

## IGF 2022 Policy Network on Meaningful Access - PNMA

### Call for Inputs

#### **1. About the PNMA**

The concept of **meaningful access** has emerged in response to the growing body of evidence that even when people have connectivity, they might not have been fully benefiting from the Internet. How one gets connected to the Internet is an equally important challenge to the experience that person will have once they are online. While access to infrastructure is critical, without this access being inclusive, useful, sustainable and affordable, and linked to human capacity development and relevant content that can make it so, it will not achieve its positive potential. Many of the efforts on access, unfortunately, are only focusing on bringing connections to final users (=consumers), without taking into consideration the potential of the internet as a way to create, communicate and produce contents and services locally and in local languages (=citizens).

The Policy Network on Meaningful Access (PNMA) is a type of intersessional activity under the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) created to establish an expert-led framework network on broad Internet governance topics that create spaces for in-depth multistakeholder efforts, grounded on:

- the IGF mandate at paragraph 72 of Tunis Agenda, for the exchange of information and engagement of stakeholders in particular from developing countries as well as capacity development in Internet Governance;
- the paragraph 93(e) from the United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation in para 93 (e) as it envisages a strengthened IGF with a view to making it more responsive and relevant to digital issues, and streamline the priority areas (global connectivity, digital inclusion, capacity building);
- Our Common Agenda 1st Commitment: Leave no one behind;
- the Global Digital Compact future engagements.

The PNMA officially started its activities in June 2021, aiming to formulate impact-driven, concrete, actionable policy recommendations on how to achieve meaningful and universal Internet access aligned with the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and the Sustainable Development Goals. It builds on previous IGF discussions - BPFs Local Content and Gender; the Proposal about Sustainable and Affordable Internet and the CENB 4 Phases; DCs and NRIs, to name a few.

The IGF 2021 cycle has set the foundations for building a firmer, more impactful process and stronger, long-term cooperation networks. The PNMA MWG ways of working are summarised in its statement of purpose below:

*"We have come a long way with local, national and global efforts towards universal connectivity and meaningful access, from a wide number of organizations across all stakeholder groups. However, the implementation of policies around meaningful access remains challenging.*

*Therefore, the PNMA MWG has decided not to concentrate its work on mapping or definition tracks since it is already covered in other fora. We will build on this work from a number of current and past efforts. The MWG agreed to explore concrete actions the members of the PNMA could support so that the main outcome of the PNMA is not only a set of recommendations."*

## **2. 2022 Call for Inputs**

To achieve the goals declared above, the PNMA MWG invites its community and any interested stakeholder to share stories, case studies, local experiences, and successfully implemented practices under this year's three focus areas:

- Connectivity (infrastructure and business models, analysed within the framework of the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation)
- Digital Inclusion (accessibility and multilingualism), with special attention to local contents in local languages, helping the digital transition of existing experiences
- Capacity Development (technical skills training)

The PNMA is especially interested in gathering successful cases of good practices on multilingualism/content in local language and innovative examples of use of digital tools in order to improve life conditions of the users. The PNMA community plays an important role in highlighting these initiatives and bringing attention to creative solutions derived from marginalised groups. All submissions regardless of the focus area can refer to newly established, ongoing, or previous projects, showcasing what works in their approach, what has not worked, and lessons learned from the experience. Based on the information collected, the policy network can identify whether policy actions have facilitated or encouraged increased meaningful access.

The PNMA has developed a set of questions to guide your selection; this is a non-exhaustive list with room for additional thoughts. The survey questions provide an in-depth look at why achieving meaningful and universal Internet access remains so challenging, despite years of efforts on the topic. After MWG appreciation, selected cases will be featured in the network's 2022 output report. All complete and appreciated submissions will be added to a forthcoming PNMA's repository of good practices which will be made available on our webpage.

We envision the repository as a public tool which can be updated with new stories on a frequent basis. It can pinpoint good practices and policy recommendations already discussed at the IGF; highlight key barriers to implementation; and, equally important, facilitate networking among different actors in the internet governance community and beyond, building bridges between similar activities. Lastly, it creates opportunities for marginalised voices to actively join the debate and influence policymaking.

### **3. Guidelines**

3.1. All stakeholder groups are invited to submit contributions.

3.2. Contributions from national, regional and Youth IGFs (NRIs), Best Practice Forums (BPFs), Dynamic Coalitions (DCs), and IGF workshops are particularly welcome.

3.3. All contributions must be submitted via the standard form available at <https://forms.gle/G31fQmDZn54dbPmJA> **until 18 September 2022, 23:59 UTC**. Reception of contributions is acknowledged directly on the form website.

3.4. For communities and contributors that avoid the use of online forms due to access, connectivity, or security issues, we might provide a submission template in open format. Please refer to item 3.11 for contact details.

3.5. The form accepts one contribution per submission. Contributions submitted after the deadline or via any other means but the above mentioned form will not be considered.

3.6. Please support your contributions with evidence (e.g., reports, references, statistics, community testimonials, pictures, videos etc).

3.7. We encourage supporting documentation within a reasonable length up to four pages. While we want to be flexible and inclusive by accepting diverse types of contributions in different formats, it is important to keep in mind that the MWG will have a limited time (around four weeks) to properly collate all data. Therefore, in order to maximise our efforts, we encourage contributors to carefully observe the requirements of each form field to generate standard data collection. Additionally, please use the supporting documentation as a way to showcase evidence and important information not covered in the mandatory fields.

3.8. Contributions will be analysed by an editorial group of volunteers and the PNMA MWG members.

3.9. Contributions are preferred to be in the English language. For editorial appreciation, documents in other languages might be translated using an automated tool, which can

reduce accuracy. Hence, contributions in other languages will be made public with an abstract in English, followed by the original documents.

3.10. After editorial appreciation and as far as deemed possible and relevant to the policy document, selected cases will be featured in the 2022 PNMA output report. All complete, appreciated, and relevant submissions will be made available on the IGF website.

3.11. Unless anonymity is required by the contributor, all submissions will be publicly available with the contributors' names and affiliations on the IGF website.

3.12. The PNMA might use submitted and appreciated contributions to support its work beyond the output report of the current year.

3.13. Any arising matters, concerns, or feedback will be appreciated by the PNMA MWG co-chairs and the IGF Secretariat via the email address [iglesias.daphnee@gmail.com](mailto:iglesias.daphnee@gmail.com)

#### **4. Timeframe for the works on inputs and output report (full timeline available in 2022 work plan)**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>
31 August - 18 September (3 weeks)	Call for Inputs is open
19 - 23 September (5 days)	Administrative work Delegation of editorial appreciation per focus area
24 September - 14 October (3 weeks)	Editorial appreciation of contributions Selection of contributions for output report
15 - 20 October (5 days)	Administrative work Feedback and final editing on output report
21 October	IGF public deadline for submission of output report (first version/draft)
22 October - 11 November (3 weeks)	Output report (draft) is public and open to feedback
12 - 23 November (10 days)	Incorporate feedback and revise output report
24 November	IGF public deadline for submission of output report - version to be presented during Annual Meeting

#### **5. Report structure**

- Introduction

- The PNMA
- Objectives
- Goals
- Focus Areas
  - Connectivity
    - Infrastructure and business models: diagnosis (with special attention to what could enhance consumers experience into citizens experience)
    - Policy recommendations; sustainability and affordability
    - Policy implementation
      - Case studies and Repository of existing practices
  - Digital inclusion
    - Accessibility and multilingualism: diagnosis
    - Policy recommendations; sustainability and affordability
    - Policy implementation
      - Case studies and Repository of existing practices
  - Capacity development
    - Technical skills training: diagnosis
    - Policy recommendations; sustainability and affordability
    - Policy implementation
      - Case studies and Repository of existing practices
- Looking ahead
  - Actionable steps
  - Driving impact
  - Connecting the dots
    - IGF community
    - Roadmap for Digital Cooperation
    - GDC
- Final considerations

## 6. Reference documents

[IGF PNMA Webpage](#)

[2022 PNMA Work Plan](#)

[IGF 2021 Report](#)