



## **Lebanese IGF**

[www.igflebanon.org](http://www.igflebanon.org)

**Established in 2017**

In 2019, The Lebanese MAG finalized the program of its annual meeting under the theme “Our Rights and Responsibilities in the Digital Age”. But due to the revolution of October 2019 and the political and economic crisis in the country, the forum scheduled for 19-20 November 2019 was postponed.

In 2020, the Lebanese MAG moved their meeting to the virtual space with a series of sessions under the theme “Rethinking Internet Governance in time of crisis”, starting 23rd of July 2020.

### **Key Discussion areas**

The COVID-19 outbreak has translated into a major education crisis, causing school closure and disruption of regular education services. In Lebanon, the Ministry of Education and Higher Education has developed three tracks to continue delivering education: lessons through the TV, online courses, in addition to the traditional way.

During the 1st session, educators, policy makers and technology professionals discussed the challenges, the related frameworks, and how to move forward towards adopting a new way of teaching and learning post COVID-19. Participants highlighted the issues of Internet Access (availability, affordability, issues liability), Teachers’ readiness, Availability of online material & tools to be used (esp. in Arabic), Inclusion and Education for people with disabilities

In Session 2, the Lebanese IGF community discussed Contact Tracing mainly in public health tool and the challenges faced with issues related to privacy and data protection. Nobody wants surveillance to become the new norm, especially in Lebanon where we have a big gap when it comes to laws protecting personal data. Speakers highlighted the current Lebanese legal frameworks and how are the relevant ministries (health, telecom) ensure transparency while developing public health tools, Privacy and data protection while managing, handling and storing the data with the absence of regulatory bodies and the role of each stakeholder.

Session 3 tackled the Children Online Protection related issues in Lebanon and highlighted the missing actions while at the same time invited all stakeholders (Service providers, security agencies, NGOs,..) to take action before it’s too late for the society and participants also reviewed what has been done in Lebanon to protect children and the national child online protection policies & strategies.

Session 4 discussed What is still needed at the policy level to ensure all public institutions disclose information publicly, How to enhance the role of independent media, And how to lobby for the adoption of a new media law protecting journalists and their rights to criticize public figures. Combating fake news was highlighted especially those that can impact the citizens wellbeing during this pandemic, in addition to ways to enhance transparency and ensure free flow of information in processes related to blocking of



websites and applications.

**Number of participants:** 100+

**Main issues:** Online Teaching and Learning, Contact Tracing and Transparency, Data Management, Safer Internet for Children, Free Flow of Information, and Digital transformation

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