IGF Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation

"Avoiding Internet Fragmentation.

Still a matter of concern in 2024 and beyond?"

PNIF Webinar 2, Wednesday 9 October, 13:30-15:00 UTC

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

IGF Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation

"Avoiding Internet Fragmentation. Still a matter of concern in 2024 and beyond?"
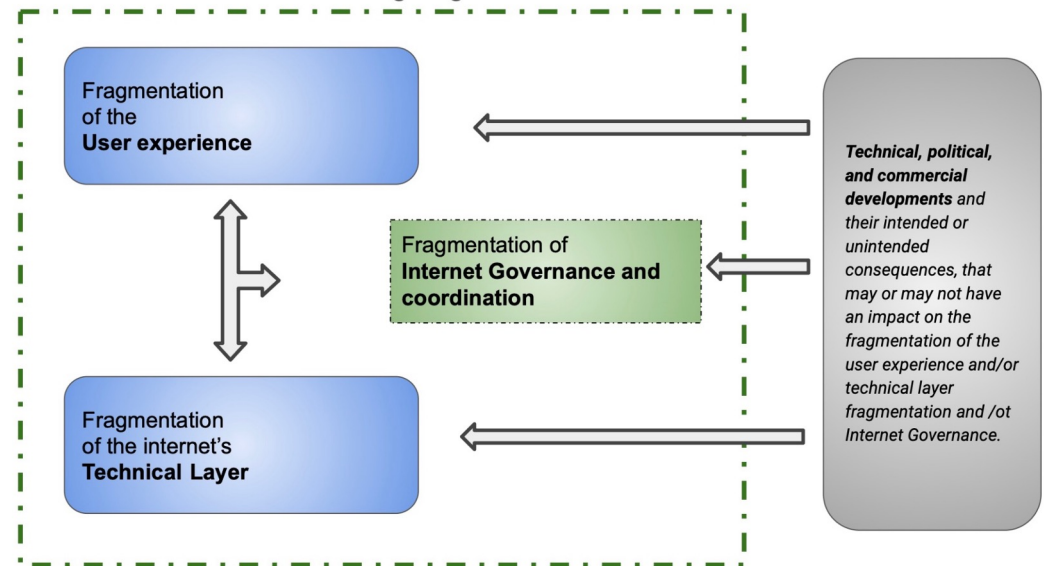
9 October, 13:30-15:00 UTC

Agenda

1. Welcome

2. Introduction and setting the scene

3. Discussion 1: **Internet Fragmentation, still a matter of concern?**

3. Discussion 2: **How can the PNIF effectively contribute?**

3. Summary and Wrap-up

IGF Policy Network Internet Fragmentation (PNIF)

-> IGF intersessional activity

-> aims to raise awareness of actions and measures that risk fragmenting the Internet

-> wants to serve as a platform for fostering holistic and inclusive discussions on how to avoid fragmentation

-> the PNIF developed the *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.

IGF Policy Network Internet Fragmentation (PNIF) in 2024

Webinars tracking the global discussion on fragmentation and exploring ways for the PNIF to contribute to fostering future holistic multisstakeholder dialogue on fragmentation.

Concrete actions as suggested
-   ongoing : Inventory of actions and their impact on fragmentation

PNIF session at IGF 2024

Recap PNIF webinar I :

- avoiding fragmentation is **still a matter of concern** in 2024
- focus on **what one wants to achieve by avoiding fragmentation** and avoid undefined use of the term
- **emphasise the economic benefits** of an unfragmented internet, but difficult to identify concrete indicators
- technically, some extent of fragmentation in inherent to the internet (network of networks)
- increasing fragmentation at the policy and regulatory levels as well as commercial decisions lead to fragmentation

- PNIF should continue to contribute to a **holistic framing and understanding of fragmentation**
- PNIF should collect and provide **empirical information on the impact** of fragmentation from different perspectives
- PNIF could collect **existing research and datasets** on the impact of fragmentation
- PNIF to help establishing a **structured discourse among governments** on fragmentation

SUMMIT OF THE FUTURE
OUTCOME DOCUMENTS
September 2024

**Pact for the Future,
Global Digital Compact,
and Declaration on Future
Generations**

Global Digital Compact

Objective 3. Foster an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space that respects, protects and promotes human rights

Subsection Internet governance

29.   We commit to:

(a)   Promote an open, global, interoperable and reliable Internet and take concrete steps to maintain a safe, secure and enabling online environment for all (SDG 9);

(b)   Support the Internet Governance Forum, including through continued efforts to increase diverse participation from Governments and other stakeholders from developing countries and the provision of voluntary funding also to this end (SDGs 9 and 10);

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[21] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

(c)   Promote international cooperation among all stakeholders to prevent, identify and address risks of fragmentation of the Internet in a timely manner (SDG 16);

(d)   Refrain from Internet shutdowns and measures that target Internet access (SDG 16).

Digital trust and safety

Discussion 1: **Internet Fragmentation, still a matter of concern following the Summit of the Future and the GDC? An exchange about what the GDC / Summit of the Future tells us. What's next?**

- *What does the GDC text mean to you?*
- *How should we interpret it?*
- *What can we espect?*
- *How will MS follow up ?*
- *….*

Discussion 2: **How can the PNIF effectively contribute to future holistic multistakeholder discussion on fragmentation?** *(as a follow up to the GDC, and including but not limited to the WSIS+20 review)*

1) Update on the *inventory of actions and decisions that cause or risk to cause fragmentation*

1) What else can the PNIF do ?

- *GDC follow up ? Reporting ?*
- *WSIS+20 ?*
- *Other processes ?*
- *… ?*

Action item from webinar 1: PNIF empirical inventory of actions & decision and their impact of fragmentation

Aim of the inventory

- Undertake empirical work to document government and corporate actions and their (intended and/or unintended) impact on Internet functionality.
- Help governments and corporate actors understand and mitigate the effects of their decisions, and help to improve future policymaking.   One means is by identifying triggers or indicators under the categories
- Convert real-world examples into a clear and cohesive narrative of what happens. Be specific, concrete and illustrate the impact of government and corporate actions.

How to submit cases ?

        Webform : https://forms.gle/HyzeyAg34dRCZXoy7

Deadline 1 November

PNIF webpage

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