PNIF Multistakeholder Working Group of experts (MWG)
Meeting II, 2 June 2022

Summary

(1) PNIF MWG organisational

1. The MWG agreed on a lean and simple leadership structure with two or more co-facilitators who can alter the chairing of the meetings. Ms Kumar and Ms dos Santos were confirmed as co-facilitators of the PNIF MWG - no other volunteers put themselves forward.

2. The participants discussed different options for the publication of MWG meeting summaries and recordings in light of transparency and openness, but also concerns about the impact recording may have on the working of the MWG; and agreed on making audio recordings of the PNIF MWG meetings available alongside an at the same time of the meeting summaries. MWG members may request for the recording to be temporarily paused during a meeting, in case of which this will be noted in the meeting summary. It was suggested that should the facilitators be under the impression that the recording hinders an honest and truthful discussion on a specific topic, they can propose an informal meeting on that topic and report back on the outcome of that discussion at the next MWG call.

(2) Work plan - Content & focus of the 2022 work

3. Participants discussed the development of a comprehensive framework - as defined in the PNIF proposal - as activity and output of the PNIF 2022. Different suggestions were made on how to approach this:
    -   The PNF to start from a community consultation to gain insight in how different stakeholders define and scope internet fragmentation, its implications and risks.
    -   The PNIF to start from a literature review. PNIF work should build on and avoid duplicating work already done (for example the 2016 WEF paper Internet Fragmentation: An Overview) and focus on where there is disagreement or visions have changed.
    -   The MWG to define a common base for the PNIF (e.g. scope, definition), present this to the community for feedback, and use it as a starting point for constructive discussion .
    It was further noted that developing a holistic three layered framework (Technical/backbone layer; Network/access layer; Application/content layer) might require the MWG to structure its work accordingly, for example by establishing coordinating subteams.

4. It was reiterated that the PNIF should keep the ongoing Global Digital Compact process - with its multistakeholder component mainly scheduled for 2022 - on the

radar and not miss the opportunity to already provide timely input through the IGF this year. The MWG should aim to compile through the PNIF principle level input to the GDC process.

5. It was suggested that the PNIF aims to be action oriented - focus on avoiding internet fragmentation. Avoiding Internet fragmentation and finding alternatives to Internet shutdowns are mentioned in [UN SG's Report Our Common Agenda](#) (2021). On Internet shutdowns, an UN SG report is expected to come out soon. Action oriented could mean collecting best practices and guidelines to avoid internet fragmentation and shutdowns, collecting examples of model laws and frameworks etc.

(3) Community involvement in the PNIF

6. It was stressed that the MWG, when organising community consultations and representing the opinions of stakeholders, needs to make sure that views of all the different stakeholder groups are reflected and stakeholder groups are treated on an equal footing.

(4) Next steps

7. As next steps were agreed:
    -   Start the initial literature review in preparation of a consultation with the community in July.
    -   Plan a PNIF outreach call in the coming weeks to present the PNIF, inform and exchange views with the community about the intended approach, explain the MWG current plans on how to organise community involvement in the PNIF.
    -   Explore the creation of thematic working groups for topical in depth discussion.

    A doodle poll will be shared to schedule the next MWG meeting.

(5) AoB

8. The secretariat is requested to check whether all MWG receive communication from the PNIF-MWG list (as some members flagged that the meeting invite had arrived in their spam folder) and to look into the issue some members have when joining the call via the zoom link they received after registration.

List of participants: Allie Funk, Bruna dos Santos, Chris Buckridge, 'Gbenga Sesan, Ian Sheldon, John Hughes, Jorge Cancio, Laura O'Brien, Lynn St Amour, Marek Blachut, Marielza Oliveira (partially), Olaf Kolkman, Paula Oteguy, Sheetal Kumar, Timea Suto, Veni Markovski, Wai Min Kwok, Wim Degezelle

Recording:
https://intgovforum.zoom.us/rec/play/mKucC0oW1Q9D1mTyHbjOvirFeBCmFk7ZCp-fLELPA
ERUDrhOKqURhJj7VfXdj6v4L1oKmOH3-VDwPjlu.FS3RxNEhHjATM9AB
Passcode: o5g&H$?2