

Internet Governance Forum 2016
Jalisco, Mexico December 6-9, 2016

The 11th Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was held in Jalisco, Mexico from 6 to 9 December, 2016. Over 2000 participants from 123 countries attended the 205 sessions on-site at the IGF 2016. An equal number of participants joined the conversation via 45 remote hubs from around the world. The largest number of online participants came from the United States of America, Mexico, Nigeria, Brazil, India, Cuba, United Kingdom, China, Japan, Tunisia and Argentina.

Gender Report cards were completed and obtained for 97 workshops. This was slightly less than the 107 reports obtained at the IGF 2015. At IGF 2016, reports were obtained from only 47% of the workshops.

The average number of participants per session was 74, with a median footfall of about 55 participants. Among both the onsite and online participants the ratio of male to female participants was roughly 60:40.

Participation

An estimate of the extent of women’s participation was provided for 93 workshops.

Category	Number of workshops in IGF 2015	Number of workshops in IGF 2016
More than 75%	5	3
Between 50% and 75%		13
50%	59	26
Between 25% and 50%	22	43
Less than 25%		8
Zero participation	1	0
Total	87	93

As the table shows, no workshop reflected zero participation. 26 sessions reported an equal number of men and women in the audience. The majority is held by 43 workshops where the participation by women was between 25% and 50% - little less than half. This appears to be a deterioration as compared to the figures from IGF 2015 where 59 workshops reported 50% participation and there were only 22 workshops in the less than half category. However, this report also draws a distinction between sessions in which participation was less than 25% and those in which participation by women falls closer to the 50% mark. This comparison is shown clearly in the table and prevents reporting errors where ‘little less than half’ participation gets marked as ‘half’.

The sessions with a clear majority of women participants were:

1. Dynamic coalition on Gender and Internet Governance
2. Is Personal Data Mine or There to be Mined?
3. Sex and Freedom of Expression Online
4. Doxing Women: Privacy Protections Against Gender Violence
5. Solutions for Countering Online Abuse Against Women

3 of these sessions also had all-women panels of speakers. The sessions dealt with the integration of women in IT, explored different ideas to combat online abuse and harassment, and discussed child abuse and helplines with a partial focus on gender.

Panelists

Panelist information for 29 workshops was available. However, in order to draw meaningful conclusions, information from only 17 reports was found viable.

Percentage of Women Speakers	Less than 50%	50%	More than 50%	Inconclusive	Total
No. of Workshops	7	4	6	12	17

In 12 reports the total number of speakers was not listed against which the number of women speakers could be compared. In addition to this, the number of women speakers was also vaguely listed as ‘at least 1’. There is no overall data available that tells us how many total speakers were recorded for IGF 2016 and how many of them were women.

In one session 2 speakers could not present due to technical issues. The ISOC Open Forum on Future Internet Scenarios in 5-7 Years, On Cybersecurity: Who Has Got Our Back, and Social Media and Youth Radicalization in the Digital Age were among the 4 sessions with an equal number of men and women speakers. These sessions also reflected a corresponding gender equality in participation.

Moderators

Information on moderators was available for 8 workshops. Of these, 1 session had a single male moderator, 4 had at least one female moderator, and 1 workshop had a mixed pool of moderators.

The total number of moderators were 29 – a figure influenced by the GigaNet Annual Symposium which had 11 men and 12 women as moderators. The Sex and Freedom of Expression Online workshop reported all-women moderators. The number of workshops reporting on moderators at IGF 2016 is alarmingly low and no meaningful conclusions can be drawn from except to recommend that the low reporting be rectified in the next round of gender report cards at future IGFs.

Relevance of gender to the discussion

For 55 workshops information regarding the relevance of gender to their discussion was available.

Category	Number of workshops
Direct engagement	24
No engagement	4
Partial focus	27
Total	55

24 workshops engaged with gender directly, 4 did not engage the issue, while there was a partial focus or tangential mentions of gender in 27 workshops.

Conclusions

Something that stands out immediately when one analyzes the findings from the IGF 2016 gender report cards is that it is often difficult to make viable conclusions since the reporting is incomplete or missing. After 7 years of gender reporting at the annual IGFs, it is a cause for concern if the total number of reports from IGF 2016 stands at roughly 50% of the total number of workshops. Filling up gender report cards is part of mandatory procedure for workshop organizers and it is important to make sure that this mandate is implemented with the urgency it requires. This attitude towards reporting has also resulted in alarmingly low reports available on moderators and speakers.

It is recommended that while measures are taken to improve reporting, analysts for each annual IGF's report cards should also incorporate more parameters into their reports. Some of these are the percentage of workshops that submitted reports, the total number of men and women speakers recorded, the total number of men and women moderators recorded, and a more diversified set of parameters for evaluation of participation as exhibited in this report.

Prepared by Baldeep Kaur Grewal for Point of View

Gender Dynamic Coalition

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