have the chance to illustrate why engagement in their work is important. Greater membership in DCs and their wider exposure to the IGF community is a secondary key objective of the session.

6. NRIs Perspectives: Rights in the Digital World

At their annual IGF meetings, a number of the national, regional and Youth IGF initiatives (NRIs) have been discussing extensively the notion of rights in the digital world, its importance and current practices in different countries and regions of the world, as well as the global policies and practices and its implications to their respective communities.

Given the content of these NRI discussions, this session will serve to showcase the differences and commonalities among countries and regions across the world on this particular broad area of interest.

As per the [NRIs Session Guidelines](#), the main objectives of this session are the following:

- To contribute to the quality and comprehensiveness of the global IGF event, by bringing the local, national and regional perspectives, challenges, and good practices to the overall discussion;
- To showcase the diversity among NRI discussions in different countries and regions across the world, existing on matters related to Internet Governance;
- Through joint work on a selected topic, developed by consensus, over one IGF cycle, the NRIs will continue building a firmer sense of the NRI community.

7. Gender Inclusion and the Future of the Internet

Internet governance discussions and processes have always strived for Inclusion, diversity and participation as their core principles. This ranges from key and emerging issues, to stakeholder groups to regional diversity. Intersecting within and between them are issues of gender, both as an analytical lens, as well as basic equality in participation.

Topics related to gender have formed part of the debates at IGF from the beginning. Different stakeholder groups have brought to the process a gendered focus and lens to policy issues on gender and internet governance; sexuality and freedom of expression; addressing online-gender based violence; access to the internet and the gender digital divide; the importance of fostering women's leadership in innovation and STEM fields; economic, social and cultural rights including education; privacy and surveillance and its gendered impact; to name a few.

The Geneva Declaration of 2003 committed all stakeholders to ensuring that the Information Society enables women's empowerment and their full participation on the basis of equality in all spheres of society and in all decision-making processes. That gender remains a challenge was affirmed in the December 2015 WSIS+10 resolution of the General Assembly: "We express concern, however, that there are still significant digital divides, such as between and within countries and between women and men, which need to be addressed through, among other actions, strengthened enabling policy environments and international cooperation to improve affordability, access, education, capacity-building, multilingualism, cultural preservation, investment and appropriate financing. Further, we acknowledge that a gender divide exists as part of the digital divides, and encourage all stakeholders to ensure the full participation of women in the information society and women's access to new technologies, especially information and communications technologies for development." (para 6 A /70/L.33)

In the past 5 years, there has also been a growing number of workshop proposals that aim to facilitate more focussed discussions on specific issues related to gender, as well as a stronger integration of gender into key and emerging themes. The IGF Gender Report Card – introduced by APC and the Gender DC in 2012 – have been a sustained effort to monitor inclusion in terms of issues as well as numbers, supported by the IGF Secretariat since 2014.

This clearly demonstrates investment and interest by the IGF community to both deepen and broaden the integration and inclusion of gender in the process.

The SDG Goal 5 that looks at a range of targets related to gender equality and empowerment of women and girls specifically cites ICTs as an important area for policy development. This provides an opportunity as well as a clear impetus for to seriously consider gender in current developments that will impact on the future of the internet.

This main session aims to foreground a discussion on gender and internet governance and policy. It will provide a space for stock-taking and discussion on key issues that have emerged and are emerging, including challenges and recommendations for ways forward; as well as specifically, what does it mean to integrate gender into internet governance processes?

Agenda

The session will be divided into two segments.

The first will discuss key issues related to gender and internet policy, as clustered based on workshop proposals as well as a consideration for past IGFs.

The second segment will facilitate a discussion on internet governance processes, mechanisms and structures, and aim to surface some recommendations on improvements to better integrate gender.

At both segments, discussants will be invited to provide brief inputs, with a question posed to participants by the discussants.

The floor will be then opened up for discussion. If the format allows, participants will be invited to form buzz groups of 3-5 to discuss particular issues and bring them to the plenary. Space will also be given to online and remote participants to provide their thoughts on the issue.

Anticipated format for each segment:

- Introduction & framing: 5 minutes
- Introduction of and inputs by discussants (6 maximum): 3 minutes each (20 minutes)
- Open discussion: 30 minutes (15 minutes buzz group, 15 minutes report back)
- Synthesis and closing remarks: 20 minutes

A strong moderator would be identified for this format. And discussants will be from a range of stakeholder groups and regions, and gender as well as other forms of diversity will be prioritised.

Policy Questions

Segment 1: Key issues and challenges

- Women's human rights: To what extent have discussions on human rights and the internet integrated gender and the specificity of women's contexts and realities, in their diversity? What are the possibilities and limitations of the "empowerment" framework vs the human rights framework? Are there tensions between specific rights that need addressing when a gender analysis is applied? How do we ensure that violations of women's rights are not reinforced and deepened in the online context?
- Intersectionality: How can looking at gender open up a broader lens of addressing other forms of diversity, disparity and exclusion? Has IGF successfully addressed issues of intersectionality in policy discussions - such as disability and gender, sexuality and religion, indigenous women's issues, LGBT issues, young people and gender and so on?

- Access: Progress and key challenges. What are we missing in the debate? Are there questions, actors and initiatives that are not part of the conversation? How can IGF as a key multistakeholder platform facilitate their inclusion?
- Addressing online gender-based violence: How has IGF been a key space to drive this conversation? What has surfaced in discussions here that can be better linked with policy initiatives on this key and emerging issue in other policy fora such as the HRC and CEDAW?
- Education and the economy: What are inclusive models that the private sector can develop and support? What are the safeguards and preconditions that need to be ensured by government? What role can internet governance play as enabler, facilitator, host of a gender inclusive future on innovation and empowerment?
- New and emerging technologies: What new challenges do emerging and data-driven technologies, like algorithmic decision making, smart cities, digital identity cards, etc. present for women's rights and gender equality in the digital age?

Segment 2: Gender inclusion and internet governance

- Beyond numbers: To what extent are issues on gender being discussed and addressed at the IG fora, both specifically as well as in an integrated way? Does gender influence the framing and prioritisation of IG issues, or do they remain at the periphery as specialised topics? To what extent are women taking part in IG discussions and decision-making on issues other than gender? Are there certain topics on which women's voices are lacking? How about certain fora or certain sectors? How do we improve monitoring and assessment on this to improve on structures and processes that facilitate internet governance and policy discussions?
- Diversity within stakeholder groups: Are women in leadership positions in different stakeholder groups? Do national women's machinery participate in IG discussions at different levels? Are they seen as a key stakeholder group with interlinkages made between different policy priorities? Do specific stakeholder groups face additional challenges because of capacity and existing disparity and discrimination?
- National and Regional IGFs: Do we have a good sense of gender diversity within NRIs? Can we identify some best practices or lessons learned from national or regional experiences? How can the global IGF support gender diversity and inclusion within NRIs in tandem with its own efforts?
- Capacity building: How are initiatives such as Schools for Internet Governance and the Diplo trainings paying attention to gender, in terms of participation as well as content? How can best practices be shared amongst different initiatives to strengthen this effort?
- Improvements to the IGF: How can existing internet governance structures better include women's participation and leadership? What can be done to support current effort to improve the IGF to better address and integrate gender issues and participation?

Remote moderator/Plan for online interaction

Efforts will be made to coordinate an online discussion that happens in tandem with the open floor discussion. Webex and Twitter will be used for this discussion. Two experienced moderators will be

facilitating the discussions to input into the floor, and the moderators will be working with them closely for this segment. A specific time slot will also be provided for inputs from the remote/online conversation.

‘Feeder’ workshops (if applicable) and/or connections with other sessions

This session is drawn from workshop proposals that is related to gender or women's rights. Depending on which workshops are accepted, the session will invite inputs from relevant workshop organisers to share 1 key question/insight that emerged from their discussion. The workshops are: 37, 49, 57a, 81,97,102,104,152,166,198, 211, 212, 220, 227, 251, 268, 283, 285, 305 (see attached for a list of workshops)

The main session will also draw from and invite participation from the Dynamic Coalition on Gender and Internet Governance, Accessibility and Disability, Internet Rights and Principles, Freedom of Expression and Media Freedom and Innovative Solutions to Connect the Unconnected; as well as the Best Practice Forum on Gender: Access (Year 2), and the Connecting the Next Billion – Phase III Outcome Document on SDG5 focus

Desired results/output

- Stocktaking and assessment of key issues, gaps, insights and potential ways forward.
- Emerging issues and challenges that should be prioritised in the work of IGF. This can form as inputs to intersessional work such as DCs as well as BPFs, as well as potentially inform workshop submissions.
- Recommendations and ways forward to improve gender inclusion in internet governance processes, structures and mechanisms, specifically, to help inform the work of the WG on IGF improvements.

8. Digital Transformation:

How Do We Shape Its Socio-Economic and Labor Impacts for Good?

[BRIEF DESCRIPTION]

This session aims to facilitate a thoughtful dialogue on the process of digitization and digital transformation, examining its effect on the global value chain, new business models, and the future workforce.

Cross-border data flow has accelerated economic globalization while the flows of international trade and finance have flattened since 2008. The increase in digital flows is underpinned by a process of statistically-evidenced vertiginous digitization. The digitization of products that were traditionally delivered physically but can also be transmitted electronically over the Internet, plays an important role in this process, opens new possibilities for e-commerce, and is an essential part of achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

The increased use of data will be required to realize the potential of the digital transformation. In the near future, data flows will increase under the pervasive Internet of Things (IoT). Data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence (AI) are perceived to be fundamental to the transformation of both developed and developing economics. Under the ‘sharing economy’, digital platforms enable direct exchanges between service providers and potential customers. They also reshape organizations and the

future of the work, necessitating a dialogue about how to enable an inclusive digital transformation which benefits everyone.

[AGENDA]

This session will be divided into two parts: The first part will be dedicated to understanding how digitization is affecting global digital production and commerce, and impacting development. The second part will discuss the impact of the digital economy on the workforce in both developed and developing countries, especially examining a relationship between the consequences of the sharing economy and automation and job creation / destruction, productivity, and labor rights, taking into account the distinct contexts of declining / increasing demographics.

I. Introduction (10 min.)

II. Part 1: Digitization and global production and flows of digital commerce (60 min.)

- Short initial remarks from discussants (20 min.)
- Discussions (40 min.)
- The discussion will seamlessly combine initial remarks with interactive reactions from the audience/participants

III. Part 2: Digitization, automation and employment issues (90 min.)

- Short initial remarks from key discussants (20 min.)
- Discussions (70 min.)
- The discussion will seamlessly combine initial remarks with interactive reactions from the audience/participants

IV: Conclusions and wrap-up (20 min.)

- The organizers will distill the conclusions of the discussion in a set of short key “messages” which will be presented to the participants at the end of the session

[POLICY QUESTIONS]

Part 1: Digitization and global production and flows of digital commerce (60 min.)

- 1) How is the new digital ecosystem different than the traditional ecosystem? What are considerations for enabling the development of healthy digital ecosystems? What are the main policy issues related to global production value chains in the digital environment?
- 2) What are the contributions of different types of e-commerce (B2B, B2C, B2G) to the global economy and how is e-commerce distributed worldwide? What is the role of e-commerce marketplaces for the inclusion of SMEs and developing market contenders in global trade chains?
- 3) How do emerging technologies, such as big data, IoT, and AI affect e-commerce? What are the main policy options that facilitate or create obstacles to global trade flows?
- 4) How does digitization enable new business models and encourage entrepreneurship?
- 5) What roles do international organizations play in facilitating the discussion of these policies and how can they work with other actors to promote better coordination in the field of e-commerce?

Part 2: Digitisation, automation and employment issues (90 min.)

- 1) What are some of the lessons learned from past market transformations, e.g., agricultural to industrial, and how does digitization assist in making the most of the lessons (taking also into account the context of sharing economy)?
- 2) Are there tools that can better measure and predict the impact of ICT on the labor market? Are there tools that can predict what skills are needed going forward?
- 3) What are the ways in which the labor market will most likely be affected by digitization and automation? What policies should be considered in an environment of increasing demographics in developing countries? Do ICTs actually assist developed countries in addressing understaffing situation while maintaining the diversity of a career choice as well as mitigating risks to the well-being of the labor force?
- 4) What will be the necessary professional skills to take advantage of the jobs created in a highly digital society and what are examples of innovative approaches to training by which workers can be more effectively connected to more opportunities? Should different approaches be considered for people at different stages in their career?
- 5) How can education and capacity development play a role in this new scenario and what kind of efforts would be necessary for public / private stakeholders to promote the education and capacity development in both developed and developing countries?

[CHAIR(S) AND/OR MODERATOR(S)]

We will have 2 moderators (one for Part 1, another for Part 2) since moderation should be dynamic, proposing questions and making sure that the “debate-style” flows smoothly, and that the audience has the chance to participate. Because of the importance of this role, we will continue to brainstorm on who the moderators should be based on a pool of names below.

Generic Question and Answer (Q&A) on IGF and IG Related Issues

Global Internet Governance

1. Should the UN really be involved in Internet Governance (administration, management)?

At the conclusion of the World Summit on the Information Society in 2005, Heads of State decided to invite the UN Secretary-General to convene a new forum for discussion of public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance.

This mandate is set out in Paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, which states: "We ask the UN Secretary-General, in an open and inclusive process, to convene, by the second quarter of 2006, a meeting of the new forum for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue—called the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)."

The original mandate of the IGF was for five years. Its mandate has been renewed by the UN General Assembly twice, most recently in 2015 for another ten years.

Neither the UN nor IGF is involved in the complex day-to-day technical and operational matters that allow the Internet to operate. The UN does not manage the Internet nor does IGF govern it. The IGF is a UN-convened forum for international multistakeholder dialogue.

This year's IGF in Geneva, Switzerland, as has been the case in previous years, will provide a multistakeholder space for dialogue and will allow the international community to shape decisions and policies that will prepare the ground for negotiations and decision-making in other institutions and forums.

2. What are your thoughts on the proposals from some Governments and international organizations to establish a new international governing body of some kind to set universal rules and regulations on issues related to Internet Governance?

The mandate of the IGF is to create a forum for multistakeholder discussion on Internet governance and related Internet issues. The creation of a regulatory and enforcing agency or body goes beyond the mandate of the IGF. When the IGF was convened it was agreed to remain a non-decision making Forum and this remit continues as one of the fundamental modus operandi of the IGF moving forward.

These decisions will be made by Governments together with the multistakeholder community.

3. In 2012 there was a struggle related to Internet Governance, with some countries wanting more intergovernmental control and others wanting a "free" Internet managed by diverse stakeholders. What is the status of this debate? Can the IGF offer a middle ground?

This debate is ongoing, and many countries have the same feelings about the policy debates between the multistakeholder model of Internet governance and a more state-centric, governmental-led control model – a debate which was highlighted during the World Conference on International Telecommunications in December of 2012.

The IGF has and continues to act as a middle-ground type of platform for this exchange, as the UN's convening power gives the forum its legitimacy and Governments on both sides of the debate are present in the IGF space to hear opposing viewpoints and to work towards convergence, within the multistakeholder nature of IGF debates, workshops, and side-meetings.

4. Now that ICANN has formally transitioned away from U.S. Government control ('IANA Transition') and several countries have initiated their own multilateral processes, what is the IGF's place in the governance ecosystem?

The IGF's niche is using the impartial and independent UN convening power to attract the top engineers, Government leaders, business entrepreneurs, researchers and grassroots activists to talk about everyday Internet-related problems that affect each one of us.

The IGF has and will continue to complement other Internet governance processes. The IGF has consistently been at the centre of the broader governance debates, which are always changing. It

is a unique forum in that it is open to all stakeholders, and its programme comes from the multistakeholder community itself. The debates, recommendations and messages coming from this meeting will feed directly into other related processes, through guidance from the participants themselves.

Cybersecurity

5. Cybersecurity is a major issue on the international agenda; do the UN and the IGF have a specific position?

Certainly the UN condemns any cross border cyber-attacks. The UN System is using its convening power and expertise in this area to work on ways to prevent such attacks. The IGF is an appropriate forum for multistakeholder discussions on these matters, together with all of the other issues on our agenda this week and at future meetings.

6. Leakages of information about Government surveillance of Internet activity have caused great concern. What is the view of the United Nations on this?

While concerns about national security and criminal activity may justify exceptional and narrowly-tailored use of surveillance, any surveillance from governments or private companies for that matter, without safeguards to protect the right to privacy hampers fundamental freedoms.

People should feel secure in the knowledge that their private communications are not being unduly or unjustly scrutinized by the State. Those disclosing information on matters that have implications for human rights need to be protected. Although some in power might claim they need to curtail freedoms to preserve order, this in fact could have the opposite effect.

There exists a close linkage between the right to privacy and the rights to access to information and freedom of expression and association. Any surveillance without adequate safeguards to protect the right to privacy actually risk impacting negatively on the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Freedom of Expression

7. Freedom of expression: Some countries seem to be monitoring or restricting Internet communications. Aren't freedom of expression and the right to privacy protected?

Article 12 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states that "no one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy". Article 19 guarantees "the right to freedom of opinion and expression and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas regardless of frontiers,"

The right to privacy and freedom of expression are considered ethical dimensions of the Information Society. These rights were reaffirmed in the WSIS Geneva Principles.

However, these rights are not absolute. They have borders when they infringe on other rights. The very same Declaration (Article 29) stipulates that "in the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society."

What this means is that there are cultural differences that may define limitations to basic rights and that these rights are subject to national law.

IGF in General

8. What are your expectations from the 12th Meeting of the IGF? And what will you emphasize at the Forum?

The meeting will build on the work of the previous IGF meetings, thereby facilitating a comprehensive dialogue between all stakeholders across a wide and diverse range of agendas.

We hope to encourage open discussions and capacity building between all stakeholders who are here physically and who are participating remotely throughout the week.

The IGF was not meant to be a traditional United Nations process. The IGF serves to bring people together from various stakeholder groups as equals, but not to make decisions or negotiate. Instead, they discuss, exchange information and share good practices with each other. While the IGF may not have decision-making abilities, it directly influences those who do. The IGF facilitates a common understanding of how to maximize Internet opportunities and address risks and challenges that arise.

Through dialogue the IGF seeks to develop a common understanding of these issues and to raise awareness of the development dimension of Internet governance. The IGF also aims to be a space that gives developing countries the same opportunity to engage in the debate on Internet governance and to facilitate their participation in existing institutions and arrangements. Ultimately, the involvement of all stakeholders, from developed as well as developing countries, will be necessary for the future development of the Internet, and this forum provides this platform.

9. What are some of the achievements of the IGF since its establishment?

The IGF has provided a neutral venue for multiple stakeholders to exchange their viewpoints and share their knowledge. To date, discussions have proven to address emerging issues and current debates about internet governance and policy making, have considerably fostered policy coherence and have fed directly into other major international policy forums that consider Internet governance.

The main achievements of the IGF are second-order effects. Visibility of Internet governance issues have been considerably heightened in recent years, as can be seen by the high level of remote participation from stakeholders around the world. The outcomes and lessons learned from

debates and discussions at the IGF are taken around the world to policymaking bodies and institutions.

Moreover more than 90 National and Regional IGF initiatives have been established in a bottom-up manner, in all parts of the world, fostering regional Internet governance dialogues that both feed into the annual IGF meetings and to other International policy dialogues.

Over the past three years, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)'s best practice forum (BPF) on Gender has been investigating various challenges pertinent to women's ability to access and use the Internet. In its first year of work, it investigated online abuse and gender-based violence (see the outcome report [here](#)). Last year, it looked at the variety of barriers that women face in not only accessing but also using the Internet, along with mapping initiatives and methods that have been used in diverse jurisdictions to overcome these barriers (see the report [here](#)). The findings from its reports have already been used by and fed into a variety of policy processes and platforms.

Other multi-year IGF Best Practice Forums, such as the one on Cybersecurity, have similarly fed into external policy processes.

10. What are you planning to do to overcome the IGF's image as "just a talk shop"?

The IGF is, indeed, a discussion space. This is where its value resides. Participants in the meeting can express their views freely, without feeling constrained by the pressure of more formal and negotiating venue; these discussions do influence the decision making processes within various Internet entities.

The IGF is evolving towards the production of more tangible outcomes, while keeping its non-negotiating nature that has proved essential to its success. In addressing effectively emerging Internet issues, the IGF has proved to be an indispensable element of the Internet ecosystem.

Best Practice Forums specifically produce tangible outcomes, and it is expected that many messages and recommendations stemming from the IGF will guide the evolving global Internet governance ecosystem.

11. With regards to intellectual property, how does the IGF deal with reconciling the potential of the Internet with traditional property approaches? And how?

The history of the Internet has been very similar to other technological innovations in history. That is, there was the freedom to test new ideas and inventions and apply them for the benefit of societies and spawn new industries. For the development of the Internet, it has been based on what Internet buffs have termed "permissionless innovation." So on the one hand; we need to encourage constant technological development.

On the other, we also have to be mindful of the intellectual property rights of those who have toiled to innovate and create new inventions. That is why the Member States have set up the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) that protects patents, etc.

Digital Divide

12. What is the role of the UN in narrowing the digital divide between developing and developed countries?

The UN provides and fosters research, conducts capacity building and facilitates knowledge-sharing about the digital divide and does significant outreach and advocacy about the importance of ICTs and Internet for development. It is necessary to promote “pro-poor” research that addresses the needs of the world’s poorest and most vulnerable people. The emphasis on the digital divide and ICTs for development is highly evident in the 2030 Agenda.

Worldwide communication is now faster and easier than ever. Telemedicine and e-learning are available to people in remote areas, and mobile technologies are empowering millions of people in developing countries, creating entrepreneurial opportunities. The use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in providing vital government services is also on the rise.

While this progress is surely significant, there is a long way to go in collective efforts to bridge the digital divide. The still low number of Internet users in developing countries calls for increased efforts in shaping and implementing appropriate policies to assist everyone to harness the benefits of the Internet, and advance sustainable development. Bridging the digital divide between developing and developed countries is crucial in the work of the United Nations as ICTs play a huge part in driving progress towards the new Sustainable Development Goals.

The UN consistently organizes National and Regional workshops around the world that provide a forum for member states and other stakeholders to exchange ideas, learn from each other and form networks among themselves. In addition, the UN conducts many technical assistance and capacity building missions to support governments in implementing their respective strategies and public policies related to issues such as e-content, citizen-engagement, online services and e-participation, helping to bridge the digital divide.

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is an important venue for raising awareness initiating discussions to identify innovative ways to address the digital divide and inform parallel policy-making processes.

The Best Practice Forum for Gender and Access and all its volunteers work to bring out the grassroot level challenges and solutions from various parts of the world to bridge the digital divide especially with respect to women.

A key development in this regard is the IGF’s ‘Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billions’ process. A bottom-up, community-driven endeavor to produce a collaborative document to identify ways to connect the four billion unconnected people in communities around the world. In 2015, the first phase focused on defining the connectivity challenge, identifying key obstacles, and suggesting concrete policies to achieve increased connectivity, including an emphasis on infrastructure, enabling users, increasing usability and user-friendliness, accounting for affordability and facilitating an enabling environment. In 2016, the second phase augmented

this work by expanding the focus to ‘Connecting and Enabling the Next Billions’ and elucidating local and regional specificities and discussing how ICTs can broadly help make progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In 2017, the third phase of Connecting and Enabling the Next Billions (CENB III) seeks to supplement the recommendations made in the first two phases with concrete case studies to highlight the ways in which projects on the ground are making helping make progressing on key sustainable goals.

13. Do you think that trends such as social media, cloud computing etc. really have an impact on narrowing the gap?

Although there is still limited access to the Internet in some developing countries, connectivity is growing in many areas and mobile technology and social media applications are playing vital roles in shaping the trends of social activism and raising awareness, in the context of freedom of expression and giving citizens a voice to address social issues. Social media creates a platform where all sides of the conversation not only matter, but are being heard globally, and where action is not only warranted but demanded.

Social media platforms, originally designed for personal use, are now being embraced by national and local governments across the globe. Popular social network sites such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter now contain the tools for citizen engagement features and opportunities.

The emerging imperative today is to re-think the scope of e-government in order to understand the opportunities offered by the new technologies for better development outcomes. Governments can enhance the scope the role of e-government in bridging the digital divide by embedding interconnected and holistic technological solutions in policy frameworks.

New mobile platforms are simple, portable, and require only a basic mobile phone with SMS capability. Those basics allowed their adoption all over the world for election monitoring, corruption tracking, crime and violence tracking and to foster education and raise the level of literacy, as well as to provide logistical support in natural disasters.

New trends in technologies including social media and cloud computing allow users to take benefit from new technologies, without the need for deep knowledge about or expertise with each one of them. Also because of these new trends users can cut costs of using new technologies.

At the same time it is necessary to take into account that a digital divide is not only about technological affordances, it is also caused by social and economic inclusion globally.

14. Does the UN have reports specifically on the digital divide, and “the impact of technology on economic inequities” etc.?

The contours of the global digital divide are complex and it exists for a number of reasons. That’s why it is crucial to analyse this issue to effectively address it. There are indeed many United Nations reports that present a systematic assessment of the use and potential of

information and communication technologies to transform the public sector by enhancing efficiency, effectiveness, transparency and accountability.

EQUALS IN TECH AWARDS



MEDIA ADVISORY

Winner information embargoed until 6pm CET, 19 Dec 2017

Outstanding initiatives bringing digital tech opportunities to women in Lebanon, Afghanistan and Costa Rica win at 2017 EQUALS in Tech Awards

Geneva, 19 December 2017 – Outstanding initiatives from around the world that use the power of digital tech to empower women and girls are being recognized in Geneva, Switzerland at 6pm on 19 December at the 2017 [EQUALS in Tech Awards](#). This annual event is designed to showcase how digital tech can be used to dramatically improve social, political and economic outcomes for women and girls – and the value that women and girls bring to the tech sector. It is being held during the Internet Governance Forum and will be attended by gender in tech thought leaders from around the world.

What: 2017 EQUALS in Tech Awards – recognizing and promoting innovative initiatives that work to bring digital tech resources and women/girls and women/girls to the tech field.

When: 5:00-6:30pm, 19 December 2017 – during the Internet Governance Forum

Where: EQUALS in Tech Awards Ceremony, Room XVIII, Building E, Palais des Nations

Who: Opportunity to meet with and interview:

- Ms Nayla Zreik Fahed, Lebanese Alternative Learning (Lebanon) – winner Access Category
- Ms Roya Mahboob, Digital Citizen Fund (Afghanistan) – winner Skills Category
- Ms Kemly Camacho, Sula Batsu Cooperativa (Costa Rica) – winner Leadership
- Ms Doreen Bogdan-Martin, ITU Chief of the Strategic Planning and Membership Department – EQUALS founding partner
- Ms Lakshmi Puri, Assistant Secretary-General for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships, UN Women, EQUALS founding partner
- Dr Sue Black, internationally known women and tech expert and spokesperson
- Ms Kathy Brown, President and CEO of the Internet Society
- Mr Philipp Metzger, Director General of the Swiss Federal Office of Communications

More Information:

The awards are part of the [EQUALS Global Partnership](#), a network of more than 50 partner companies and organizations working together to bridge the digital gender divide, and co-

founded by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UN Women, the International Trade Centre, GSMA and the United Nations University.

Awards are given in three categories: Skills, Access and Leadership. These represent the three pillars of actions by EQUALS partners to bridge the digital gender divide. *Skills* are needed for women and girls to use digital resources; *access* provides the opportunity; and *leadership* recognizes the value of gender equality in tech employment sectors, including senior leadership roles for women.

“ITU is proud to recognize those honored here today who are dedicated to bridging the global digital gender divide,” said ITU Secretary-General Houlin Zhao. “Their drive, passion and innovation help to unleash the power of information and communication technology for the benefit of the many. Each time we bring more women and girls online, not only do we take one more step towards achieving gender equality, but we accelerate the implementation of all the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.”

This year, there were 293 submissions from 72 countries for the EQUALS in Tech Awards. From these, 15 finalists were selected representing the most innovative and inspiring initiatives working to bridge the digital gender divide. A winner was then selected in each of the three categories by an expert panel of EQUALS partners and previous winners.

In the **Skills Category**, the winner is [Digital Citizen Fund](#) of the United States and Afghanistan, which over the past four years has built 13 information technology and media centres that provided Internet access to 55,000 people and training to more than 10,000 women in digital literacy, financial literacy and entrepreneurship. More than 100 women have gone on to launch their own startups in different industries. The award is being received by Ms Roya Mahboob. In the **Access Category**, the winner is [Lebanese Alternative Learning](#), which has developed Tabshoura in a Box. This platform works independently of the Internet and electricity, a key feature in low-resource environments, and provides a hotspot where students can connect computers and access digital learning resources. Currently, three school and three learning centers are using Tabshoura in a Box, and the platform is expected to spread to at least 15 schools and learning centres within the next year. The award is being received by Dr Nayla Zreik Fahed.

In the **Leadership Category**, the winner is [Sula Batsu Cooperativa](#) of Costa Rica, which has created women-led rural “technological poles” that empower women to launch their own digital businesses. The programme has impacted 1,500 rural young women, 700 teenage girls, and 200 mothers of rural girls. It also hosts a network of 400 girls who meet regularly to define and implement actions around women in tech, the results of which influence university curricula, companies and public policies. The award is being received by Ms Kemly Camacho.

“I am delighted to see these creative initiatives aimed at bridging the digital divide. They demonstrate how women and girls’ access to frontier technology and improved skills can be achieved. Today’s winners bring us closer to an inclusive information society that leaves no woman or girl behind,” said UN Women Executive-Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka. This year’s awards are supported by the Internet Society, the Government of Switzerland and Facebook.

For more information about the EQUALS Global Partnership and awards, visit:
equals.org

Learn more about the finalists and winners at: www.equals.org/awards

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