

## IGF 2017 Reporting Template

- Session Title: OECD Project Going Digital: Making the Transformation Work for Growth and Well-being

- Date: 19 December 2017

- Time: 12:20-13:20

- Session Organizer: Molly Leshner and Lorryne Poriuncula

- Chair/Moderator: Molly Leshner

- Rapporteur/Notetaker:

- List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:

- Mr. Suso Baleato, Civil Society Information Society Advisory Council (CSISAC) and Harvard University
- Mr. Duncan Cass-Beggs, OECD
- Ms. Olga Cavalli, Internet Society (ISOC) and the University of Buenos Aires
- Ms. Molly Leshner, OECD
- Ms. Carolyn Nguyen, Microsoft
- Mr. Johannes Rühl, Swiss Government

- Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):

- A whole-of-government, multistakeholder approach to policymaking in the digital age is essential to ensure a positive and inclusive digital future.
- All stakeholders must work together to lessen digital divides, reduce gender inequality, and realise the Internet-related SDGs.
- Privacy and trust are essential enablers of digital transformation.
- Policymaking under uncertainty requires strategic foresight and careful consideration to determine when regulation is needed and when a wait-and-see approach may be more appropriate.

- If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation:

One presentation was made on the OECD Going Digital project, a cross-cutting initiative aimed at better understanding the ongoing digital transformation and what it means for policy. The first part of the presentation outlined the three main pillars of the project, including:

- **Horizontal work**, such as the identification of the core properties (“vectors”) of digital transformation and an integrated policy framework for making the transformation work for growth and well-being,
- **Analysis of the various facets of digital transformation in specific policy domains**, ranging from transport, competition, education, the environment, health, tax, trade, science, finance, among many others, and
- **Cross-cutting activities** that try to tackle some of the really difficult policy questions we face that are at the intersection of some (but not all) policy areas, including issues around jobs and skills; productivity, competition and market openness; and well-being. An additional project aims to develop a roadmap for better measuring digital transformation.

The second part of the presentation focused on a specific piece of work on the Going Digital foresight scenarios. The presentation underscored the importance of using strategic foresight to help inform public policy and prepare governments and decision makers for the unexpected. The presentation outlined some of the critical uncertainties that we face in the digital future, including issues around data, the empowerment of different actors, and the openness of the Internet. It also explained the four scenarios that have been developed around these uncertainties: (i) iChoose, (ii) Platform Governments, (iii) Tech Titans, and (iv) Artificial Invisible Hands. Each scenario aims to look beyond current expectations and reflect different sides of key critical uncertainties, following its own particular logic starting from a key driver of change.

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

There was an active discussion among the participants, with many participants underscoring that we are not passive but rather actively shape the digital future, and that a multistakeholder approach – including shared responsibility among all actors – is essential. There was also broad agreement that the Going Digital project should support the realisation of the Internet-related Sustainable Development Goals, the reduction in digital divides, and the empowerment of women. Privacy on-line and trust were highlighted as extremely important, as well as the suggestion that privacy should be framed as an enabler (rather than a barrier) to digital transformation. On overall deliverables, the sharing of good practices that are consistent across all of the components of the project and a Going Digital Toolkit were mentioned as useful, particularly if the toolkit is concrete and actionable. It was also suggested that the project could help reinforce (and improve) multistakeholder co-operation on digital policy issues.

There was broad support for the work to develop an integrated policy framework. One participant indicated that it has already forced the government to think horizontally (and diagonally) and that it will push governments toward coherence. There was a suggestion to ensure that the framework is flexible and adaptable, and that we don't give the impression that regulation is always the best option when working under the uncertainty of where digital transformation is headed.

The foresight scenarios were noted as being imaginative and innovative. One participant suggested creating an additional fifth scenario that brings together the positive elements of each of the four scenarios as a way to begin developing a positive vision for how we want digital transformation to unfold. It was also suggested that the "tech titans" scenario may be misleading if taken out of context. Another participant suggested that while the scenarios focus on some of the "new" and novel aspects of digital transformation, there are still many "old" issues that need addressing (e.g. infrastructure, poverty, supporting SMEs). One participant also suggested adding quantum computing to the scenarios as well as issues around energy consumption; it was also mentioned that the global dimension could be better reflected in the scenarios.

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

Looking ahead, the integrated policy framework will be revised with a view to better reflecting the global dimension (including interoperability among regulatory frameworks), more flexibility, digital divides, and gender issues. The discussion of privacy will also be reviewed to ensure that it is framed as an enabler of digital transformation rather than a barrier, and that the positive "vision" of digital transformation mentioned as a possible fifth scenario may be usefully reflected in the framework instead. The scenarios may be revised to include quantum computing as an important (but uncertain) driver, and issues around energy consumption and its effects will also be included. A critical uncertainty related to women's empowerment may also be considered. All of the work on the Going Digital project will continue to be undertaken with a multistakeholder approach, and ways to further improve existing mechanisms and vehicles for co-operation will be considered.

## **Gender Reporting**

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

60

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

25

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

This was mentioned as being important to incorporate going forward.

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

n/a