



BEST PRACTICE FORUM GENDER 2016¹

(VIRTUAL) MEETING II (FRIDAY 17 JUNE 2016): SUMMARY

1. 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,² the need was stressed for continuing to dedicate an intersessional³ 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).

2. Meeting II

The second meeting for the 2016 BPF Gender took place on 17 June 2016 and lasted approximately 80 minutes; using a freely accessible virtual platform (Webex).⁴ The meeting was attended by 8 participants and led by Jac SM Kee and Renata Aquino Ribeiro; both of whom volunteered as MAG members to help coordinate the BPF's work in 2016.

During meeting II, participants continued the work that had commenced during the BPF's first meeting, which had taken place on 2 June 2016 (a summary of which was distributed to

¹ Note that this is the current working title for the BPF, and is subject to change when the scope of the BPF's work is decided upon.

² A transcript of the relevant session is available online: <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/3063>.

³ '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.

⁴ A meeting recording is available online: <https://intgovforum.webex.com/intgovforum/ldr.php?RCID=53424ffbb756f15b89481aa1dceadc55>.

the BPF's mailing list). The meeting was aimed at reviewing and improving the spreadsheet created to enable a mapping exercise; and to talk about further methods for outreach.

3. Feedback regarding mapping initiative

During the BPF's first scoping virtual meeting, the group decided to map existing initiatives and/or reports that are related to the gender digital divide, women and (Internet) access, and/or the empowerment of women using information and communication technologies (ICTs). The aims of this ongoing exercise include to determine whether there are any lessons to be gathered from existing work and to identify related gaps in work and research.

A document aimed at gathering such input was drafted on an open and (generally) freely accessible platform (Google sheets), and subsequently shared on the BPF's mailing list for input.⁹ During Meeting II, the participants discussed this document, the functionality of its layout and description, and potential improvements thereto. Suggestions include:

- *Regarding the location column in both the initiatives/reports tab:* it was suggested and agreed to more clearly describe the meaning of 'location' in its specific column, including national (which includes local initiatives), regional initiatives, and global initiatives. While it was pointed out that not all local initiatives may be as relevant to the overall objectives of the initiative, it was noted that local initiatives/reports may still offer useful examples.

It was further proposed to consider adding geo-locations for the purposes of enabling the mapping of initiatives/reports in a more visual manner (a potential tool is available at: <https://map.what3words.com/>). It was agreed that a visual map of the locations/regions that initiatives/reports derive from could be created at a later stage using such a tool.

- *Regarding the scope of the initiatives/reports:* it was noted that there may be confusion as to what initiatives/reports could qualify for inclusion. In other words, there was uncertainty as to whether only initiatives/reports that relate directly to the gender digital divide should be included in the document, or also (for example) initiatives/reports related to gender, access and empowerment more broadly. It was agreed that a column with a close-ended question should be included in both the initiatives and reports tabs to determine to what extent – if at all – an initiative/report includes a gender dimension. The column should therefore denote whether a(n) initiative/report is gender-blind, gender-focused or partially includes a reference or dimension of gender.

4. Proposed webinars for raising initiatives and collecting data

During the meeting, it was also suggested that a series of webinars be organized with the combined objectives of raising awareness of the BPF's work, of providing a platform for

⁹ The document is available and freely editable online:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1rYDTU_nUSr8aSJRhB84WKYLOq1AVzbbilhvt85m4vi0/edit#gid=0.

participants to learn about others' experiences related to the BPF's work, and to encourage and assist participants to contribute to the mapping initiative.

It was proposed that a series of two to three webinars be held, each with a diverse theme and potential guest speaker providing input on a specific initiative/ report and potential lessons learnt. The session(s) could thereafter be used to provide participants with assistance to contribute to the mapping initiative. It was proposed that the webinars be held at different times to cater for participants from diverse time zones.

It was agreed that Jac, Renata and Anri would lead an effort to draft an explanatory note to describe the nature and proposed objectives of the webinars, a proposed timeline and schedule, as well as a related call for participation in the BPF's work. One participant (Kat Jens) noted that she would be willing to give input on experiences from last year's BPF.

5. Participants and participation guidelines

At the start of the meeting, participants were reminded that as per IGF procedure (which prioritizes transparency and inclusivity), all meetings are recorded and recordings are available online. For safety and transparency reasons, all meeting participants were asked to introduce themselves.

Meeting participants included:

Alejandra Errasmuspe (Uruguay)

Alexandre (Brazil)

Agustina Callegari (Argentina)

Anri van der Spuy (South Africa)

Brian Gutterman (USA)

Jac SM Kee (Malaysia)

Katharina Jens (Norway)

Renata Aquino Ribeiro (Brazil)

6. Next steps

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

- *Action 1: Summary of the discussion and scheduling of next meeting.* A summary of the discussion will be prepared and shared by 22 June 2016, along with a draft outline of the proposed webinars for input from the community.

- *Action 2: Updating of collaborative mapping document for identifying areas of concern and future action.* In line with inputs received during the meeting, the spreadsheet will be updated and shared on the BPF mailing list again.
- *Action 3: Draft explanatory note for proposed webinars:* Renata, Jac and Anri will draft an explanatory note to describe the nature and proposed objectives of the webinars, as well as a related call for participation.
- *Action 4: Next meeting:* It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on 1 July 2016 at 13:00 CET (11:00 GMT), and that the Secretariat would schedule the meeting and distribute details enabling participation.