BEST PRACTICE FORUM GENDER 2016:
GENDER & ACCESS
MEETING VII (8 SEPTEMBER 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 intersessional[2] 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 7th meeting of the BPF Gender took place on 8 September 2016 (it was postponed for a week from 1 September due to a problem with the remote system Webex). Jac SM Kee and Renata Aquino Ribeiro led the meeting, and Anri van der Spuy represented the IGF Secretariat.

2. The agenda (see Appendix A) for the meeting was focused on the ongoing planning and preparations for the BPF's work; updating the BPF's report from 2015 and organizing a webinar aimed at raising awareness of that report; taking stock of progress made thus far; providing an update regarding survey responses; and populating Draft I. The meeting lasted approximately one hour, and was attended by 15 participants[3].

3. Every participant was afforded the opportunity to introduce him- and herself, and an overview of the BPF's work and objectives was given for the purpose of providing relevant background information to newcomers.

Updating & disseminating BPF 2015 work

4. It was noted that one of the two primary objectives of this year's BPF was to update last year's report in line with recent developments in the field, to raise awareness of the report, and to find ways in which to repackage content from last year's report in a way that is more accessible to a broader audience.

[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] The meeting was hosted by UNESA as a result of a fault with the IGF's Webex account. Unfortunately a recording of the meeting is not available.

5. For this purpose, the coordinators invited some of the most active participants from last year's BPF to participate in organizing a session on 24 November just before the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 24 November. One participant (Kat Jens) volunteered to lead the organization of this session, and it was agreed that a separate meeting would be held with the purpose of organizing this session. It was agreed that the key objectives of this session would be to talk about new developments in the field, and to agree on the proposed recommendations/ roadmap (see paragraph 6).

6. The coordinators also shared a roadmap of key priorities to address online abuse and gender-based violence that had been drafted. It was noted that these recommendations were extracted from last year's BPF's outcome report. Participants were encouraged to edit the document and contribute their thoughts. One participant (Sharada Srinivasan) suggested that a different format, e.g. an infographic, would be a good way of representing the information to a wider audience. It was agreed that the text would be finalized in the next week and that the content would then be shared with the participation for design purposes.

Survey

7. It was noted that 42 responses had been received to the survey thus far, with the majority of submissions coming from civil society (56%). The responses are from diverse regions and countries, including Brazil, DRC, Uganda, Serbia, South Africa, Ecuador, Tunisia, Guyana, Palestine, Malawi, Panama, Mexico, Peru, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, the USA, Costa Rica, France, Nepal, Indonesia, Australia and Sri Lanka.

8. It was also noted that since the previous meeting, many responses were also received from organizations working in the field, including LIRNE*asia* and the Web Foundation.

9. Participants were again encouraged to distribute the survey and to encourage input from their communities by the deadline of 20 September 2016. One participant (Marilyn Cade) volunteered to attempt to raise awareness of the survey with national and regional IGF initiatives. Another participant (Jennifer Chung) volunteered to distribute the survey amongst the APrIGF community, while a third suggested distributing it to the Youth Observatory (Louise Hurel).

Supporting the IGF initiative *Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s)* – Phase II

10. It was noted that in 2015 the BPF made a contribution to the intersessional activity *Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion*. It was noted that considering the importance SDG 5 the BPF's theme in 2016, it could consider making another contribution. It was noted that the deadline for submissions is on a rolling basis (i.e. still open).

11. To this extent, it was agreed that a document would be drafted and posted on Google docs and the BPF's mailing list, and all participants were encouraged to comment and add to this document. It was agreed that the BPF would discuss the final document in the next BPF call before submitting the document to the coordinators of CENB – Phase II.

The importance of youth/ girls

12. One participant pointed out that the specific requirements of youth, and young girls, when talking about access and gender should not be discounted. It was agreed that the BPF should also consider differentiating factors regarding age etc. when promoting meaningful access in its work.

13. A participant (Louise Marie Hurel) noted that she was involved in the Youth Observatory and would ask participants for particular input on these differentiating factors, and would also ask for input to the survey. It was noted that although the survey does not provide age-specific questions, it could still be relevant to youth participants.

Populating Draft I: focus on barriers

14. It was noted that as per the BPF's schedule, the meeting was supposed to primarily focus on barriers and that a framework document had been prepared on Google docs for use during the session. Because the meeting's time was limited, participants were encouraged to make contributions to this document after the meeting.

15. It was also agreed that the mailing list would be used to encourage input on different aspects of the framework document between meetings.

Next steps

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

Action 1: encourage survey participation: participants agreed to renew efforts to encourage input in the survey through direct outreach to stakeholders, including to the Youth Observatory (Louise), NRIs (Marilyn), and APrIGF (Jennifer).

Action 3: host separate session to organize BPF 2015 webinar: Kat volunteered to organize a separate session to start organizing a webinar to talk about BPF 2015 work.

Action 4: finalise text of roadmap derived from BPF 2015 report: It was agreed that the text for the roadmap would be distributed to the mailing list and all participants were asked to make edits and contributions. Sharada volunteered to format the text into infographic format once it is finalised.

Action 4: populate framework document: it was agreed that the mailing list would be used to encourage input into the framework document in the next two weeks.

Action 5: 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 12 September 2016.

Action 4: Next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on or around 22 September 2016. The Secretariat would schedule the meeting and would distribute details enabling participation.

Meeting participants:

Anissa Bhar

Anri van der Spuy (South Africa)

Bruna (Brazil)

Eva Christina Andersson

Jac SM Kee (Malaysia)

Jennifer Chung (Hong Kong)

Kat Jens (UK)

Louise Marie Hurel (Brazil)

Marilyn Cade (USA)

Michael Oghia (Turkey)

Renata Aquino Ribeiro (Brazil)

Ritse Erumi

Sara Baker (USA)

Sharada Srinivasan (India/ USA)

Sylvia (Kenya)

Appendix A:

BPF GENDER & ACCESS

MEETING VII

AGENDA

1. Updating BPF 2015 work
   - Proposed roadmap of extracted recommendations: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lxpZ1BybCtFvoIyXfDw-YD4wdDrXjVg-OPWNQJteB1o/edit
   - Other updates
2. Planning BPF 2015 seminar 24 November 2016
3. Contributing to CENB Phase II:
   - How connecting and enabling users can help to achieve gender equality (SDG 5)
   - How connecting and enabling users can help to empower women and girls (SDG 5)
4. Other updates
5. Populating framework document: focus on barriers
   - See Google doc: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zx-hIniMuSbWDI2tIF2Qv1c7zkPEpEB7j6IYN4Ji9j4/edit#heading=h.2dz0rs3vj5sd
6. Next meeting: 15 September (?)
7. AOB