IGF 2023
Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation
(PNIF)

PNIF Multistakeholder Working Group of experts (MWG)
Meeting II, 03 July 2023

Summary

Introduction

1. The IGF MAG 2023 confirmed the proposal for the continuation of the Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation (PNIF). The PNIF Framework for Discussing Internet Fragmentation serves as a solid starting point.

2. The PNIF Multistakeholder Group of Experts (MWG) met to take stock after the three PNIF webinars that further explored the different dimensions in the PNIF Framework, i.e. *Internet governance and coordination, Internet user experience,* and *Internet technical layer.* The webinars produced rich discussions further refining the 'baskets' in the framework by focussing on three questions:
    -   Unpacking - Fragmentation of [x]: What is it ? What is it not?
    -   Prioritising - Which manifestations of [x] fragmentation should be avoided or addressed?
    -   Addressing - What practices, guidelines, or principles could help to address or prevent fragmentation of [x]?

3. The PNIF has to work within the following rough timeline:
    -   draft PNIF output / input for IGF 2023: mid September
    -   IGF 2023 : 8-12 October*
    -   Final PNIF output : by 31 October

    *It is expected that the PNIF will be allocated a 90 min slot in the IGF 2023 schedule, but this is still to be confirmed by the MAG when discussing the structure for the Kyoto meeting.

PNIF work plan and next steps

4. The PNIF to draw from the fruitful exchanges during the webinars and document the narratives to further refine the framework and come to a more inclusive understanding of the different views in the debate on Internet Fragmentation.
    -   For this, three working groups will be created.
    -   A number of community members already volunteered during the webinars, and a call for expression of interest will be sent to the PNIF list.
    -   A joint kick-off call will be organised to assure that they three groups align in a similar direction. We expect this to be in the w/c 17 July or 23 July.

5. The PNIF to compile conclusions and suggestions on 'best current practices' or guidance to avoid Internet fragmentation. Considering the timeframe for the PNIF, it is expected that there will be not sufficient time for a broad community consultation and discussion required to validate guidelines ahead of the IGF meeting and that the PNIF 2023 can only be the start of such a process.
    - The three working groups will be asked to also identify possible best current practices or guidance to address or avoid fragmentation (this question has also been addressed during the webinars), including any possible relevant messages for the GDC.
    - A joint call between the three groups closer to the IGF meeting will be organised to explore if there are overarching principles or practices emerging, or, if, on the contrary, there are incompatibilities between the groups' findings.
    - The previous bullet point should allow to set the focus for PNIF session during IGF 2023.

AoB

6. It was noted that the PNIF should also reflect on whether it sees its work as completed after this second year or whether there should be a proposal should be compiled to continue its work into 2024.

7. The PNIF coordination team is following the preparations for an IGF intersessional activities event during the July Open Consultations and MAG meeting to assure that the PNIF is represented in the slot on intersessional activities related to the subtheme avoiding internet fragmentation.

List of participants: Bruna Martins dos Santos, Chris Buckridge, Marek Blachut, Marielza Oliveira, Olaf Kolkman, Sheetal Kumar, Wim Degezelle.