

## **IGF 2017 Reporting**

**Session Title:** Fake News and possible solutions to access information, discussion led by Young IGF (WS 134)

**Date:** December, 20  
**Time:** 9.00 – 10.00

**Session Organizer:** Vanessa Berning  
**Chair/Moderator:** Walid Al-Saqaf, Vice Chair at ISOC Blockchain Special Interest Group\* Renata Aquino, Researcher in Education, Communication and Technology

**Rapporteur:** Wilma Westenberg & Vanessa Berning

### **List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:**

1. Nadia Tjahaja, board of the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance, graduated student of the College of Europe
2. Yolanda Mlonzi, is a young and vibrant apprentice in the field of media research and analysis.
3. Krishna Kumar, graduated student in Public Policy and Electronic Media, working as Senior Media Planner for Digital and Mobility Services
4. Arda Gerkens, Dutch Senator, Director of Expertisebureau Online Child Abuse, President of INHOPE

### **Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):**

#### *Definition of fake news*

We need to know what do we consider to be fake news, what is included it in to be able to understand how we deal with it.

#### *Technology solutions such as blockchain*

Technical solutions are not purely solutions and just a tool.

#### *Education*

Education is the most basic what is needed, not exclusively to fake news (critical thinking), but in terms of the whole internet governance and the use of ICT. We have to focus especially on developing countries.

### **Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):**

After a brief introduction of the speakers and giving a statement, it quickly became clear that the definition of fake news is an important point of attention. Only when we know what fake news include we are able to understand how we have to deal with it. What can be true for one, does not have to be the opinion of the other. Freedom of speech/press and critical thinking play an important part in this. People must continue to dare to express their opinion. Critical thinking is needed, because perhaps the information that is shared might be genuine but the interpretation of the shared information creates the problem. Critical thinking, to diversify and extend your knowledge, encouraging people to ensure that you are widely read so that you can encounter different sources to engage with and thus better understand the topic and point out any inconsistency's that we might challenge with. Education most basic not only exclusively to fake news, but in terms of this whole internet governance and use of ICT is needed. Therefore we have to focus especially on developing countries.

Furthermore we focused on Blockchain and technical solutions. Walid gave a short introduction in what blockchain is. As soon became clear that technical solutions are not purely solutions. It will still have to rely on the people working in this field both in journalists, in media organizations as well as end users. Blockchain is still la tool. It's been built by humans so it has the flaws of humans and it also will be used by humans so it depends on the end user. Often they are the weakest point. That is why it is important to see that as not a

utopian solution but has a tool for perhaps helping the users and those involved in news be more informed of how to use this technology. It is one way of eliminating one of the factors that is centralized control.

During the session we had a lot of interaction with the audience and online participations.

**Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs):**

- Focus on solutions that are bottom up and not top down
- Multistakeholder forum is needed to solve this issue
- We need stronger value system norms to make some technology that we can rely on
- More focus on micro targeting
- We need more education
- Freedom of the press/speech
- Focus on developing countries

### **Gender Reporting**

**Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session:**

Around 70 people attended the workshop.

**Estimate the overall number of women present at the session:**

There were 40 per cent women and 50 per cent men.

**To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?**

Men and women were equated in the session. The discussion included a problem that concerns the entire society / world and a discussion about gender issues is not obvious.

**If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion:**

We didn't address issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, but we have argued that the influence of fake news is different in other countries and has more impact on the society and democratic processes. For example, the freedom of press can be a big problem. In addition, resources are lacking in some countries to combat fake news, for example technology or education.