



**BEST PRACTICE FORUM GENDER 2016:
GENDER & MEANINGFUL ACCESS
MEETING IV (THURSDAY 21 JULY 2016)**

Background context: in May 2016, at the first open consultations and multi-stakeholder advisory group (MAG) meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Geneva, Switzerland, input was gathered and feedback was given on the progress and outputs of the 2015 best practice forums (BPFs), including the 2015 BPF on online abuse and gender-based violence against women. At this meeting,¹ the need was stressed for continuing to dedicate an intersessional² effort to the study of gender-related challenges where the Internet is concerned. It was decided to continue the BPF Gender in 2016 and, more specifically, to a) build on and improve the outcomes of the 2015 BPF Gender: online abuse and gender-based violence against women, and b) to dedicate the work of the BPF in 2016 to women's access to the Internet (or the gender digital divide).

1. The fourth meeting of the BPF Gender took place on 21 July 2016. Jac SM Kee moderated and led the meeting, and Anri van der Spuy represented the IGF Secretariat. The agenda for the meeting was focused on the ongoing planning and preparations for the BPF's work, taking stock of progress made thus far, providing feedback from the recent Open Consultation and MAG meeting (12-14 July at UNHQ in New York), gathering input regarding a survey designed, and talking about the BPF's proposed methodology. The meeting lasted approximately 60 minutes, and was attended by five participants³.
2. During meeting III, participants continued the work that had started during the BPF's first three meetings (summaries of which were distributed on the BPF's mailing list). A proposed webinar to be hosted at APriIGF (Taipei, 27-29 July) was discussed, as well as a draft survey compiled with the aim of mapping existing initiatives and research in the field.

Webinars

3. Feedback was given regarding a webinar hosted at IGF Brazil on 12 July 2015 on the theme of gender and access, and during which some BPF participants contributed. It was noted that Renata had volunteered to provide a summary of the stories gathered during this first webinar, and to share same on the mailing list.
4. A participant from the APriIGF Secretariat, Jennifer Chung, provided an update of relevant sessions at the APriIGF event taking place in Taipei from 27 to 29 July, including

¹ A transcript of the relevant session is available online: <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/3063>.

² 'Intersessional activities' at the IGF refer to activities that take place throughout the year, and that thus continue in the period between annual IGF meetings.

³ A meeting recording is available online: <https://intgovforum.webex.com/intgovforum/ldr.php?RCID=9f1f74611205cf22a9bfc1afda8bdf7>

two sessions related to gender and one open session (due to a late cancellation) that could be used by IGF intersessional activities to provide updates and ask for input.

5. It was agreed that the session on gender and access at APriIGF could potentially be used as a platform for a second webinar. Jac agreed to contact the organizer and ask for a slot to introduce the BPF's work and to request participants to complete the survey. It was agreed that the existing mechanisms for online participation as organized by IGF could be used to enable BPF participants to contribute as part of other general participants on the online platform. Jennifer agreed to obtain remote participation details for the session and to share it with the coordinators, whereafter an invitation will be sent to all BPF participants on the mailing list to encourage participation.

Survey revision

6. The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to discussing a draft survey. During the BPF's first scoping virtual meeting, the group decided to map existing initiatives and/or reports that are related to the gender digital divide, women and (Internet) access, and/or the empowerment of women using information and communication technologies (ICTs). The aims of this exercise were to determine whether there are any lessons to be gathered from existing work and to identify related gaps in work and research. A document designed to gather such input was drafted on an open and (generally) freely accessible platform (Google sheets), and subsequently shared on the BPF's mailing list for input.⁴ Because little input had been gathered on the spreadsheet thus far, it was agreed to use a more user-friendly format for gathering input. As a result, a survey was designed based on the same questions contained in the spreadsheet.
7. The rest of the meeting was dedicated to getting participants to test the survey and to provide suggestions for changes, which were effected simultaneously as the meeting progressed.

Next steps

8. The meeting finished with a summary and the proposal of a number of follow-up actions, namely:

Action 1: organization of webinar at APriIGF: Jac will contact the organizers of a session on gender and access to suggest the BPF's participation, while Jennifer will obtain remote participation details. An invitation to attend the webinar will be shared on the BPF's mailing list by Monday 25 July 2016.

Action 2: finalization and distribution of survey: the survey will be finalized and distributed on the mailing list. Participants were requested to share details of the survey with their mailing lists and contacts.

Action 3: Summary of the discussion and scheduling of next meeting. A summary of the discussion will be prepared and shared on the BPF's dedicated mailing list by 25 July 2016.

Action 4: Next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on or around 4 August at 12:00 CET (10:00 GMT), and that the Secretariat would schedule the meeting and distribute details enabling participation.

⁴ The document is available and freely editable online:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rYDTU_nUSr8aSJRhB84WKYLOq1AVzbbilhvt85m4vi0/edit#gid=0.

Meeting participants:

Anri van der Spuy (South Africa)

Jac SM Kee (Malaysia)

Jennifer Chung (Hong Kong)

Smita Vanniyar (India)

Anissa Bhar (Tunisia)