

The 10th Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Chair's Summary¹

• 10-13 November 2015, João Pessoa, Brazil •

Executive Summary:

The IGF's tenth annual meeting took place this week at an important time for not only the future of Internet governance and the IGF in the ongoing process of reviewing the progress made on the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) outcomes, but also for making sure that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and the Internet will support and help to enable the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development².

The tenth annual meeting of the IGF was held from the 10th to the 13th of November 2015 in João Pessoa, Brazil. More than 2,400³ registered participants from over 116 countries participated in the meeting, with thousands more actively participating online. The overarching theme for IGF 2015 was: 'Evolution of Internet Governance: Empowering Sustainable Development'.

This theme was timely, as the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has just adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is reviewing the implementation of the WSIS outcomes at its 70th Session in December. Output-oriented debates and discussions during the four-day meeting addressed both opportunities and challenges under the following sub-themes: Cybersecurity and Trust; Internet Economy; Inclusiveness and Diversity; Openness; Enhancing Multistakeholder Cooperation; Internet and Human Rights; Critical Internet Resources; and Emerging Issues.

Over the past week the IGF, which derives its mandate from the WSIS Tunis Agenda, has played a key role in facilitating policy debates related to these themes at this critical moment for the future of Internet governance. As a multistakeholder platform to facilitate constructive discussions about emerging Internet governance challenges, the IGF hosted more than 150 sessions throughout the week and enabled the IGF's various community-driven intercessional activities to promote the collaborative work they have been delivering throughout the year and provided the broader IGF community an opportunity to provide substantial feedback on a variety of significant outcomes.

¹ All interested stakeholders are encouraged to visit the IGF website for full transcripts of all the main sessions and workshops that took place throughout the week at the 10th IGF. The IGF YouTube channel also contains videos of all the sessions. • <http://www.intgovforum.org> • <http://www.youtube.com/user/igf> • [#IGF2015](https://twitter.com/intgovforum) • <https://www.facebook.com/IntGovForum> •

² http://www.un.org/qa/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

³ A comprehensive statistical breakdown of participants both on-site and online will be compiled and presented on the IGF website.

Highlights:

- IGF 2015 was planned in consultation with the host country and in accordance with guidance from the IGF's Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG). Both the preparatory and the intercessional work of the IGF were guided by **recommendations of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Working Group on Improvements to the IGF**⁴.
- In line with the CSTD Working Group recommendations, the IGF demonstrated its capacity to produce **tangible outcomes** within multistakeholder collaboration frameworks. Mobilising the inherent benefits of solving problems through a diversity of perspectives, and building on a busy and compelling agenda, the IGF community was united this year in its willingness to address complex issues and work towards concrete solutions.
- IGF 2015 again aimed to facilitate **increased participation** among stakeholders from developing countries and to enhance linkages between the growing number of National and Regional IGF initiatives, the global IGF and the rest of the Internet governance ecosystem. Insights and outputs from the more than 40 National and Regional IGF initiative meetings⁵ that took place in the past year served as valuable inputs at IGF 2015.
- The presence and active participation of the UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy in the digital age enriched debates throughout the week related to **human rights**. Privacy issues were debated at length in many of the workshops, where it was stressed that encryption and anonymity need to be reinforced around the world whilst respecting other human rights. Other workshops emphasized that privacy, transparency and security need to complement, not compromise each other. Workshops related to human rights stressed the importance of the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, both online and offline.
- Since its inception, the IGF has proven its value in the cross-cutting area of **Critical Internet Resources (CIRs)** as the IGF community has shepherded discussions and debates about the handling of CIRs. As the IGF has matured, issues related to CIRs are now approached at a more practical level in main sessions and in both technical and non-technical workshops. Discussions have turned to focus more on sharing information and enhancing mutual education; covering a diversity of interest under the CIR banner: top-level domains, internationalised domain names, the exhaustion of IPv4 and the realities of the IPv6 transition, and the role of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs). IGF 2015 also saw discussions about the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) transition addressed at an informative and constructive level.
- The IGF once again served as a **nexus for UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations and major institutions tackling challenges related to Internet public policy**. During the week the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) held an open session on the ten-year review of the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes; the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organized a number of events and workshops, including the launch of an Internet Freedom Series Publication and presentation of a Comprehensive

⁴ <http://www.unctad.info/en/CstdWG/>

⁵ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/igf-initiatives>

Study on the Internet. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) presented a new 'e>merge' partnership and discussed the implementation of its Connect 2020 Agenda. Open Forums were convened by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), among many others.

- **Emerging groups and initiatives** such as the Global Commission on Internet Governance, the NETMundial Initiative and the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise held sessions. The Italian Chamber of Deputies presented an “Internet Bill of Rights”; the “African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedom initiative” was discussed; Stanford University carried out a deliberative poll exercise on the multi-dimensional subject of access; and various emerging and established observatories related to Internet governance shared experiences with a focus on future collaboration.
- **Youth participation** was particularly strong during the 10th IGF. The Youth Coalition on Internet Governance developed an ‘IGF for Newbies’ resource to help assimilate young people with the IGF and Internet governance issues. A programme called Youth@IGF empowered the next generation of leaders and increased the on-site participation of approximately 70 young leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean in debates throughout the IGF.
- **Gender, diversity and intersectionality** were important topics at IGF 2015, with related debates displaying a maturing, in-depth way of approaching topics about human rights in diverse contexts, including growing cognisance of existing disparities and inequalities. Internet intermediaries’ roles in protecting, enabling and upholding human rights were also discussed. In the context of the IGF’s intercessional work on *Connecting the Next Billion*, it was also clear that there is no longer a question about whether the Internet is a critical enabler for sustainable development or not, but that debates have evolved to the importance of the quality and type of access and how such factors impact and enable human rights and sustainable development.
- Other important issues addressed at IGF 2015 included the **Internet of Things, jurisdictional and trade issues, child online protection, the rights of persons with disabilities online, and big data.**
- **The entire IGF 2015 was webcast and interactive online participation enriched sessions throughout the week**, allowing many participants from the developing world to participate with those present in João Pessoa. **Real-time transcription** was also available to augment the overall participatory experience for delegates in the meeting rooms and following around the globe. 50 remote hubs connected participants from countries such as Mexico, Argentina, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Egypt, Iran and New Zealand, to name a few. Thousands of interested individuals followed the proceedings on Twitter (#IGF2015), enabling the discussions to begin prior to the start of the meeting, continue between meeting rooms and during breaks throughout the week, and to last long after delegates leave Brazil to return home.

10th IGF Outputs and Recommendations:

- ❖ This year's 'Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion' process produced a tangible and community driven, bottom-up IGF output. The compilation output document and the comprehensive collection of inputs and contributions to the process⁶, available on the IGF website, will be forwarded to other related processes such as the UNGA 2nd Committee through UNDESA, the ITU Council and UNESCO through council meetings, and these agencies will be encouraged to disseminate this information as widely as possible to make public officials aware of the work.
- ❖ Outputs⁷ from the 2015 Best Practice Forums (BPFs), available on the IGF website, were presented to the community in dedicated sessions and in a main session. The BPFs worked throughout the year to produce diverse outputs which now become robust resources, to serve as inputs into other pertinent forums, that can evolve and grow over time on the subjects of: Regulation and Mitigation of Unwanted Communications; Establishing and Supporting Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs); Developing Meaningful Multistakeholder Participation Mechanisms; Practices to Counter Online Abuse and Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls; Creating an Enabling Environment for IPv6 Adoption and Enabling Environments to Establish Successful IXPs.
- ❖ Participants in the dynamic coalitions session were invited to provide preliminary feedback on the coalitions' output documents, both verbally from the floor and via idea ratings sheets. It was agreed that the documents were "living" documents and that the discussion on them would continue, including through the piloted rating sheets online. There was agreement among the DC's that there would be merit in increasing collaboration among the coalitions to develop common procedures.
- ❖ H.E. Mr. Janis Mazeiks, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia and H.E. Mrs. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates, reported that views from the multistakeholder community during the consultations held at the IGF would inform the UN General Assembly High-level Meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, taking place on 15-16 December 2015 at UN Headquarters in New York.
- ❖ The Main Session on the NETmundial Statement and the Evolution of the Internet Governance Ecosystem will produce a document describing, with examples, the evolution of the Internet governance, at national, regional and international levels, subsequent to the São Paulo meeting, with regard to both (a) the principles for Internet governance that have been defined by the NETmundial Statement and (b) the NETmundial roadmap, as well as places where improvements may be considered.
- ❖ It was recommended during the main session on Internet Economy and Sustainable Development that UN departments and agencies such as UNDESA, ITU, UNESCO and UNCTAD can feed IGF outputs into work towards synchronising WSIS action lines to individual SDGs.
- ❖ The more than 150 thematic workshops and other sessions that took place throughout the week⁸ will also produce output reports which will be available to all on the IGF website and can serve as resources and inputs into other relevant processes.

⁶ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/policy-options-for-connection-the-next-billion/cnb-outdocs>

⁷ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/best-practice-forums/draft-2015-bpf-outs>

⁸ <http://iqf2015.intgovforum.org/>

- ❖ National and Regional IGF initiatives were invited to consider putting forward a theme for inter-sessional work to link substantive activities of these initiatives with the Global IGF, pending the renewal of the IGF mandate.

Opening Ceremony and Opening Session

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development Lenni Montiel opened the 10th IGF with remarks from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, who set the stage for the meeting, stating that:

“Less than two months ago, world leaders adopted the visionary 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Our challenge now is to implement this blueprint for a better future. Information and communications technologies and the Internet can empower this global undertaking.”

In a video message Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff declared her support for the IGF’s mandate to be extended in order to enable the sustainable and inclusive development of the Internet. The Brazilian Minister of Communications, André Figueiredo, then assumed the chairmanship of the meeting. In his statement Minister Figueiredo reminded participants that in developing countries, access to the Internet for those still not yet connected to the information society remains the most pressing issue. The statement also emphasized that in Brazil there is full awareness of the importance of Internet access in people’s lives. Virgilio Almeida, coordinator of the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee, emphasized in his statement that the Internet of the future must contribute to improving health, the preservation of the environment and other SDGs.

High-level officials during the opening session thanked the Government of Brazil and CGI.br for being the only two-time host of the IGF and praised the overall organization of the meeting and warm hospitality of the local staff.

Speakers throughout the opening session spoke to how Internet governance should evolve and how the International community could address concerns related to increased use of the Internet. Others stressed that ‘permission less innovation’ and openness was vital to the Internet’s future utility. Many agreed that ambitious public and private partnerships are needed to make a real difference for disadvantaged populations. The IGF, with its wide diversity of views and multistakeholder nature, provides the ideal space to develop a response to the challenges that the evolution of the Internet presents.

Indeed, strong statements of support for the renewal of the IGF’s mandate, which will be decided during a meeting of the UNGA on the overall WSIS review in December 2015, were made by several of the speakers. Representatives of governments, including Turkey, the European Commission, the United States, Japan, and China, called for the extension of the IGF mandate, recognizing the invaluable multistakeholder synergy it brings to the discussion on Internet governance.

Main Sessions

- DAY One •

IGF WSIS+10 Consultations

The open and multistakeholder WSIS+10 consultation session brought together a diverse and inclusive group of stakeholders on an equal footing, to address and comment on the UNGA’s

Overall Review of the Implementation of WSIS Outcomes Draft Outcome Document, just released on 4 November 2015.⁹

The presence of the two co-facilitators of the High-Level review process enriched the deliberations and H.E. Mr. Janis Mazeiks, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Latvia and H.E. Mrs. Lana Zaki Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates confirmed that a report on the consultations held at the IGF would act as an input into the High-Level review of the UNGA set to take place on 17-18 December.

• **DAY Two** •

Internet Economy and Sustainable Development

Participants in this comprehensive main session recommended that deliberations on issues related to the Internet Economy and Sustainable Development coming from the IGF could serve as valuable inputs to the draft WSIS outcome document.

UN agencies such as UNDESA, ITU, UNESCO and UNCTAD can feed IGF discussions into synchronizing WSIS action lines to individual SDGs. It was stressed that Internet and ICTs can support all 17 SDGs and the IGF can contribute to enabling citizens across local economies to better understand the potential of ICTs and Internet access.

IGF Policy Options and Best Practices for Connecting the Next Billion

The inter-sessional work on 'Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion' was presented and discussed during this main session focused on the 2015 inter-sessional work. More than 80 background contributions were received from the community for the 'Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion'¹⁰ paper including submissions from five Regional IGFs representing most regions of the world (Asia-Pacific IGF, Arab IGF, African IGF, European Dialogue on Internet Governance, Latin American and Caribbean IGF), nine National IGFs, and inputs from Governments, Intergovernmental Organizations, Civil Society, Private Sector and Business Community, Technical Community, Academic Community, IGF Best Practice Forums (BPFs) and Dynamic Coalitions and individual IGF stakeholders. Participants agreed that this compilation document and the full list of background contributions will now serve as a robust resource on this important topic and can also serve as an input into other relevant Internet public policy fora and processes moving forward.

The outputs from the work of the IGF Best Practice Forums were also presented and it was suggested that moving forward BPF work could perhaps be fed into consultations through the National and Regional IGF initiatives. IGF inter-sessional work, including the BPFs, offer the Internet governance community tangible ways to address pressing Internet policy challenges and issues. Discussions stemming from the BPFs will now inform policy debates taking place in other fora. Delegates stressed that the Best Practice Forum outputs, developed through iterative processes that collect a wide breadth of knowledge from the diverse IGF community, demonstrate the community's efforts to strengthen the IGF, and to build consensus around key issues.

• **DAY Three** •

Enhancing Cybersecurity and Building Digital Trust

⁹ <http://workspace.unpan.org/sites/Internet/Documents/UNPAN95572.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/policy-options-for-connection-the-next-billion/cnb-outdocs>

Lack of trust in the Internet, a key driver of the global economy, can adversely impact the achievement of the sustainable development goals. Recognizing the crucial need to enhance cybersecurity and build trust, this main session held valuable discussions with stakeholders coming from government, private sector and civil society to give them an opportunity to share their views on the challenges, and provide recommendations for addressing the issues.

The general consensus coming from the session was that cybersecurity is everyone's problem and everyone should be aware and understand that the cyber world is a potential unsafe place. A culture of cybersecurity is needed on different levels. Individual action was encouraged to make the Internet safer. Moreover, a need for a comprehensive approach to tackling cybercrime and building trust, such as the introduction of security elements when developing cyber products and services, was highlighted. Participants also stressed the critical role that education plays in addressing cybercrime issues and noted that education should be expanded to involve all levels of society. Capacity-building was cited as an indispensable driver for cybersecurity.

There were calls for further multistakeholder participation in the tackling of cybercrime. Session panelists agreed that the IGF, including national and regional IGFs, has proven to be a good collaborative multistakeholder process for cybersecurity, but still needs to reach out to get missing parties around the table. The involvement of the government, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in handling cyber security was stressed as fundamental in terms of sharing best practices, sharing results of critical assessments and identifying globally accepted standards of cybersecurity. All stakeholders must understand, respect and trust each other's expertise and competences.

A Dialogue on 'Zero Rating' and Net Neutrality

During this session many different views on the business practice of Zero Rating (ZR) were expressed. Zero Rated services provide a mobile broadband subscriber with access to select content, without that access counting against the subscriber's data cap. In the session opening, two questions were posed to the speakers: 1) whether ZR assists in connecting the unconnected by offering Internet access to those who cannot afford it, and 2) whether ZR is a violation of net neutrality when it does not offer access the "full Internet."

The positions that were heard from expert speakers and session participants on ZR were extremely diverse. Some think ZR is a direct violation of Network Neutrality, others don't even think that it is a Network Neutrality issue. The national regulators who participated in the session described completely different approaches to ZR. A third theme that came through was that further research is needed. The discussion also focused on other means to increase Access, such as the use of municipal Wi-Fi and community networks. ZR is only one means of connecting people to the Internet. It was recommended that further research is needed on this complex subject.

IGF Dynamic Coalitions (Day 3 and Day 4)

IGF Dynamic coalitions¹¹ were featured in a main session at the IGF for the first time this year. The MAG decided to dedicate a main session to the coalitions in order to both highlight the groups' reports and open them to consideration as tangible outputs.

Eight coalitions - on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD), on Core Internet Values (DCCIV), on Gender and Internet Governance (DCGIG), on Internet Rights & Principles (IRPC), on Network Neutrality (DCNN), on Platform Responsibility (DCPR), on Public Access in Libraries (DCPAL), and on the Internet of Things (Dicots) - volunteered to present their work in the first segment of the session. These eight were part of an experimental process to solicit feedback from

¹¹ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/dynamiccoalitions>

participants via “idea ratings sheets” containing key themes from the coalitions’ respective reports. The sheets were used to stimulate debate and discussion during the second segment of the session on the following day. Essential themes or issues presented for feedback included the right to access, gender inclusion in Internet governance processes, support to libraries as public access points, and common definitions of net neutrality. The rating sheets were an innovation of the session and were used for the first time in an IGF setting.

In addition, in the session’s second segment, three new dynamic coalitions on Child Online Safety (DCCOS), on Accountability, and on Freedom of Expression Online, had the opportunity to introduce themselves and invite participation in their burgeoning groups.

• DAY Four •

Human Rights on the Internet

Discussions about the importance of human rights on the Internet have grown increasingly prominent at the IGF. The Main Session on Human Rights also reflected a growing recognition that human rights extend beyond enabling access to multiple other dimensions that affect how the Internet enables sustainable development. The Session demonstrated that there are a variety of ways to engage on human rights and that the IGF is becoming an increasingly important platform to discuss these broad issues, what policy actions are needed, and how the IGF community can help to ensure that the Internet is used to enable sustainable development and to promote human rights globally. Topics like hate speech, protecting journalists and citizen journalists to ensure freedom of expression online, preventing the radicalization of youth, the protection and promotion of privacy, and the importance of protecting women’s and LGBT communities’ rights online and offline by addressing online abuse and gender-based violence were addressed; as were private sector responsibilities in promoting and protecting human rights online. The Session also reflected a more in-depth way of unpacking human rights, how rights apply in a ‘real world’ context of existing disparity and inequality, the importance of diverse contexts around the world, and how the IGF can also help to ensure that the Internet can help reduce global inequalities and discrimination.

The NETmundial Statement and the Evolution of the Internet Governance Ecosystem

The NETmundial Multistakeholder Statement covers a wide range of Internet Governance issues that are of great relevance to the IGF. In particular, the Statement highlighted the need for a strengthened IGF in its mandate of serving as the focal point for the discussion of many issues, according to the Tunis Agenda, including some that may not yet be fully addressed in existing organizations, processes and fora.

The session aimed to take stock of the evolution of the Internet Governance ecosystem with regard to the principles and roadmap contained in the NETmundial Multistakeholder Statement. To review the current and future impact of the NETmundial Statement on Internet Governance processes. The session took stock of how those issues are being advanced by the broader Internet governance community 18 months after the São Paulo meeting, by means of concrete examples provided by various players of the ecosystem dealing with different governance issues at national, regional and international levels.