BEST PRACTICE FORUM GENDER 2016:
GENDER & MEANINGFUL ACCESS
MEETING V (THURSDAY 5 AUGUST 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 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 fifth meeting of the BPF Gender took place on 5 August 2016. Renata Aquino Ribeiro moderated and led the meeting, and Anri van der Spuy represented the IGF Secretariat. The agenda for the meeting was focused on the ongoing planning and preparations for the BPF's work, taking stock of progress made thus far, providing feedback from recent national and regional IGF meetings, gathering input regarding a survey, and talking about the BPF's proposed methodology. The meeting lasted approximately 45 minutes, and was attended by three participants[3].

2. During meeting III, participants continued the work that had started during the BPF's first three meetings (summaries of which were distributed on the BPF's mailing list). A proposed webinar to be hosted at APrIGF (Taipei, 27-29 July) was discussed, as well as a draft survey compiled with the aim of mapping existing initiatives and research in the field.

Participation at National and Regional IGF initiatives.

3. Feedback was given regarding national and regional IGF initiative sessions where the BPF participated, including APrIGF and LAC IGF. It was noted that Jac had participated at APrIGF during a session on Gender and Access and had, as part of this event, promoted the work of the BPF and invited participants to join and complete the survey.

4. It was also noted that Renata had held an informal session at LAC IGF to encourage people to join the BPF, to share experiences, and to gather input. It was noted that both Jac and

[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] A meeting recording is available online: https://intgovforum.webex.com/intgovforum/ldr.php?RCID=3170d6ac463f7837ba27ecadfa4c2606

Renata would provide summaries of the proceedings they were involved in and would share same on the mailing list.

5. It was further noted that Renata would identify future NRIs that could be used to host BPF sessions and to gather more data. Anri volunteered to liaise with the organizers of the African IGF to try to arrange a session there.

Survey

6. The remainder of the meeting was dedicated to discussing input that had been received on the survey. It was noted that a high degree of regional diversity was reflected in the result, the input was still rather limited and that each participant should do more to share input among their mailing lists.

7. It was agreed that while it might be useful to keep the survey open for input until as close as possible before the IGF, it would be necessary to close it to enable time for analyzing all input. For this reason, it was proposed to close the survey at the end of September. It was noted that if there are future events like an ICANN meeting, a further survey could be developed for gathering input.

Next steps

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

Action 1: poll for next meeting: Anri suggested to do a poll for the next meeting to see if higher participation rates could be achieved in this way.

Action 2 distribution of survey: participants were requested to share details of the survey with their mailing lists and contacts.

Action 3: 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 10 August 2016.

Action 4: Next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on or around 17 August and that the Secretariat would schedule the meeting following results from the poll, and would distribute details enabling participation.

Meeting participants:

Anri van der Spuy (South Africa)

Renata Aquino Ribeiro (Brazil)

Alejandra Erramuspe (Uruguay)