IGF Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation

PNIF Kick-off call

Wednesday 26 April 2023

14:00 - 15:00 UTC

AGENDA

1. Welcome & introductions
2. PNIF 2022 and PNIF Framework for discussing fragmentation
3. Plan for 2023
4. Outreach opportunities
5. Next steps

The **Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation (PNIF)** is an IGF intersessional activity to further the discussion on and to raise awareness of the technical, policy, legal and regulatory measures and actions that pose a risk to the open, interconnected and interoperable Internet.

The **objectives of the PNIF** - over an envisaged 2 year timeframe - are to (a) Offer a systematic and comprehensive framework to define Internet fragmentation, its intended and unintended causes, and its potential effects; (b) Collect and analyze case studies to fine-tune and complement this framework; (c) Establish shared principles, recommendations or codes of conduct that prevent fragmentation and preserve the open, interconnected and interoperable nature of the Internet.

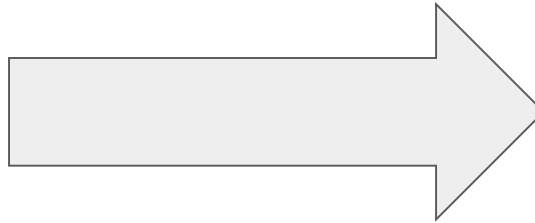**Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation (PNIF) 2022 work**

Webinar 1 'What does internet fragmentation meant to you?'

Webinar 2 'What can be done and who should be doing what?
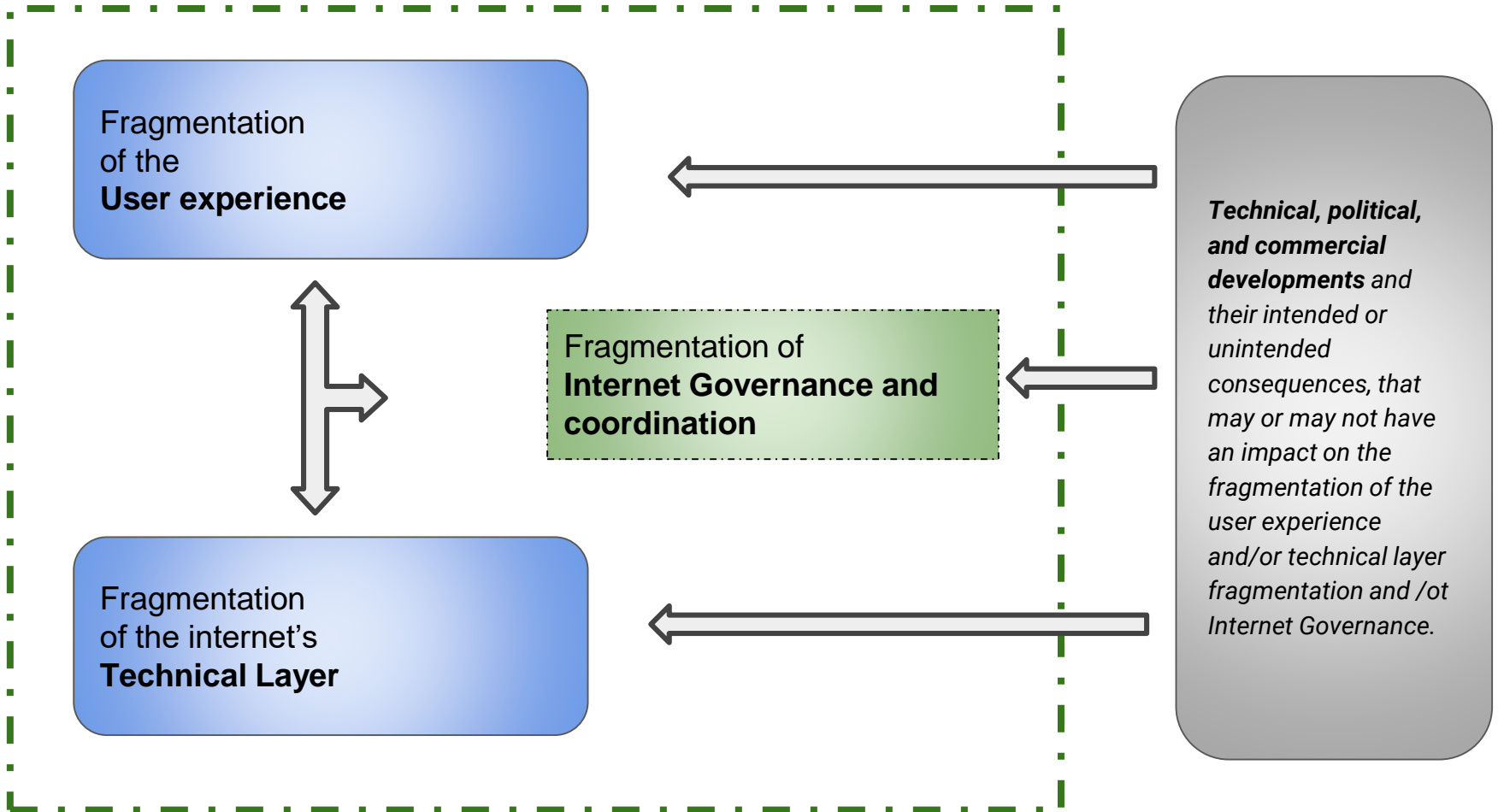
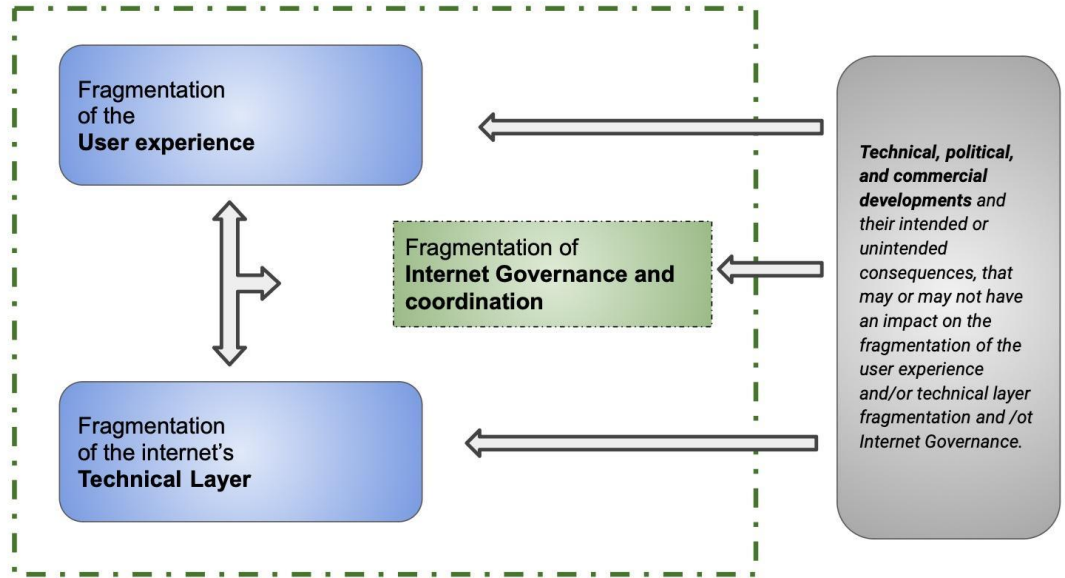Working call drafting a PNIF framework

PNIF workshop @IGF 2022

PNIF survey

PNIF Framework

for

discussing

fragmentation

PNIF framework for discussing fragmentation

Fragmentation
of the
User experience

Fragmentation of
Internet Governance and coordination

Fragmentation
of the internet's
Technical Layer

Technical, political, and commercial developments and their intended or unintended consequences, that may or may not have an impact on the fragmentation of the user experience and/or technical layer fragmentation and /ot Internet Governance.

PNIF framework for discussing fragmentation

Fragmentation of the **User experience**

Fragmentation of **Internet Governance and coordination**

Fragmentation of the internet's **Technical Layer**

Technical, political, and commercial developments and their intended or unintended consequences, that may or may not have an impact on the fragmentation of the user experience and/or technical layer fragmentation and /ot Internet Governance.

The overall goal of the framework is to serve as a general guiding and orienting tool for continuing the dialogue about fragmentation and bringing in more people and stakeholders, allow a more holistic and inclusive debate, and at the same time create a space for focused discussion and work towards concrete solutions, policy approaches and guidelines.

The framework is in more detail developed in the PNIF 2023 output report.

PNIF 2023 Objectives and work plan

1. **Unpack the PNIF framework via three parallel work streams** on *fragmentation of the user experience, fragmentation of the Internet's technical layer,* and *fragmentation of Internet governance and coordination.*

   The work streams will work in an open and bottom-up manner to take a deep dive into the identification and prevention of fragmentation.

   -> *IDENTIFICATION*:

   Identify which types of fragmentation and related actions pose the highest risks and should be avoided

   -> *PREVENTION :*

   Define practices, guidelines, and principles to prevent or address fragmentation.

PNIF 2023 Objectives and work plan

2. **The combined work of the three work streams will culminate in the PNIF 2023 outputs**, which are envisaged to include:

   - A refined and robust framework for discussing fragmentation, to provide increased clarity and common understanding about the diverse causes of fragmentation, their interrelation , impacts, and when fragmentation is most harmful and should be avoided.

   - Recommended high-level overarching principles to avoid Internet fragmentation (building on the 2022 framework), to feed into discussions between policymakers and stakeholders, in particular but not exclusively in the framework of Global Digital Compact (GDC) process.

   - Concrete guidance and solutions for stakeholders to address fragmentation, including alternative solutions for problematic policies and behaviour that might lead to harmful fragmentation

Next Steps

Thematic webinars (in May/June)

- **Fragmentation of the User experience**

    Date tbc

- **Fragmentation of the Internet's Technical layer**

    Date tbc

- **Fragmentation of Internet Goverance and coordination**

    Date tbc

Outreach & Engagement

Outreach Opportunities ?

- Opportunities for the PNIF to present its work and plans for 2023.

  RightsCon, …

Engagement ?

- Organisations, experts, forums to invite to the PNIF work streams?

PNIF webpage

www.intgovforum.org/en/content/policy-network-on-internet-fragmentation

PNIF mailing list

https://mail.intgovforum.org/mailman/listinfo/pnif_intgovforum.org