IGF Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation

"Avoiding Internet Fragmentation. Still a matter of concern in 2024?"

PNIF Webinar 1, Wednesday 19 June, 14:00-15:30 UTC

PNIF webpage

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

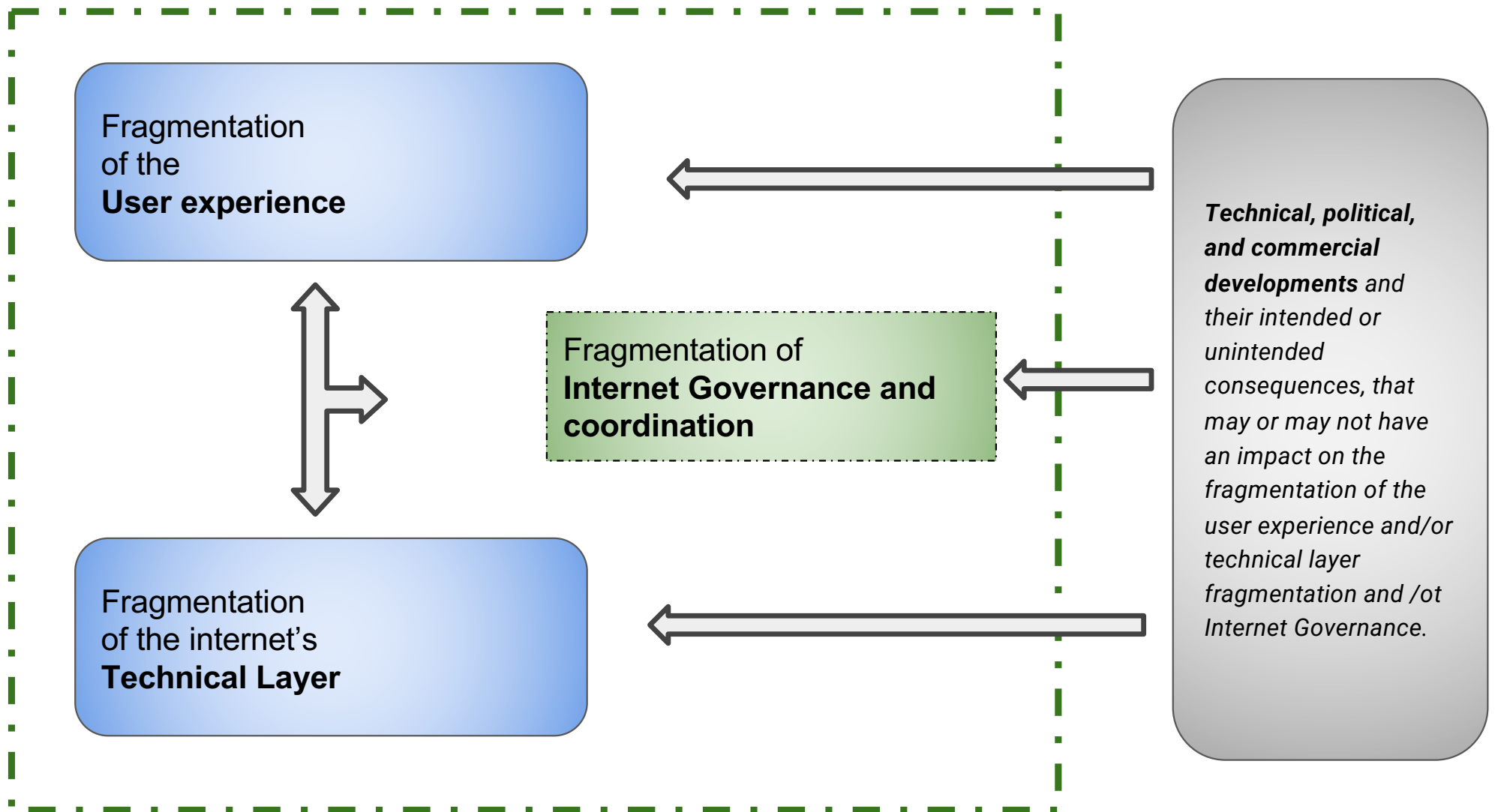**IGF Policy Network Internet Fragmentation**

Avoiding Internet Fragmentation. Still a matter of concern in 2024?

PNIF Webinar 1, Wednesday 19 June, 14:00-15:30 UTC

Agenda

1. Welcome & introduction to the PNIF   *Ms Sheetal Kumar*

1. Setting the scene
   - From '*avoiding fragmentation*' in Our Common Agenda to … ? *Mr Wim Degezelle*
   - Feedback and LP perspective   *Mr 'Gbenga Sesan*

3. Panel reflections & open discussion
   Discussants: Ms Fiona Alexander, Mr Philipp Schulte, Mr Andrew Rens
   Moderation: Ms Bruna Martins dos Santos, Ms Sheetal Kumar

   - **Problem statement 1: Is avoiding internet fragmentation still a major concern in 2024?**
     When the PNIF began in 2022, the UN SG's Roadmap highlighted avoiding fragmentation as a key issue for the GDC. However, 'avoiding internet fragmentation' seems to receive less attention in current GDC, NetMundial+20, and WSIS+20 discussions.
     How has the concept/phrase 'avoiding fragmentation of the Internet' evolved in 2024 versus 2021?Is there a change of focus, shift in priorities or just a change in wording?

   - **Problem statement 2: How can the PNIF, as an IGF intersessional activity, effectively contribute to these ongoing dialogues?**
     How can the IGF / PNIF support a holistic multistakeholder discussion on fragmentation? Can the 'PNIF Framework for discussing Internet Fragmentation' contribute to a more holistic approach? Should and how can the PNIF contribute to GDC, WSIS+20?

3. Summary and Wrap-up   *Bruna, Sheetal, Wim*

PNIF framework for discussing fragmentation - Output PNIF 2022

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.

Avoiding Internet Fragmentation - still a matter of concern in 2024? - some observations

(2021) UN Secretary General's Report *Our Common Agenda*
- warning for 'heightened fragmentation and "echo chambers"' in the digital age (art 26)
- call for a GDC that may include: 'reaffirming the fundamental commitment to connecting the unconnected; **avoiding fragmentation of the Internet;** providing people with options as to how their data is used; application of human rights online; and promoting a trustworthy Internet by introducing accountability criteria for discrimination and misleading content.' (art 93)

(2022-2023) IGF PNIF unpacked '*avoiding Internet fragmentation*': Technical layer - IG coordination - Internet User

(2024) GDC Zero Draft rev.1 (15 May 2024)
- Objective 3, par 26. We recognize that the Internet is a critical global facility for inclusive and equitable digital transformation. To fully benefit all, it must be stable, secure and **unfragmented**.'
- Objective 3, par 28. We commit to … (c) Promote international cooperation among all stakeholders to prevent, identify and **address risks of fragmentation of the Internet** in a timely manner (SDG 16);
- Objective 4, par 36. We recognize that **data governance has evolved in a fragmented and uncoordinated manner.** Diverse reg…

(2024) Netmundial+10
- Subsection 2.3, Coordination of governance spaces is essential - 'It is important to avoid fragmentation and duplication of fora, to make sure that Internet governance and digital policy processes can be effective. Instead, better coordination between processes dealing with overlapping issues is strongly needed.'
- Subsection 2.3, Coordination of governance spaces is essential - Through strengthening the IGF we would allow for the UN system to leverage on the legacy and relevance of the model while **avoiding further fragmentation of Internet governance and digital policy discussions**.'

PNIF webpage

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