Proposal for 2020 BPF on Gender and Access: Gender impact on shaping Internet policy

I - NAMES OF AT LEAST TWO CO-FACILITATORS (MAG member + non-MAG members as appropriate)

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II - BACKGROUND

Since its beginning in 2015, the Best Practice Forum (BPF) on Gender and Access has focused on different aspects of women's meaningful access to the Internet: online abuse and gender-based violence (2015); barriers for accessing the Internet (2016); identification of the needs and challenges of diverse women's groups with respect to Internet access (2017); and the impact of supplementary models of connectivity on women's Internet access (2018) were the topics addressed by the community. The 2019 edition of the Best Practice Forum on Gender and Access focused on the opportunities and challenges that women face to gain necessary skills to benefit from the future of work in the framework of the digital economy. During these years, the BPF Gender has worked in a bottom-up process that allowed to collect, from diverse stakeholders, valuable data and anecdotal evidence of the challenges that formed the digital gender gap. In this process something that have naturally emerged has been the evidence of lack of sufficient and meaningful participation of women and gender diverse people in the decision making process that at public and private level shape the governance of the Internet. We aim to connect the work done in the past years by the Gender and Access BPF through this fundamental piece looking transversally to the opportunities for strengthened participation of women and gender diverse people in internet-related policy processes and spaces.

III - DESCRIPTION

In 2020 we propose an assessment of internet-related policy processes and spaces through a feminist approach looking to foster participation of women and gender-diverse people, particularly young ones. We will revisit the topics which we have focused on in previous years including gender based violence, access, models of connectivity, and the most recent digital economy including social-economic new approaches for business models in tech. The aim is to look at these issues from a decision making perspective in order to identify structures or procedures that need to be transformed in order to allow the gender focused changes that enable women and gender-diverse people to fully enjoy Internet access and have an increased impact in its shaping. To examine the gender mainstreaming in these spaces and to see how effective its implementation. This includes an assessment of the way in which internet policy development considers or not processes or safe spaces for women

and gender-diverse people participation, drawing on intersectionality as a feminist methodology that examines interactions regarding sexuality, gender expression, race, caste, disabilities, religion and economic status as dimensions to explore. As a feminist internet has been embraced for example by the Canadian government as part of its policy process, perhaps this may provide opportunity to mainstream the conversation on the internet governance space to embrace feminism as an overall framework in assessing policy processes and spaces in particular towards closing the gender digital divide and gendered digital inequality. A final focus of attention of the BPF work will be identifying how to reconcile online and offline policies regarding women and gender diverse people participation and the mutual impact of the interaction of those policies on people's lives.

Cross-cutting topics :
- Community Networks policy issues
- Artificial intelligence
- Data governance
- Harms and risks online/GBV
- Digital economy
- Sustainable technologies (livelihoods, land rights, and environmental struggles)

Expected Output(s):

- An initial report that maps out issues in relation to participation of women and gender diverse people in internet-related policy processes and spaces. The report will include:
    - A map out of initiatives that are addressing these topics from feminist perspectives and consideration of intersectional issues
    - Recommendations/findings for addressing a more effective participation of women and gender diverse people in internet-related policy processes and spaces.
- Engagement of different stakeholder groups during the process of the BPF (this could be by inviting them to the calls and by running a survey).

Timeframe:

- February: Community feedback on the proposal
- March: Restarting the BPF meetings to discuss the methodology of work.
- March-Sep: Community work (calls, surveys, outreach etc)
- Oct: First draft of the report for comments.

- Nov: BPF Session at IGF 2020
- Dec: Final Output Report

IV - OUTREACH PLAN AND MULTI STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN THE WORK

As in previous years, the BPF Gender and Access will continue to focus on taking its work outside the BPF community to stimulate and expand collaboration with more stakeholders. We aim to:

- Take the findings and outcomes of the BPF Gender to spaces and forums in and outside the IG ecosystem (e.g., influence W20, local governments, regional agencies, private companies, technical standard international bodies, academic institutions, among others) to present the work that has been done and identify possibilities of implementation in concrete policies.

- Further collaboration with others working in policy with a gender perspective from a feminist approach, to avoid duplicate work, to join efforts, to build a global network and to amplify messages.

- Improve engagement with relevant DCs, other inter-sessional activities and NRIs.

Outreach and engagement through various online platforms as identified as strategic (e.g., survey, twitter conversations, webinars)