- Session Title: The battle for freedom of expression online: Where are the journalists?

- Date: Sunday December 17th 2017

- Time: 10:30 – 12:00

- Session Organizer:
- Andreas Reventlow, International Media Support (IMS)
- Daniel O'Maley, Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA)

- Chair/Moderator:
- Andreas Reventlow, International Media Support (IMS)
- Daniel O'Maley, Center for International Media Assistance (CIMA)

- Rapporteur/Notetaker: None

- List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:

- Rachel Pollack, UNESCO
- Chiranuch Premchaiporn, Prachathai
- Mira Milosevic, Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD)

- Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):

- The lack of media sector participants in global internet governance debates.
- Lack of coverage of internet governance by journalists.
- The difficulty independent media outlets are facing in terms of financial viability given the increasing role social media companies play in news distribution.
- Online attacks against journalists, particularly female journalists and people of color.

- If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation: None

- Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):

The panellists agreed that there needs to be more coordinating work to make sure that the media sector engages in internet governance debates. This is crucial because even in an age when we have access to some much news and information at our fingertips, people in many societies are not able to access high-quality, independent news content. Sometimes this has to do with government censorship, while at other times it is the result of the policies of corporate policies that put profit over news circulation. The only way to address these issues is to have journalists and media reform advocates get more involved in internet governance.

- Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs):

More capacity needs to be created to give journalists and media reformers the ability to engage in internet governance. An important part of this will be having tech companies be more receptive to individuals and groups from developing countries.

Gender Reporting

- Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session:

40

- Estimate the overall number of women present at the session:

25

- To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?

Yes, gender equality was discussed as it is an important component of creating a vibrant independent media ecosystem where all points of view are represented.

- If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion:

Gender equality was discussed within the context of the increased online violence that female journalists face. It is a problem that is pushing women out of the field of journalism. It is a problem that needs to be addressed by both governments and tech companies.