

IGF 2017 Open Forum

Session on Internet governance capacity building

Organized by ITU

Title:

Strengthening capacities in international Internet governance

Description:

[Co-organized by ITU, DiploFoundation and SSIG]

With the increasing digitization of our economies and societies, debates related to the governance of the Internet are gaining momentum and have broadened their scope to encompass an ever greater number of topics and governance aspects. Policy makers, businesses and citizens need to stay abreast of these developments and are faced with the challenges of rapid technological developments which impact on Internet access, use and governance. In this context, calls for strengthening capacities in international Internet governance (IG) are becoming more widespread and the national and international community is called upon to respond to those needs.

The IG capacity development field is characterized by a variety of different actors (such as international and regional entities, the technical community, academic institutions, the private sector and civil society), addressing different target groups and offering different types of trainings and other capacity development activities.

ITU has undertaken a comprehensive study to assess current training/capacity development activities provided by the main stakeholder groups globally and regionally. The report, which was prepared in collaboration with DiploFoundation, reveals gaps, identifies needs, and makes proposals on the way forward, in particular on how ITU could support the strengthening of capacities in the field of IG among its membership, in particular in developing countries.

Based on the ITU report, the session will provide an overview of existing capacity development activities by different stakeholder groups. It brings together representatives from key entities dealing with capacity development in Internet governance who will share their experience and highlight key challenges that need to be addressed. The session will then discuss capacity building needs for policy makers (in particular in developing and least developed countries) and present ongoing and planned activities in this regard by different stakeholders. In order to enrich the debate, the session will be interactive to give all participants an opportunity to freely contribute to the discussions.

Topics that will be addressed:

- What are the main gaps/needs that should be addressed by IG capacity development activities, in particular in developing countries?

- What are the most important topics / priority areas in Internet governance that should be included in future capacity development programmes?
- Which training methodologies work best for delivering IG capacity building in developing countries?
- Who is the key target audience for IG training? How can capacities among policy makers be strengthened?

Speakers:

ITU

Diplo Foundation

SSIG

ICANN

ISOC

Country representative