BEST PRACTICE FORUM GENDER 2016:
GENDER & ACCESS
MEETING IX (6 OCTOBER 2016)

Background context: in May 2016, at the first open consultations and multistakeholder 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 intersessional[2] 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 9th meeting of the BPF Gender took place on 6 October 2016, and was led 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; sharing a draft survey analysis; providing updates regarding youth initiatives related to the topic; sharing feedback on progress made to update the BPF 2015's work; and starting the work on ongoing initiatives. The meeting lasted approximately one hour, and was attended by 10 participants[3].

3. Each participant was given the opportunity to introduce him- and herself, along with his or her interest in the BPF's work.

4. Participants were reminded that whilst the meeting could not be recorded at this stage[4], a meeting summary would be shared on the BPF mailing list and uploaded to the IGF's website.

Update of progress and other news

5. An update of progress thus far, including a description of the BPF's general tracks of work and proposed outputs, was provided.

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[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.

[4] Ibid.

6. It was noted that a substantive contribution had been received from the Youth Observatory, via Bruna Martins and Louise Marie Hurel; reflecting some young women's perspectives on the challenge of access and use. These participants were thanked for their valuable contribution and it was agreed that a good way of incorporating their input in the report and at IGF 2015 will still be discussed in a future meeting.

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. A meeting was held on Friday 30 September to organize this aspect of the BPF's work. It was noted that the content of the roadmap previously prepared had now been finalized and shared with Sharada and a new participant, Radhika Radhakrishnan, for layout in infographic format. These participants were again thanked for their willingness to do this part of the work.

9. It was furthermore noted that volunteers were needed to update certain parts of the BPF 2015's work, particularly the ones on responses. While participants were encouraged to notify the rapporteur if they could help, Kat Jens volunteered to update the sections on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

10. It was noted that the session on 24 November is yet to be organized, but that it would focus mostly on hearing input from volunteers on changes in the field, talking about and sharing the results from last year, and enabling further discussion on the topic.

Review of draft 1: survey analysis of barriers

11. It was noted that the survey is now closed for input, with 68 responses having been received from a diversity of regions and stakeholder groups. Participants were thanked for their work in encouraging input.

12. It was noted that an analysis of the results had started and the first draft of this analysis was shared with participants on a Google document. Participants were encouraged to read the draft and provide input on whether they agree with the style of the analysis, or had any comments.

13. It was noted that survey respondents who identified themselves in the responses are identified in the draft. Participants agreed that this is the best approach, and that participants who did not identify themselves could be identified by country.

Part II of the BPF's work: initiatives to overcome barriers

14. In the second half of the meeting, participants were asked to support the second part of the BPF's work in 2016, namely initiatives to overcome barriers. For this purpose, a document had been prepared, listing all of the initiatives that had been gathered through the survey.

15. Participants were asked how they thought the BPF could do this part of the work best: whether it would be useful to simply list all of the existing initiatives received, or whether a 'deep-dive' would be more useful to gather best practices. Various thoughts and comments were heard on the way forward.

16. Participants agreed that in addition to a list of all of the relevant initiatives, a few initiatives would also be selected and studied in order to extract some lessons. Considering the limited time still at the BPF's disposal, however, it was stressed that the number of initiatives studied should be limited and volunteer-driven.

17. It was agreed that selection criteria for inclusion could include a primary focus on gender as well as the need to reflect diversity in terms of, for example:

    - the aim of the initiative (or the barrier it aims to address);
    - regional diversity (e.g. need initiatives that are global as well as initiatives from and focused on Latin America, Africa, Asia, for instance);
    - initiatives in both developed and developing countries.

18. Proposed questions to ask of each initiative were:

    - What specific barrier(s) did this initiative aim to address?
    - How did this initiative aim to address this barrier(s)?
    - Did the initiative face any challenges or push-back, also at societal, governmental, or individual level?
    - Is the initiative able to identify any lessons for other initiatives?

19. It was agreed that discussions around proposed questions, selection criteria and possible initiatives would be taken to the BPF's mailing list for further discussion.

Next steps

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

    Action 1: finalise draft pertaining to barriers: it was agreed that the draft pertaining to barriers, as extracted from the survey responses, would be finalised and shared on the mailing list by the next meeting.

    Action 2: agree on selection criteria and questions for initiatives: it was agreed that the mailing list would be used to encourage input pertaining to the selection criteria and questions, as well as to encourage volunteer action in this regard

    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 11 October 2016.

    Action 4: Next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on or around 20 October 2016. The Secretariat would schedule the meeting and would distribute details enabling participation.

Meeting participants:

Anri van der Spuy (South Africa)

Bruna Martins (Brazil)

Gary Hunt (UK)

Kat Jens (UK)

Louise Marie Hurel (Brazil)

Renata Aquino Ribeiro (Brazil)

Rocío

Radhika Radhakrishnan (India)

Sara Baker (USA)

Smita (India)

Appendix A:

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BPF GENDER & ACCESS

MEETING IX

AGENDA

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1. Introductions

2. Review of progress & other updates

3. Updating BPF 2015 work & webinar
    - volunteers (general trends/ Twitter/ Facebook/ community responses)
    - webinar
    - infographic

4. Review of draft 1 (barriers)

5. Populating framework document: initiatives to address barriers
    - Gender-focused
    - Outreach

6. Next meeting: 20 October (finalise section on initiatives)

7. AOB