

IGF 2017 Reporting Template

- Session Title: Women and LGBTQI in the IGF
- Date: 17 Dec
- Time: 14:00-16:00
- Session Organizer: Angelica Contreras and Renata Aquino Ribeiro
- Chair/Moderator: Renata Aquino Ribeiro
- Rapporteur/Notetaker: Angelica Contreras
- List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:

Renata Aquino Ribeiro - E. I. Research

Angelica Contreras - SIG Women

All participants (interactive session and Twitter wall made available)

- Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):

- There is a need to create an official space in the agenda for the women and LGBTQI attending the multiple IGF spaces in the global IGF. A track like the Youth one.

- It is crucial to enable the exchange of knowledge, information and experiences about the nature of IGF and why it is important for gender issues.

- Networking activities are necessary to potentialize support and partnerships between groups of gender activists.

- Looking into providing information about the activities, projects and investigations on gender issues in the multiple spaces of IGF is a priority.

- If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation:

Renata Aquino Ribeiro - E. I. Research founder/IGF MAG Member Civil Society - Activists collective mobilize groups in specific issues and IGFem was a decentralized movement which was originated in an impromptu manner in several IGFs and activities associated with IGF community members for about 2 years. In IGF2016 in Mexico, IGFem as a hashtag, was used in an event in University of Guadalajara, previously to the global event, to discuss internet governance from the gender perspective. In several others NRIs, tracks or sessions named IGFWomen emerged and concentrated and created an intersectional perspective for this debate. At this interactive sessions, all participants were invited to present their thoughts on an IGFem and a [twitter wall](#) also made the conversation happen in real time, and was archived also in [pictures](#).

Angelica Contreras - ISOC SIG Women president - There is a need to monitor and improve women participation on internet governance related spaces. Since different areas have different issues, forums where people can come and share their diverse experiences are needed, an excerpt of the session reproduced on our [Diplo Report](#) The presenter wrote [an article](#) which

highlights that this session was an accomplishment for gender activists. Initiatives could be coordinated through participants dialogue, and points which worried gender activists were addressed. Also it was noted that a lot of work has been already done in the gender themes, by great activists, which continue to inspire and support others. The meeting also included men and their testimonies, since it was repeatedly noted that solutions for gender issues depend on work, education and inclusion for change.

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

Presenters and organizers opened the session stating that it was an inclusive space, which would focus on potential for the future for the IGFem theme, and imagine the topic of gender and internet governance as an intersectional activity, a track or a half day event which could encompass others in IGF. It was made clear that there should not be a division between the two genders, the idea is not to separate men and women, but rather that all genders working together for internet governance debates. Olga Cavalli, Argentina's Governmental Advisory Committee representative at ICANN highlighted the importance of gender balance in events and concrete actions like certain proposed quotas for women in jobs and positions. Valentina Pellizzer, Association for Progressive Communications, reiterated the importance of having spaces to acknowledge that there are different people, needs, and perspectives.

Examples were shared by NRI participants from by Laura Margolis from Uruguay and another participant from Lebanon on initiatives to encourage women's participation. Contreras shared the objectives of SIG (Special Interest Group) Women in the Internet Society. A participant from New Zealand shared about their IGF initiatives and diversity. The initiatives of the Open Heroines Community, and participation in ICANN on the WS2 Diversity working group were also discussed. Ms Paola Pérez, Chair of Public Policy in LACNIC, while speaking on involving both men and women in the LGBTQI community, shared how LACNIC is supporting projects in the community and mentioned the IT Women LACNIC community. LACNIC team was also present and announced funding initiatives for women in technology the organization was planning. Mentioned initiatives were also a Telegram group, and the IG Hub WhatsApp Group. One EU respondent shared their concern about copyright issues, especially EU Article 13 (link is external), which, they noted, is a threat to minorities.

In an effort to increase dialogues like IGFem, the group will work with the NRI toolkit and IGF intersessional activities spaces to promote the idea that spaces where the gender debate is necessary should continue. It was also pointed out that a new NRI, which can be allied to national, regional and subregional IGFs could be a possibility to continue the conversation.

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

The key takeaway for this session is that there is no going backwards to the way gender is being discussed in internet governance spaces. Consider it contained in a session or an activity is reduce the rich intersectionality this dialogue can bring.

A path for the future of gender debates in internet governance national, regional and subregional IGFs is to consider creating the IGFWomen track or space. It is already a reality in many NRIs and could continue to be a great motivator of participation from underserved and underrepresented communities.

The NRI toolkit and the collaborative work being developed in this intersessional activity were greatly appreciated by participants and pointed out as model for future work on building what can be a pivotal change in the IGF structure, the IGFem or IGFWomen.

Session page

<https://igf2017.sched.com/event/CR5h/women-and-lgbtqi-in-the-igf>

Gender Reporting

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

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

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

The central theme of this session was empowerment and how it was necessary to go beyond specific groups or organizations dealing with gender to transform this in a theme which can be present in all spaces in IGF and shape the dialogue. A track or an NRI IGFem or IGFWomen being the goal sought by participants and an activity which has already happened in some NRIs.

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

Sharing experiences is key to understanding gender and internet governance and it was important to consider all points of view from participants of this session. There was a round of presentations and testimonies from each participant how they saw gender themes being addressed in their internet governance dialogues. Participants were interested in building together a new NRI in association with other national, regional and subregional initiatives titled IGFem or IGFWomen.