Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation

Names of at least two Facilitators (at least one of which is a MAG member):
Tereza Horejsova, MAG member
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Bruna Martins dos Santos, Community co-facilitator

Model of intersessional work (BPF or PN):
Policy Network

Short Description: topics covered, proposed objectives, focus of the BPF/PN and main action points (the description should provide sufficient detail to allow an assessment and selection).

The request for the renewal of the PNIF rests on the opportunity to support the international community to implement the commitment in the Global Digital Compact to avoid internet fragmentation.

UN Member States, in GDC art. 29(c), commit to **'Promote international cooperation among all stakeholders to prevent, identify and address risks of fragmentation of the internet in a timely manner.'**

The PNIF in 2024 resulted in concrete proposals for the multistakeholder community to contribute to operationalising this commitment, namely via the following opportunities, which the PNIF would support.

1. Continuing Inclusive Dialogue: Ensuring that discussions on internet fragmentation remain open and inclusive, with active involvement from governments.
2. Reporting on Follow-Up and Progress 'one year on': Proactively tracking and reporting on the GDC commitment one year after the GDC to assess progress and identify challenges.
3. Establishing a Multistakeholder Mechanism to Monitor and Evaluate Progress: Creating a mechanism to monitor and evaluate progress in light of the GDC's 2027 High-Level Review and beyond.

Link with WSIS+20
The PNIF, particularly its efforts to sustain an inclusive dialogue on fragmentation, is expected to be highly relevant in the context of the WSIS+20 review and discussions on the IGF mandate as a key forum for multistakeholder dialogue.

Link with the SDGs
The GDC connects the commitment in art. 29(c) to SDG 16, a link that needs deeper understanding. The PNIF provides the space for building common ground.

Link with NRIs

Engaging local governments and stakeholders in conversations on fragmentation helps raise awareness of the topic while allowing them to explore the risks and unintended consequences of certain measures they may consider implementing. Additionally, these debates provide a platform to discuss concrete alternative approaches to achieving the same objectives without risking fragmenting the internet. Insights from local discussions can, as such, contribute valuable perspectives to global Internet governance dialogues, aiding in the prevention, identification, and mitigation of fragmentation risks. Leveraging discussions at NRIs is a key priority for the PNIF this year.

The PNIF is well placed to support the achievement of the above objectives, utilising the framework for discussing internet fragmentation developed and socialised during its first mandates. The report the PNIF intends to present at IGF2025 would compare the state of progress between December 2024 and May/June 2025, assessing the current state of fragmentation, identifying proposed measures that pose risks of fragmentation, and analysing any concrete follow given to the GDC commitment and any changes observed during this period. Key questions to address include: Has anything changed? Are we moving toward greater or lesser fragmentation?

The period of the new mandate would also allow for discussion with the wider IGF community on a proposed multistakeholder mechanism, with measurable indicators or KPIs, to enable the UN and the stakeholder community to monitor and evaluate progress for future reviews.

Work plan, outreach plan and multistakeholder engagement: This should mention the anticipated engagement from different parts of the multistakeholder community, and a work plan starting 1 February .

- **February**: Open call/s with the IGF community to discuss the IGF 2024 recommendations, the OGF2025 plan, and identify any required refinements
- **March-April**: 3 x multistakeholder discussion groups to develop the draft report and discuss the framework for the proposed multistakeholder mechanism (including leveraging discussions at NRIs)
- **May**: Development of draft report and framework for the proposed mechanism
- **June**: Review of output report at the IGF

Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation 2024 Output report

PNIF Framework for Discussing Internet Fragmentation

PNIF 2024 webpage