

**2018 INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM
BEST PRACTICE FORUM
GENDER AND ACCESS**

- Virtual Meeting VI, 21 September 2018, 15:00 UTC -

SUMMARY REPORT

1. The sixth meeting of the BPF Gender took place on 21 September 2018, 15:00 UTC, and was moderated by Radhika Radhakrishnan.
2. The agenda for the meeting is attached in Annex A1.
3. Each participant was given the opportunity to introduce themselves, along with their interest in the BPF's work. The list of meeting participants is attached as Annex A2 to this Report.

Summary of raised key points

BPF Gender updates -

1. *LimeSurvey*

The BPF Gender 2018 survey is now also open for contributions through LimeSurvey hosted on APC servers, and can be accessed here: <https://limesurvey.apc.org/index.php/278463?lang=en>

The survey will be open till September 30, 2018, and can be extended by 1 week, as discussed on call. Same applies for the Google Forms survey which can be accessed here: <https://goo.gl/forms/t7Qw3PKmLCIN08Pz1> We have received 13 responses to the Google Forms survey so far.

The links will be shared on all mailing lists. Please share widely with relevant contacts and networks.

2. *BPF Gender article*

Bruna and Agustina have authored an article about BPF Gender work and how one can contribute to the outputs. A draft of the article is available here and will be made live soon:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Q4rNj4quYq4UQWsGAGfG1YNbAG9FIv-UXItVVvmtZwo/edit?usp=sharing>

3. *Outreach - volunteers and focal points*

A volunteer and focal points form has already been circulated and we are continuing to receive responses on it. The form can be accessed here -

<https://goo.gl/forms/F7T4KQflR5sz293m1> We have received 30+ responses so far. We will get in touch with the respondents shortly.

4. *Upcoming Theme Calls*

Weekly theme calls would be conducted for BPF Gender in October with specific themes relating to the 2018 work. We will invite organizations working in these fields to make short presentations during the calls. The identified themes for upcoming calls are -

7th BPF Gender call (5 Oct) - Internet access for gender non-binary individuals

8th BPF Gender call (11 Oct) - Community Networks

9th BPF Gender call (19 Oct) - Public WiFi

10th BPF Gender call (26 Oct) - TV White Spaces + Zero rating

If you have any suggestions regarding potential speakers / organizations to invite, please share on the mailing list.

5. *IGF Schedule*

The IGF 2018 schedule is out and can be accessed here - https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/6785/1342

The BPF Gender session will be during 15:00 - 16:30 on Tuesday, 13th November.

We plan to collaborate with other Gender sessions at the IGF too.

6. *Other updates*

The website has been updated with information on the various ways contributions can be made for #BPFGender2018. Please access it here: <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-gender-and-access-0>

Notably, mobile messaging is now available to send in contributions. The number is +5585998380136. You can add this contact on Whatsapp, Telegram or Signal. More information on this is available on the above website link.

Key takeaways from speaker presentations -

1. *Paloma Szerman, Policy Manager for Latin America- GSMA*

- GSMA published its 2018 Mobile Gender Gap Report surveying low and middle income countries, which found that there is a significant gender gap in mobile usage. The report can be accessed here:

<https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/connected-women/the-mobile-gender-gap-report-2018/>

- LAC is a developing region with the lowest digital gender gap but aggregate data shows great inequality within the LAC region - this gap is larger in rural vs. urban areas
- LAC is also a developing region with the lowest mobile-use gap - 1.2 billion women do not use mobile internet
- Connecting women to mobile networks has shown empowering potential for women - from keeping in touch with their families and friends to helping them use time more efficiently, etc.
- Commercially, it also contributes to social and economic development
- Main barriers for women in access and use include - cost, security, operator trust, technical literacy, network quality, lack of gender-disaggregated data, and lack of focus on women.
- Some topics for researching on women's internet access and use include internet awareness, internet-device access, barriers to internet access and types of online activities
- Some recommendations for joint action include collecting disaggregate data, developing holistic and multi stakeholder policies to eliminate barriers etc.

2. *Ritu Srivastava, General Manager - Research & Advocacy, Digital Empowerment Foundation*

- Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) has many initiatives for connecting rural unconnected populations to the Internet.
- One such initiative is Wireless for Communities (W4C) through which DEF targets remote areas, geographically difficult zones and marginalised communities to provide last mile broadband connectivity using wireless technologies like unlicensed spectrum and line of sight mapping and mesh networking. Under this project, DEF with support from ISOC has connected the entire 8-acre campus of Barefoot College in Tilonia, Rajasthan, and made both the Old and New Campus completely Wi-Fi enabled in 2014.
- Over the years, DEF has trained 30 "barefoot engineers" in setting up, managing and operating wireless mesh networks.
- Under W4C, Zero Connect is an initiative of W4C program of DEF & ISOC in association with Agariya Heetrakshak Manch to connect the unreached

communities in the region and to give the Agariyas a digital voice through which they can communicate within and outside their community.

- Another initiative by the DEF is Wireless Women for Entrepreneurship & Empowerment (W2E2) which aims to create ICT-based micro-level social enterprises owned and managed by women. In an effort to create an army of grassroots-level women entrepreneurs, W2E2 provides required infrastructure (including a computer, printer-cum-scanner and wireless Internet connectivity) to 50 women selected under this project in five locations of India.

Annex A1

Meeting Agenda

1. LimeSurvey
2. BPF Gender article
3. Outreach - Volunteers, Focal points
4. Upcoming Theme calls
5. IGF Schedule
6. Presentation - GSMA (mobile gender gap report 2018)
7. Presentation - Digital Empowerment Foundation (W4C and W2E2)

Annex A2

List of participants

Agustina Callegari

Aida Mahmutovic

Angie

Anja Gengo

Anri van der Spuy

Carina Birarda

Paloma Szerman

Paula Real

Radhika Radhakrishnan

Raquel Gatto

Renata Aquino Ribeiro

Ritu Srivastava

Tracy Kadesa

YingChu Chen

