IGF 2020 Phase 1 Summary

Fifteenth Meeting of Internet Governance Forum

2-6 November 2020

1   Introduction to IGF 2020

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2020 is bringing together representatives from governments, the technical community, business, civil society and intergovernmental organizations to discuss advancing a range of Internet-related issues. IGF 2020, convened for the fifteenth time since its establishment in 2005, is the first entirely online IGF.

Under the overarching theme, 'Internet for human resilience and solidarity', the IGF 2020 is providing a substantive multistakeholder platform for engaged and informed discussions about policy issues pertaining to the Internet, amplifying digital cooperation and how the Internet can support and fulfil the nexus of respecting human rights and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The discussions are taking place under four thematic tracks:

- Data
- Environment
- Inclusion
- Trust

In addition, an informal fifth track is "digital cooperation".

For information on IGF 2020, see:

https://www.intgovforum.org/vIGF

2   IGF 2020 Phase 1

IGF 2020 was split into two phases when it moved from being a physical meeting to a virtual meeting. Phase 1 contained just under 150 sessions that can loosely be considered "like-minded communities of interest". Unlike the workshops and main sessions taking place in Phase 2, Phase 1 sessions included sessions organised by specific entities or communities that have coalesced around specific issues:

- **Pre-events**. These are organised by entities or processes that choose to co-locate their events at the same time as IGF. In physical meetings, these are known as "Day Zero" events, but were spread over the five days of Phase 1, so were renamed "pre-events".
- **Dynamic Coalitions**. Dynamic Coalitions, which date back to the very first IGF in 2006, are year-round community bottom-up intersessional activities. Many Dynamic Coalitions choose to hold their main meeting of the year during the IGF.
- **Open Forums**. These sessions are held by governments, treaty-based international organisations, and global organisations with international scope and presence, with operations across regions, dealing with Internet governance-related issues. Open Forums are an opportunity to discuss their work on Internet governance-related matters.
- **NRI Collaborative Sessions**. These are an opportunity for National, Regional, Sub-regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) to discuss Internet issues of common interest and compare experiences.

In addition, to try and provide some of the social and informal networking opportunities that are an integral part of the annual IGF events, a number of **networking sessions** were added to the programme. These will continue throughout Phase 2 as well.

The four Best Practice Forums (BPFs) for 2020 announced their draft outputs on the first day of Phase 1. All four BPFs are seeking feedback on the draft outputs.

Cybersecurity	- Background paper: *What Cybersecurity Policymaking Can Learn from Normative Principles in Global Governance* https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/10387/2252 - Research paper: *Exploring Best Practices in Relation to International Cybersecurity Agreements* https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/10387/2253 BPF home page: https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-cybersecurity
Gender and Access	- Draft report - *Gender at the Internet Governance Forum* https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/5004/2319 BPF home page:

Data and New Technologies in an Internet Context	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-gender-and-access
	▪ Draft report: *A dialogue on how users' data is collected, analysed and used, and best practices to ensure that this data is used to bring benefit and not to harm users* https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/9655/2323 BPF home page: https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-internet-of-things-iot-big-data-and-artificial-intelligence-ai
Local Content	▪ Draft report: *Local and indigenous content in the digital space: Protection, preservation and sustainability of creative work and traditional knowledge* https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/5005/2321 BPF home page: https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-on-local-content

3   IGF 2020 Phase 1 by the Numbers

5 days	▪ 2-6 November 2020 ▪ 198 hours 40 minutes of online meetings and webinars
5218 registrations	▪ Government: 906 (17.3%) ▪ Intergovernmental Organization: 466 (8.9%) ▪ Civil Society: 2136 (40.9%) ▪ Technical Community: 815 (15.6%) ▪ Private Sector: 889 (17%) ▪ Press/Media: 6 (0.1%)
146 sessions	▪ 80 pre-events ▪ 7 National, Regional and Youth IGF initiative (NRI) collaborative sessions ▪ 27 Open Forums ▪ 18 Dynamic Coalition (DC) sessions ▪ 3 Youth sessions (summit + flash talks) ▪ 1 introduction and orientation session ▪ 10 networking sessions ▪ 71 IGF virtual village booths

Preparation processes for IGF 2020	▪ 49 members of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) ▪ 1 face-to-face Open Consultation and MAG Meeting ▪ 1 virtual Open Consultation and MAG Meeting ▪ 21 virtual MAG meetings ▪ 4 MAG Working Groups

4   What Makes IGF 2020 Unique

The first ever entirely online IGF.

Like many events in this year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IGF had to change plans and move online. For IGF, this was a natural progression, given the Internet is the reason for the IGF's creation.

Discussions about the Internet have a unique importance in this year of the COVID-19 pandemic, when so much of our lives and economies have moved online.

The Internet Governance Forum has always developed the content of its annual meetings around the most pressing issues of the day. However, in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the world's reliance on the Internet and shone a brighter light on the reality that issues of Internet governance are not just about the Internet, but are now intimately linked to people's everyday lives and to the full breadth of other governance issues not traditionally viewed as having an Internet-dimension.

2020 takes place in the year when the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation has been released. In the roadmap, the Secretary-General recommends the strengthening of IGF via the "IGF plus" model.

The UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation has supported strengthening of the IGF as a way to contributing to building a more effective architecture for global digital cooperation. As part of this year's Phase 2 programme of discussions, there will be a main session dedicated to the topic of digital cooperation, and many sessions throughout the programme also touch on the relationship between the wider concept of digital cooperation and the specific global cooperation mechanisms that the IGF supports. For more information on the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, see:

https://www.un.org/en/content/digital-cooperation-roadmap/

The first ever Youth Summit was held in Phase 1, and youth have been integrated into the IGF programme via youth flash sessions and will be represented in the high-level leaders track in Phase 2.

Through the Summit, young people from different parts of the world, discussed ways for connecting the next generation of the Internet users and called for advancing traditional education systems through digital innovation.

Environmental issues are a main theme for the first time at an IGF – a topic of particular importance if the world is to achieve the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Several workshops have addressed environmental concerns at previous IGFs, but they have not been prominent at the IGF in the past. Where environment-linked issues have been raised, they have mostly been discussed in the wider context of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 2020 is the first year that environmental issues have been given priority and will have a main session dedicated to the issue.

New documentation and processes to aid participant and stakeholder understanding before, during and after the IGF 2020.

In the leadup to IGF 2020, the IGF Secretariat produced, for the first time, a Guide to IGF 2020 Issues and Themes. The guide contains overviews of each of the thematic tracks, as well as overarching policy questions to help guide the discussion on the themes throughout the many and varied, more specific topics under discussion in individual sessions.

To strengthen communication of session outcomes directly from session organisers, participants and rapporteurs, Key Takeaways documented in session reports are being directly distributed to Internet governance stakeholders via social media.

New social media channels have also debuted during IGF 2020.

Four thematic track Twitter accounts aimed at making it easier to follow sessions within each track, including Key Takeaways from those sessions, and to create more targeted and ongoing engagement with Internet governance stakeholders on the issues under discussion.

> https://twitter.com/igf_data
> https://twitter.com/igf_environnment
> https://twitter.com/igf_inclusion
> https://twitter.com/igf_trust

A new Instagram account. Instagram is a popular social media platform with younger people, compared to Twitter and Facebook, which both skew towards middle age and older users. The Instagram account is an additional way to attract and engage youth participation in IGF.

> https://www.instagram.com/intgovforum/

5   Key Takeaways from Phase 1

Below are all key takeaways available as of Monday 9 November, 9:00 UTC, from session organisers and rapporteurs. Short session reports are due 12 hours after a session ends; a number of session reports are still to be submitted.

Data

DC Session: Future Unclear: data and bodies in the post-pandemic times

Placing consent at the centre of the conversations around data. Data policies must consider consent & privacy not individualistic matters but collective matters. Policies must take into account economic structures that impact how tech is designed & marketed to men & women, impacting power dynamics.

OF #39 OECD – Policy responses from COVID19 and the digital economy

Although the COVID-19 pandemic has acted as a catalyst, we are still at the beginning of our journey towards the digital transformation.

A holistic regulatory approach such as the Going Digital Integrated Policy framework is needed to accompany and shape the digital transformation. Policy makers need to identify, measure and address the different digital divides linked to the use of digital technologies.

The COVID-19 crisis provides an urgent but real world context for many of the digital policy initiatives underway at the OECD, such as connectivity, digital security, privacy and data protection, artificial Intelligence and responsible data sharing.

OF #46 Beyond Personal Data: Literacy, Sovereignty and Rights

1. ICT infrastructures dev should give benefit to the country, societies, people
2. All countries should work together for integrated secured internet, PDP and increasing the digital economy
3. ASEAN countries can discuss this issue further in the next ASEAN TelMin meeting for concrete actions

Environment

None submitted to date.

Inclusion

DC Session: Equitable access to digital content: lessons from COVID-19

The session defined several key policy issues around access to content and information during the pandemic and future recovery, and suggested several ways equitable access can be expanded:

1. Access to key content, especially during the pandemic, is integral to sustaining and supporting education, employment, health, citizen participation.
2. Expanding the rollout of connectivity infrastructure and capacity-building for libraries and similar facilities helps ensure equitable access to content for the public.
3. Innovative and emerging solutions and practices also offer valuable models for supporting equitable access to content and, more broadly, digital inclusion. This includes, for example, using bands of spectrum open for public use (i.e. TV White Space) for broadening connectivity, offline internet and controlled digital lending.
4. It is also important to ensure that existing Intellectual Property frameworks and mechanisms offer a supportive policy environment that helps ensure equitable access to key content. One example of a key issue here is e-book and textbook pricing and access models.

DC Session: Fostering a new key role of Youth in Internet Governance

1. More leadership positions for youth in different stakeholder groups and capacity building opportunities not simply being in the room.
2. Ensuring sustainable and meaningful youth participation as newcomers may find the space not so intuitive and hard to stick around.
3. Solidarity and working together to understand the youth priorities and coordinating efforts to tackle these issues and have unified messages.
4. Initiate a dialogue with the different Stakeholder groups and be open for collaboration to have our voices heard.

DC Session: The Criticality of the Internet for SIDS in a global crisis

1. There was broad consensus around COVID-19 being a wake-up call for governments to accelerate digital transformation. The participants agree that COVID-19 has been accelerating the adoption of ICTs and the investments in the Internet, especially in providing connectivity;
2. Many indicated training and digital literacy as more urgent matters, while others highlighted cybersecurity and public policy on misinformation;
3. Some supported the idea that human resources and digital education are currently the main issues, especially when it comes to e-learning education and teaching. On this specific point, there is common agreement that the teaching staff is not prepared to use technology to deliver and plan lessons.

NRIs Collaborative Session: Future of jobs/work in the digital age

This session offered a diversified view of the main topic, since the speakers were from different countries and sectors. Despite the linguistic, social and cultural differences between all of them, there had been consensus regarding how challenging is the future of

job, considering the gaps related to digital skills, connectivity, infrastructure, etc, but mainly for the uncertainty people are actually experiencing. During the session, the speakers mostly explained their local or national situations, adding some good practices implemented or needs faced because of the pandemic. Italy IGF gave two strong examples of good practices, one of them was the use of Open Source with 3d printers to build respirators during pandemic. in any case, they regret more than the 40% of young people between 16 and 17 in Europe has no basic digital skills.

The session ended with some voluntary commitments, like Haiti IGF that strongly believes in the participation of women in discussions, and Panama IGF that encourages a gender focused regulation for telecommuting and teleworking. Also, Colombia IGF gave an interesting example of a law they are discussing to regulate the right of employees to have their own private sphere protected.

OF #14 Copyright and inclusion

The WIPO Marrakesh Treaty (2012) has already reached 75 contracting parties covering 101 countries and it is having major impact allowing free cross-border exchange of books for the benefit of blind or people with visually impairment.

People with disabilities (other than visual) do not have a similar instrument, however technological development offer some promising responses.

OF #31 Safe digital spaces, a dialogue on countering cyberviolence

This Open Forum served as a dialogue for shared reflection between tech companies and civil society organisations on creating multi-stakeholder approaches to counter online gender-based violence, accounting for its diverse forms and manifestations across contexts. During the panel, we gathered specific evidence and insights from women's rights and digital rights organisations, as well as tech companies and IGOs on their approaches to tackling online gender-based violence.

What emerged across many panellists' remarks was the importance of collaborative product and policy development between the tech companies, CSOs and governments. In particular, the need for tech companies and governments to learn from grassroot CSOs in order to build concrete solutions to online abuse was highlighted. This can help build more localised, effective models of content moderation and reporting flows.

While collaborative processes between CSOs, technology companies and IGOs do exist including through the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality and the Web Foundation's consultation and policy design workshop series -- there is a need for more initiatives that work across sectors.

As one panellist pointed out, there is no silver bullet to develop technology that is safe for everyone, everywhere. But co-creation and co-design between different stakeholders will help bring gender considerations into the innovation cycle.

Trust

NRIs Collaborative Session: Cybersecurity local policies and standards

The session discussed the overall landscape of cybersecurity issues within the context of National and Regional IGF initiatives and their communities. Central aspects discussed included the mechanisms and frameworks put in place in each country as means to organize cybersecurity, as well as cooperation mechanisms and efforts in local, regional and global levels. There was broad agreement on the need for improving capacity building, education and training, as well as create a culture of cybersecurity in Countries and communities. Participants were mindful of diverse initiatives addressing definitions and basic concepts for cybersecurity, as well as the involvement of international organizations in capacity building programs. There was also a call for action in cooperation in all levels.

NRIs Collaborative Session: Technical aspects of content regulation

The panelists share a common view regarding content moderation that is the big issues around disinformation and fake news online and the problems to deal with it. There are some initiatives having place in different spheres, but also a lot of challenges, basically among technical and ethical issues regarding the use of technological and legal tools, and the borders between private and public sector. Nevertheless, all the countries agree that the debate and good initiatives to tackle with this problem couldn't be postponed. It is worth pointing the experiences that use multistakeholder solutions.

OF #13 Trust Building in Cyberspace on Public Health Emergencies

Against the backdrop of the epidemic, the Internet has become an integral part of economic and social development. The international community should fully unleash the potential of digital technology to fight the epidemic and boost economic and social development. In response to the issues exposed by the epidemic, such as cyber security, the spread of false information and the lack of protection on personal information, the international community should work together to strengthen governance and promote the establishment of a trust mechanism in cyberspace.

All the actors in cyberspace should strengthen communication and cooperation, jointly explore ways to build and realize a trust mechanism in cyberspace, ensure the credible use of ecological governance and emerging technologies in cyberspace, improve legislation on the protection of personal information, and jointly respond to various global risks and challenges.

OF #25 Freedom Online Coalition Open Forum

The governments of the FOC, working closely with the multistakeholder FOC Advisory Network, will publish the Joint Statement on Spread of Online Disinformation in the coming weeks. The statement will include a call to action to governments, civil society, private sector and other stakeholders. The FOC has identified disinformation as one of the priority policy issues in 2021 and will continue to work on the topic in relevant international processes and forums.