INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM
BEST PRACTICE FORUM ON GENDER & DIGITAL RIGHTS

- Virtual Meeting VI | 05 September 2022 at 15:00 UTC -

Attention: this call faced technical issues and was not recorded in full nor uploaded to a cloud service.

SUMMARY REPORT

Action items and next steps
- We are officially moving to the writing phase and every help is welcomed. Please share references, case studies and/or join a focus area of work. These are the documents we are using:
  - Full draft document: includes important and relevant info around the output report (e.g., deadlines and report structure)
  - Google Docs for each Focus Area Work:
    - Theme 1: Privacy and Surveillance / Reproductive Privacy
    - Theme 2: Freedom of Expression / Gendered Disinformation
    - Theme 3: Targeting of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists
  - Reference Materials for 2022 Focus Areas
- The methodology questionnaire will be reviewed and shared by Wednesday (lead: Bruna)
- Daphnee will lead the Introduction part, with help from Bruna, Amrita and Marwa.
- Daphnee will reach out to BPF Cybersecurity and verify their willingness in joining our report with a contribution.
- Contribution to the GDC will be developed as a follow-up product of the output report.
- If you know a specialist, please invite them to join the next calls or to the BPF Main session (02 December 2022, 10:45 - 12:15 UTC)

Participants (incomplete list; given technical glitch all names could not be retrieved)

Amalí De Silva-Mitchell

Amrita Choudhury

Bruna Martins dos Santos

Daphnee Iglesias

Dora Mawutor

Frédéric Cohen

Juliana Fonteles da Silveira

Lorena LB

Lucía León

Marwa Azelmat

Poncelet Ileleji

Sol Luca de Tena

Tope Ogundipe

Umut Pájaro Velasquez

Notes

The sixth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Best Practice Forum on Gender and Digital Rights (BPF Gender) was hosted online on 05 September 2022 at 15:00 UTC. It followed the agenda below as defined by the co-facilitators:

1. Agenda:

•   Discuss the output report's methodology

•   Hear from pen holders on how they want to proceed with the work

•   Take inputs from call participants if they want to share any case studies

•   Delineate next steps and clarify timelines

•   Define an agenda for next call's discussions, including inviting experts

2. Discussion:

- Bruna Martins dos Santos, co-facilitator, launched the meeting by welcoming the participants. She was joined by Amrita Choudhury, co-facilitator; Marwa Azelmat, coordinator; and Daphnee Iglesias, UN-IGF Consultant.

- Bruna starts the discussion by explaining the agenda above and highlighting, along with Amrita, that if the participants and the pen holders defined in the last Call agree, we can today define the scope of work for the upcoming weeks. Also as stated in the last Call, the need for a methodology derives from the importance of applying standards to every case study/report section being analysed. Bruna and Amrita developed a brief questionnaire as part of said methodology, so the community can guide itself while assessing the regulations selected for the report.

- The questionnaire is comprised of

1. Regulatory example (name of the regulation)

2. Country of origin

3. Date of implementation

4. Original goal of the regulation (the fundamentals used to justify its implementation)

5. Main points (summary of the origins and what the regulation is about)

6. How does it affect female and gender-diverse communities/current effects

- Bruna asks for participants' input on the questionnaire and clarifies it better directs the volunteers towards the main outcomes we want to achieve from the report. To new comers and those who have not been present in the previous Call, she clarifies the BPF decided to avoid the use of the term "hyper-fiscalization" because of a common agreement it was a complicated or either confusing concept to work with. Additionally, in the last Call the group decided to explore the impact of regulation over certain communities, analysing it from three prisms: freedom of expression/gender disinformation, targeting of human rights defenders, and reproductive privacy, each with a volunteer to help lead the specific part of the report. Hence the draft structure of the report is still a work in progress. Amrita encourages the community to contribute to any of the groups or case studies.

- Marwa Azelmat suggests the BPF could implement an interview-based methodology to some of the section so more input can be collected and avoid empty responses in case people do not extensively answer the questionnaires. She also clarifies the method assists the group with the helping as we do not have many contributors.

- Amrita states our deadlines are tight and fast approaching, and Daphnee shares the general timeline with the community as below – these are given by the IGF Secretariat:

• 17 October: established internally on BPF as cut-off date

• 17 – 21 October: last minute feedback/reviews

• 21 October: first draft submission to IGF Secretariat

• 21 October – 11 November: report is open for feedback

• 24 November: last date for incorporation of feedback / submission to IGF Secretariat of report to be presented at IGF meeting

- Bruna agrees with Marwa on the tight deadlines and shares concern it is not the best. She suggests that for the 21 October the BPF can present very rough, unfinalised draft, so the IGF community is aware of what is being done – for example, it can hold an introductory section on our topic and a short review on case studies. The extra feedback month period (21 October – 11 November) can be used to develop a proper draft report to the BPF session in Ethiopia because the session itself also fits into the report. For the main session itself, she proposes a fireside chat style of interview with one specialist per case study group. The moderator would pose some guided questions for the specialists, and this would also feed into our report. We have been trying also to bring specialists to these calls, but it has not been successful. We need to bring in a specialist to some part of the reports or the session or the calls; this approach gives us some extra time to work on the names and invites. Umut Pajaro Velasquez agrees with Bruna via the chat.

- Amrita agrees it is important to keep it flexible, but suggests the BPF should also try to do as much as possible by October – so the group should decide for an achievable methodology, might not be the best but one that is meaningful.

- Marwa takes the floor and ponders the BPF do not have the right resources to conduct the interviews as it takes a lot of time and people involved. She suggests the Forum can try both options at the same time: for the methodology, the questionnaire can be perhaps rolled out in different languages to get more responses while we can also conduct interviews with experts that would help us inform the report. At the same time, we have to start writing and having a clear deadline before the actual 21st of October. It is a very obnoxious process but we have to go with whatever resources we have and step up. For the interest of time, we need agree on questionnaire and interview as methodology, see what would work best and then start writing and preparing for the main session at IGF.

- Bruna agrees the process is a bit overwhelming, and we are all living in overwhelming times, everybody is tired. Se we can and should start working. Hence, earlier today she asked Daphnee to open a Google working document for each of the groups: Privacy, FoE, and HRD. These will also be circulated via the mailing list, for general awareness. There will also be improvements in the format of the emails because they are breaking up for some of the recipients. With the documents above the BPF members can share the load; with the pen holders starting the draft of each section and others writing the introduction part of the document, the BPF can achieve a rough draft by 17th October. It does not need to be perfect nor good, it just needs to be there so one can have a better perception of where the BPF work is heading this year.

- Nicolas Fiumarelli suggests, considering the final BPF output is to be published on 20th December, that the report takes into account comments and suggestions from the seven gender-related sessions that are part of the IGF 2022 schedule. Additionally, he asks about the BPF willingness to contribute with a submission to the Global Digital Compact.

- Amrita clarifies the BPF will be contributing to the GDC, but its deadline was extended until the end of the year, the first priority is to have the BPF activities running in order to have something substantial to discuss and contribute to the main sessions. There are gender-related sessions as well as other ones in which, e.g., freedom of expression will be discussed. There may be cross crosscutting issues; when other sessions are also relevant, we would be adding it to the BPF discussion or to the document. Before this work, the BPF process needs to be fully operational. Bruna adds that the current focus is on the draft report as the guiding document for the BPF discussions during IGF. Once the Forum is finished, we would reshape, um, the draft report as our contribution to the GDC.

- Going back to the discussion on the methodology and questionnaire, Bruna asks the participants about comments pertinent to the latter, whether questions need to be reviewed or added to attest the methodology's feasibility. Amrita states we may have to better frame the questions instead of having them as bullet points, letting the pen holders free to highlight the regulations and the cases they want to speak on within the focus areas. Bruna asks Amrita to add the observations to the document and she will rework the questions. Additionally, she asks call participants if there is anything lacking: "are there any other points we should address while looking into the regulatory examples we are gonna work on"? A previous suggestion by Courtney was on evaluating both the positive and negative impacts of regulation, to which Bruna and Amrita agree it can be done after the issues are analysed. Still on methodology, Bruna shares the possibility of adding a question on

analysing any sort of deviation from the initial object or goal of the regulations the BPF will look into – e.g., legislation on intermediary liability that is used to restrain freedom of expression. Amrita brings a current real life example happening in India on this topic (section 66).

- Umut shares his doubts about the scope of the FoE section, whether it would be for journalists or LGBTQI, which is the area the works with. Bruna clarifies the sections and working areas were split at the end of the previous Call: FoE/gendered disinformation is one section and attacks on human rights defenders and journalists is another one.

Technical glitch, interruption in call and recording

- Daphnee shows on screen the output sections and Umut confirms he would like to be linked to the FoE section as it connects to his current work, and he has shared some links on the collaborative document. He also advises he has two sessions on IGF talking about the topic: censorship in social media for gender-diverse people and automated tools/AI technologies calling out freedom of expression of gender-diverse people on the internet.

- Bruna is thankful for Umut's inputs and reinforces the work division is on organisational purposes. Every volunteer and BPF community member are able to weigh into other sections and comment in the entire document. The collaborative document is on draft mode, so member attributions (e.g., Avri Doria's attribution to specific sections) are not confirmed. The section on the Global Digital Compact is only for the final version of the report.

- Juliana Fonteles suggests adding leading case examples of enforcement of the regulation to the last sentence of the questionnaire ("How does it affect female and gender-diverse communities/current effects"), in order to better understand legal/regulatory sensitive points in a more concrete way. She added the comment on the collaborative document for incorporation.

- Amrita confirms the following action plan as it is now agreed the BPF community will start the drafting process. With the finalised questionnaire, members can use it with the sections writing but also reach out to experts and ask whether they can fill it up or invite them for a discussion. She confirms Lucía León ask on joining the FoE group and states anyone can join what suits them best, no authorisations needed.

- Daphnee will start preparing the report introduction with remarks on each of the sections discussed this year; co-facilitators and the coordinator can help review it and provide some guidelines. As she prepared the google docs for members to work on their specific sections, she explains that the questionnaire is added to each file, as well as the reference materials collected by the community until today. It is up to the participants to decide how to work within the document.

- The next call is on 26th September: Amrita asks the community to share the word about the BPF and try to get an expert to join us on this day to speak about any of the cases under evaluation this year – please let us know a week in advance.

- A summary of the call, for everyone that might have missed something given today's zoom challenges:

• There is an agreement about moving to the writing phase of the report, so every single penholder and volunteer for the sections can just start writing and using the references as much and the way you want to;

• The questionnaire will be reviewed and a new one will be communicated until Wednesday morning. Bruna takes this as personal task and hopes Amrita and Daphnee can assist her;

• Daphnee will work on the introductory part of the document with reviews from Bruna, Amrita and Marwa;

• We are all working at the same time to meet the October deadline;

• Whoever knows any specialists in this year's topic that could be reached for the calls or for the BPF session at the IGF, please do so.

* Frédéric Cohen tries to engage, but microphone is low*

- Bruna reminds the participants of the cross-pollination efforts between the BPF groups, a discussion which took place in the last call and that was on table since the BPF proposal was put forward last year. She asks Daphnee to reach out to the BPF Cybersecurity leads and consultant on their willingness to contribute to a small section on our report.

- Daphnee highlights the BPF main session is on Friday, 2nd December, 10:45 – 12:15 UTC.

- Bruna and Amrita make a final call for writing and contributions on the report, without hesitance or concerns about writing a perfect English if it is not your mother tongue. Please input your information, with references, and the pen holders can take it up. Bruna also thanks the community for the continuous support and Daphnee for supporting the call as well.

3. Next meeting: 26 September 2022, 15:00 UTC – zoom link to follow.