



**BEST PRACTICE FORUM GENDER 2016:
GENDER & ACCESS
MEETING VIII (22 SEPTEMBER 2016)**

Background context: in May 2016, at the first open consultations and multi-stakeholder advisory group (MAG) meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Geneva, Switzerland, input was gathered and feedback was given on the progress and outputs of the 2015 best practice forums (BPFs), including the 2015 BPF on online abuse and gender-based violence against women. At this meeting,¹ the need was stressed for continuing to dedicate an intersessional² effort to the study of gender-related challenges where the Internet is concerned. It was decided to continue the BPF Gender in 2016 and, more specifically, to a) build on and improve the outcomes of the 2015 BPF Gender: online abuse and gender-based violence against women, and b) to dedicate the work of the BPF in 2016 to women's access to the Internet (or the gender digital divide).

1. The 8th meeting of the BPF Gender took place on 22 September 2016, and was led by Jac SM Kee and Renata Aquino Ribeiro; with Anri van der Spuy representing the IGF Secretariat.
2. The agenda (see Appendix A) for the meeting was focused on the ongoing planning and preparations for the BPF's work; taking stock of progress made thus far; providing an update regarding survey responses and working through some of the responses; providing updates regarding youth initiatives related to the topic; and continuing to populate Draft I. The meeting lasted approximately one hour, and was attended by 13 participants³.
3. Each participant was afforded the opportunity to introduce him- and herself, and an overview of the BPF's work and objectives was given for the purpose of providing relevant background information to newcomers.

Update

4. An update of progress thus far, including a description of the BPF's general tracks of work and proposed outputs, was provided.
5. It was noted that 66 responses to the survey had been received and that responses generally reflect diversity in terms of regions and stakeholder groups. The survey will remain open until 30 September, and participants were again encouraged to share the survey with relevant governments and other stakeholders.

¹ A transcript of the relevant session is available online: <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/3063>.

² 'Intersessional activities' at the IGF refer to activities that take place throughout the year, and that thus continue in the period between annual IGF meetings.

³ The meeting was kindly hosted by UNESA as a result of a fault with the IGF's Webex account. Unfortunately a recording of the meeting is not available.

6. A query regarding whether contributors could respond anonymously was raised. It was noted that while the survey does enable stakeholders to participate anonymously, there might be confusion in this regard. It was therefore agreed that stakeholders should be reminded they can contribute anonymously and/or using pseudonyms. It was also agreed that in general, comments would not be identified unless contributors were requested for consent as far as is reasonably possible.

Updating BPF 2015 work

7. It was noted that one of the two primary objectives of this year's BPF was to update last year's report in line with recent developments in the field, to raise awareness of the report, and to find ways in which to repackage content from last year's report in a way that is more accessible to a broader audience.
8. During the last meeting, the coordinators shared a roadmap of key priorities to address online abuse and gender-based violence that had been drafted. It was noted that these recommendations were extracted from last year's BPF's outcome report. While participants were encouraged to provide their input in respect of this document, only 3 further comments were received. It was noted that the finalized version would be sent to the mailing list with another opportunity for input, following which the document would be shared with Sharada for layout purposes.

The importance of youth/ girls

9. One participant provided feedback regarding the Youth Observatory's efforts to support the BPF's work. It was noted that a meeting had been held on 21 September and it was agreed that the sub-group would work together to try to raise awareness of the importance for young women, particularly in Latin America, to participate in debates about access.
10. For this reason, the group has proposed to develop a declaration from young women in the Youth Observatory that will be ready by 30 September. This declaration will provide a general framework around perceptions, with topics including how to include more women in Internet governance discussions, access, security, sexting, and digital violence. Participants agreed that this seemed to be a very useful contribution to the BPF's work, and look forward to the outcomes of this initiative.

Populating Draft I: focus on barriers

11. It was noted that as per the BPF's schedule, the meeting was supposed to primarily focus on barriers and that a framework document had been prepared on Google docs for use during the session. A new Google document was shared with the group, containing an extract from the survey responses particularly focused on gathering contributors' input on the nature of barriers.
12. The rest of the meeting was dedicated to getting participants to help identify what themes of barriers apply to each comment in order to aid the analysis. Participants were also encouraged to continue this process following the meeting.
13. As some of the contributions were in Spanish, some contributors volunteered to help translate such contributions.
14. It was also agreed that the mailing list would be used to encourage input on different aspects of the framework document between meetings.

Next steps

15. The meeting finished with a summary and the proposal of a number of follow-up actions, namely:

Action 1: encourage survey participation: participants agreed to continue efforts to encourage input in the survey through direct outreach to stakeholders.

Action 2: finalise text of roadmap derived from BPF 2015 report: It was agreed that the final text for the roadmap would be distributed to the mailing list.

Action 3: populate framework document: it was agreed that the mailing list would be used to encourage input into the extracted section from the survey by Wednesday 28 September.

Action 5: Summary of the discussion and scheduling of next meeting. A summary of the discussion will be prepared and shared on the BPF's dedicated mailing list by 26 September 2016.

Action 4: Next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on or around 6 October 2016. The Secretariat would schedule the meeting and would distribute details enabling participation.

Meeting participants:

Angie (Brazil)

Anri van der Spuy (South Africa)

Bruna (Brazil)

Dhanaraj Thakur

Eva Christina Andersson

Jac SM Kee (Malaysia)

Gary Hunt (UK)

Kat Jens (UK)

Kimberly Anastacio

Louise Marie Hurel (Brazil)

Marilyn Cade (USA)

Renata Aquino Ribeiro (Brazil)

Rocío

Sharada Srinivasan (India/ USA)

Youssof Abdelrahim (Chad)

Appendix A:

BPF GENDER & ACCESS

MEETING VIII

22 SEPTEMBER

AGENDA

1. Welcome and general update
 - Survey 66 responses
 - Less than a month to finalise draft (2 meetings after this one)
 - Parallel processes: CENB, updating IGF 2015 work, webinars
 - Have to still organize session at IGF – start giving thought

2. Populating framework document: focus on barriers
 - See Google doc for Draft I: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zx-hIniMuSbWDI2tIF2Qv1c7zkPEpEB7j6IYN4Ji9j4/edit#heading=h.2dz0rs3vj5sd>
 - See Google doc for extract from survey:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1asZtgyI33ExhVqxhASIJAPUaqFgU06HJPyCmysXCSZo/edit>

3. Next meeting
4. AOB