IGF 2023 Policy Network on Meaningful Access
Work Plan

Introduction

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, even more so to the community/country in which they live. 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 IGF created to establish an expert-led framework network on broad Internet governance topics, making room for in-depth multistakeholder efforts. It aims to identify best practices and successful solutions applied somewhere in order to formulate impact-driven, concrete, and 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.

Officially starting its activities in June 2021, the Policy Network has successfully built a network of experts - its Multistakeholder Working Group (MWG) -; arranged connections with ongoing relevant discussions and actions in other fora; and built a repository of good practices. As decided during its foundation, the MWG "agreed to explore concrete actions the members of the PNMA could support so that [our] main outcome is not only a set of recommendations"[1].

In 2022, the PNMA's analytical focus was on the community's agreed three overarching thematic workstreams: Connectivity (Infrastructure & Business Models), Digital Inclusion through citizen approach (accessibility & multilingualism: local services and contents in local languages based on local needs and resources) and Capacity Development (technical skills training). During the last year's intersessional activities, the policy network has actively contributed within and outside IGF communities to identify a certain number of good practices and policy solutions, and retain them as possible models to be exported or applied to other regions of the world. Stakeholders from different groups joined this enterprise: government, international organisations, academia, private actors, non-profits. The PNMA 2022 Output Report features a

---

[1] Statement of IGF 2021 PNMA Multistakeholder Working Group.

collation of selected cases for each of the focus areas. Additionally, one section of the document is devoted to recommendations around meaningful access and its expansion.

The PNMA will continue developing this experience for 2023, assisting with the implementation of solutions for the issues previously raised. Its community wishes to open a multistakeholder public debate under these actions to influence policy change and the upcoming Global Digital Compact, in addition to the WSIS+20 and IGF+20 processes.

Goals

In 2022, selected contributions arrived from Latin America, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Asia. From the listed good practices, one can observe the presence of international organisations (e.g., ITU, WAN, WIPO, ICANN) as collaborators in said projects. Their analysis is the starting point to this year's current goals, listed below:

1. Bring all the achievements and solutions identified through the PNMA activities into the future Digital Compact Initiative, and effectively contribute to the roadmap leading to the Summit of the Future 2024 and the WSIS+20 and IGF+20 processes;

2. Actively promote the good practices that have been identified by the Policy Network across all the stakeholder groups and through the Digital Cooperation initiative, with the assistance of the Leadership Panel and the IGF Secretariat;
   a. *Sub-goal:* focus the PNMA work on project implementation lessons and policy/regulatory conditions via a multisectoral approach and under the lens of intersectionality, scalability, and localisation.

3. By expanding the reach of the policy network, open a permanent dialogue between the PNMA community and institutional regional and global partners (such as the EU, the AU and the ITU), in order to promote regional initiatives and encourage projects' replication and scaling;
   a. *Sub-goal:* monitor implementation and promotion of collaborative efforts with local actors, with a special attention to amplifying the voices of least advantaged groups in the public debate on meaningful access (Youth, NRIs, Women, LGBTQIA+, Indigenous, People with Disabilities).

Priorities

The above referred goals demonstrate there is much to push forward in the realm of meaningful access. For the 2023 process, the PNMA MWG has decided to zoom into the following priorities. As an incremental work, the current efforts will add up to the activities developed in 2022 and will provide the foundation for follow-ups and reviews in the following year.

- **Priority 1:** in close communication with the **Leadership Panel**, **bring all the achievements and solutions identified through the PNMA activities into the**

future Digital Compact Initiative, and effectively contribute to the roadmap leading to the Summit of the Future 2024 and the WSIS+20 and IGF+20 processes. The contribution will **actively promote good practices**, to be presented on a multisectoral approach following the three focus areas for PNMA analysis and under the lens of intersectionality, scalability, and localisation - with attention to lessons drawn from **project implementation lessons and policy/regulatory conditions** that enabled said achievements. Additionally, the benchmarks and good practices will **continue to be monitored for implementation and scaling**, in their region of origin and, eventually, in other regions inspired by the same process.

- **Priority 2: Amplify the voices of those groups that are less heard** in the public debate on meaningful access (e.g., Youth, NRIs, Women, LGBTQIA+, Indigenous, People with Disabilities) by actively listening to them and having these groups lead on what are their challenges and possible solutions to be developed.

- **Priority 3:** Under the guidance and assistance of the IGF Secretariat, open a **permanent dialogue between the PNMA community and institutional regional and global partners** (such as the EU, the AU, and the OAS), in order to involve them directly in the PNMA activities and to encourage regional projects' replication and adaptation in other countries, with active participation of local actors. The PNMA webpage will function as a repository of identified good practices, for which it is expected yearly updates at every new PNMA process.

Focus Areas (building upon last year's work)

- 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)

Methodology

As stated in IGF 2021 messages, the PNMA efforts are not directed at "producing a unique definition, but [aim] to identify, map and understand the properties that those in the field identified as key"[2] to meaningful access. Starting from the previous database of stories and case studies collected throughout the last year, the PNMA MWG can shed light on the reasons why known, effective policy solutions currently lack scaling and/or localisation in their implementation. The work plan aims to analyse the above mentioned focus areas by asking the following questions, which will lead the production of 2023 outputs:

---

[2] [IGF 2021 Report](#), p 45.

- What has been done so far? Analyse gaps in policy
- What are the main challenges for project scaling? Document loopholes via public debate/consultation
- What are the common features which allow a project to be localised?
- What are the social elements that support meaningful access?
- Is there a tested, multistakeholder business model that can be replicated into one or all of the analysed focus areas?
- How to promote and improve good access and connectivity, so Internet use could produce positive social and economic impact?
- How to promote and improve the quality of connectivity to support civic engagement?
- How could multistakeholder partnerships be strengthened?
- Is there a gap in networking, implementation, or continuity?

The PNMA community plays an important role in highlighting these initiatives and bringing attention to creative solutions derived from marginalised groups. A close relationship within and outside IGF is crucial to ensure that the 2023 process amplifies these groups' experiences, hence our close cooperation with the Leadership Panel and other international organisations.

Planned outputs

Based on the methodology, a few outputs are expected at the end of the 2023 process; these are listed below as end results from the selected priorities.

- ***[All priorities and discussions, including 2023 IGF PNMA session in Kyoto]*** An informative output report that explores the Policy Network's activities in depth and connects it with the appropriate IGF 2023 subtheme - Digital Divides and Inclusion. The production of said manuscript includes the following activities, not exclusively:
  - A follow-up survey with the selected 2022 cases, monitoring their implementation/scaling along the year
  - Follow-up and review of the key policy issues raised in the 2022 output report
  - A report section on intersessional work with Youth IGF, DCs, and/or NRIs
- ***[Priority 1, supported by output report]*** Contributions to the GDC process and to the preparation of the Summit of the Future 2024, starting from the Ministerial Conference 2023
- ***[Priorities 2 and 3]*** Expand the online and public repository for good practices, by opening a second round of the 2022 call for inputs
- ***[All priorities]*** Outreach and engagement activities for promotion of the PNMA agenda

- **[Priority 3]** Strengthen the networks and encourage new connections for advancing meaningful connectivity
- **[Priorities 2 and 3]** Public debates/consultations on shared experiences and challenges to access

Proposed report structure

- Introduction
  - The PNMA
  - Objectives
  - Goals
- Focus Areas
  - Public debate/consultation
  - Methodology
  - Connectivity
    - Networks contacted/formed
    - Monitoring of the implementation of the Best Practices experiences identified in 2022
      - Case study/model interaction ?
      - Challenges for scaling/localisation
  - Digital inclusion
    - Networks contacted/formed
    - Monitoring of the implementation of the Best Practices experiences identified in 2022
      - Case study/model interaction ?
      - Challenges for scaling/localisation
  - Capacity development
    - Networks contacted/formed
    - Monitoring of the implementation of the Best Practices experiences identified in 2022
      - Case study/model interaction ?
      - Challenges for scaling/localisation
- Within the UN
  - IGF Leadership Panel
  - Intersessional work with Youth IGF, DCs, and/or NRIs
  - Global Digital Compact Initiative and Ministerial Conference 2023, leading to the Summit of the Future 2024: an effective contribution to its roadmap and the WSIS+20 and IGF+20 processes
- Beyond the UN: intersectional works
- Looking ahead
  - Lessons learned
  - Driving impact

- ○ Connecting the dots with the IGF Community / IGF 2023 Subthemes (after Kyoto)
  - ○ Revised policy issues for consideration
- 2023 IGF PNMA process and main session: key messages and concluding remarks

Proposed timeline
The timeline is open to receiving suggestions of events and outreach opportunities connected to the PNMA focus areas. Ad-hoc PNMA calls might occur given the strict deadlines of the 2023 process.

*milestones

DATE / DEADLINE	EVENT	PRELIMINARY AGENDA
May 2023	Prep 2023 Process	● Confirmation of co-chairs and consultant ● Discussion on PNMA scope for 2023 ● Build work plan ● Work plan approval by co-chairs ● Confirmation of serving capacity of MWG members for 2023
Late May/ early June 2023	PNMA Call I	● Introduction new co-chair / MAG member ● Introduction new MWG members (if any) ● Presentation and discussion/approval of work plan ● Set up meetings calendar and estimated dedication to MWG
01 June 2023*	IGF Report on Methodology	● Gather information on the subject of PNMA, in line with the discussed work methodologies / **submit to IGF Secretariat**

End June 2023	PNMA Call II - CANCELLED	• Development work plan • Set up consultation call or public debate • Set up internal working groups based on focus areas
10 – 12 July 2023*	2nd Open Consultations and MAG meeting	• 1st day: intersessional activities event • Report on PNMA activities
26 July 2023 (after Open Consultation)	PNMA Call II	• Introduction new MWG members (if any) • Updates on consultation or public debate • Presentation and discussion/approval of work plan • Set up meetings calendar and estimated dedication to MWG • Set up internal working groups based on focus areas • PNMA engagement (including NRI initiatives)
10 August 2023	PNMA Call III	• Fortnightly / monthly meetings with MWG to draft output document • Development work plan • Updates by working groups • Panelists: discussions and identification of the IGF main sessions/workshops checking where a PNMA participation/representation could be useful • Discussions on IGF PNMA main session - preparation of the PNMA session within IGF 2023: identification of the speakers, key notes, studies to distribute, etc. • PNMA engagement (including NRI initiatives)
24 August 2023	PNMA Call IV	• Fortnightly / monthly meetings with MWG to draft output document • Development work plan • Updates by working groups • Panelists: discussions and identification of the IGF main sessions/workshops checking where a PNMA participation/representation could be useful • Discussions on IGF PNMA main session - preparation of the PNMA session within IGF

		2023: identification of the speakers, key notes, studies to distribute, etc. ● PNMA engagement (including NRI initiatives)
06 September 2023	PNMA Call V	● Fortnightly / monthly meetings with MWG to draft output document ● Development work plan ● Updates by working groups ● Panelists: discussions and identification of the IGF main sessions/workshops checking where a PNMA participation/representation could be useful ● Discussions on IGF PNMA main session - preparation of the PNMA session within IGF 2023: identification of the speakers, key notes, studies to distribute, etc. ● PNMA engagement (including NRI initiatives)
10 September 2023*	2023 Output Report (draft)	● Prepare the substantive output report for the PNMA / **submit to IGF Secretariat (draft version)**
10 September 2023* (post draft submission)	Open Consultation on 2023 Output Report (draft)	● Invite and engage the wider community, including members of MAG, members of the PNs, NRIs, BPFs and DCs, to comment on the draft output reports and incorporate comments into a revised paper. ● Start listing community sessions connected to PNMA theme, for attendance and/or access on organisers' reports, so to feed into the PNMA output report and IGF Messages
20 September 2023*	Close Consultation on 2023 Output Report (draft)	● Collate comments and incorporate them into a revised paper.
26 September 2023	PNMA Call VI	● Fortnightly / monthly meetings with MWG to draft output document ● Development work plan ● Updates by working groups ● Discussions on IGF PNMA main session

		• PNMA members engagement (including NRI initiatives) in other areas of the IGF 2023 programme
2 October 2023	PNMA Call VII	• Community presentation of draft outcome document post-consultation feedback • Finalise setup of IGF PNMA main session • Establish list of community sessions connected to PNMA theme, for attendance and/or access on organisers' reports, so to feed into the PNMA output report and IGF Messages • List attendance modality of PNMA MWG members and partners (in person/online)
04 October 2023*	Submit 2023 Output Report (draft)	• **Submit to IGF Secretariat the adjusted draft outcome document** and compile the final draft that will be presented at the annual meeting.
8-12 October 2023*	IGF 2023 Kyoto	
11 October 2023 17:30 - 19:00 (UTC+9)	**PNMA Plenary Session**	(as of Draft Schedule version 11.08.2023)
12 October 2023*	Delivery of IGF 2023 Key Messages	• **Submit to IGF Secretariat** under guidance of the supervisor and taking into account the reports from the session organisers
19 October 2023*	Production of executive summaries for IGF 2023 Report	• **Submit to IGF Secretariat** stand-alone documents and executive summaries for collation under the IGF 2023 report

		● Report of the IGF PNMA session and its validation through the partners
30 October 2023*	2023 Output Report (final) IGF PNMA Session Report (final)	● **Submit to IGF Secretariat** the final output document after adjustments post-IGF meeting ● **Submit to IGF Secretariat (via website)** the final output document for the session in Kyoto

Reference documents:

IGF 2022 Summary Report
IGF 2022 Messages
PNMA 2022 Output Report
PNMA 2022 Plenary Session Report
2022 PNMA Proposal