# IGF 2023 session proposal

"Different regional visions but united regional approaches: is the tension between the Internet fragmentation and national digital sovereignty inevitable? How does the multistakeholder model (MSM) fill gaps in the internet Governance processes under fragmentation risks and threats?"

**Organizer:**
**Natalia Filina (Moscow, Russia), Civil Society, Secretary of the EURALO (ICANN, At-Large)**
**On-site moderator:**
**Sebastien Bachollet, (France), Civil Society, Chair of the EURALO (ICANN, At-Large), ISOC France.**

**Speakers:**
**Pari Esfandiari**
**Laura Margolis (Uruguay)**
**Christine Kabazira (Uganda, suggested by Yuliya MORENETS (Youth IGF)**
**Glenn McKnight (Canada)**
**Abdulkarim Ayopo Oloyede**
**Tijani BEN JEMAA**
**Natalia Filina**
**Yik Chan Chin (China)  Associate Professor , Beijing Normal University  yik-chan.chin@bnu.edu.cn**

## 1.   Proposed topic
**Proposed topic is relevant both to Internet Governance and the subthemes for IGF 2023: (2) Avoiding Internet Fragmentation:**

"Different regional visions but united regional approaches: is the tension between the Internet fragmentation and national digital sovereignty inevitable? How does the multistakeholder model (MSM) fill gaps in the internet Governance processes under fragmentation risks and threats?"

**Fragmentation, Sovereignty, Balkanization, and Splinternet are terms used interchangeably to refer to the problem of Internet segmentation within the international Internet Governance (IG) discourse. However, the misinterpretation, the highlighting of some features and the ignoring of others have led to disharmony and incomprehensive understanding of the multicomponent of this concept and process.**

**Increasingly, it is becoming hard to maintain the Internet as a universal digital space with equal access and with benefits and rights for all.  The combination of polarity of interests and the lack of contractual capacity of the actors of a single internet Governance mechanism, competition within the system of**

supranational regulation, lack of consensus from those who offer various models of Internet Governance are presenting complex challenges.

We are joining together to expand the dialogue and offer a more rounded view of the challenges in preventing Internet fragmentation while observing the interests of states internet sovereignty. We also focus on the importance of a Multistakeholder Model of Internet Governance, as a way to minimize the risks of fragmentation.

## 2. Workshop content

Under this criterion, MAG members will assess the overall quality of the proposal's description: whether it is well-thought through, presents a concrete plan, and is clearly focused on one of the eight selected subthemes.

We will present views about Internet fragmentation from different regions of the world and their specific challenges in protecting the national Internet sovereignty. The purpose of this workshop which is organized by the leaders of the ICANN At-Large community from around the world, is two folds:
1. To show all components of the "Internet fragmentation" concept, to highlight the current trends and initiatives from around the world that pose Internet fragmentation risk, and to present unique concerns of different world regions over their national sovereignty. We will present views of representatives of 5 ICANN regions (Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, Europe, Asia Pacific, and North America). Each of these geographic regions have their own unique versions of Internet fragmentation and specific challenges.
2. The ICANN At-Large community consolidated work (responsible for the interests of Internet end users in the ICANN process of developing policies and in addressing issues of global Internet Governance). We will use this to demonstrate a practical example of the advantages of a multistakeholder approach to the Internet Governance, uniting and involving in the process those that are usually left out of the decision-making process.

## 3. Policy questions
Proposals should put forward up to three timely, interesting and relevant policy questions that will be addressed during the workshop. These should also relate to the proposal's expected outcomes.

We will provide a complete report of the panel discussion and the workshop's findings.

The result of this workshop will be the opening of a permanent dialogue within the IGF and establishing a working group on "Overcoming Internet fragmentation and preserving sovereignty". These will offer opportunities for continuous exchange of ideas, sharing of experiences, and potential solutions among all participants in the Internet Governance process. In addition,

## 4. Engagement and hybrid strategy.
The 2023 IGF will be a hybrid event in which participants, whether onsite or online, engage in sessions fully, meaningfully and on equal terms with one another.

We plan to have 3 to 4 speakers, some will be present in Japan and others will join remotely (depending on availability and budget), there will be an on-site moderator, an online moderator, and the opportunity for everyone to join on-site and online.

## 5. Diversity
This relates to content, process and speakers. Proposers are strongly advised to pay particular attention to ensuring as much as possible diversity in participation, including of views, gender, region, stakeholder group, and inclusion of youth, persons with disabilities, and persons from under-represented or marginalized groups, within their organizing teams as well as listed speakers, as these will be reviewed against the key diversity measures listed in the form.

The principle of diversity is supported, by geography, gender, age, and interest groups. The speakers of the session are representatives from different regions of the world (equal participation for each ICANN global region), men and women, various age groups, and present different stakeholder groups - civil society, researchers, academy, technical community and educators.  Finally,  participants are from the global north and south as well as  small island states.