Session title:
Youth IGF – EU Delegation IGF Open
Forum

Date: Day 1,
December 6, 2016

Time: 10: 45 – 11: 45

Workshop Organiser:
TaC International and the EU
Delegation to the IGF

Chairperson/Moderator:
Julie WARD, MEP,
EU Parliament and
Sabrina ABUALHAIGA, Youth IGF
France

Key questions:
Stuart HAMILTON, IFLA and
Lee HIBBARD, Council of Europe

Remote Moderator:
Marilia MACIEL, DiploFoundation

Rapporteur/Note Taker:
Yuliya MORENETS, TaC International

**List of Speakers and their
institutional affiliations:**
Key foreword:
Pilar DEL CASTILLO, MEP and
Megan RICHARDS, European
Commission

Message from:
Lambert van NISTELROOIJ, MEP,
EU Parliament

Interventions from: Young
representatives from Youth IGF
meetings in 15 countries

Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):
-   Participation of the young in the Internet Governance processes
-   Empowerment of the young in the field of Internet Governance

- Importance of the Youth IGF

If there are Presentations during the workshop session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation

Over 150 participants attended the Open Forum Youth IGF – EU Delegation on the Day 1 of the United Nations Internet Governance Forum on December 6, 2016. The EU Delegation to the IGF was composed of 12 MEPs from different political groups of the European Parliament with Mrs. Pilar Del Castillo acting as head of the delegation. The European Commission was also present and its representation was headed by Mrs. Megan Richards.

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

During the Forum it was underlined that the multi-stakeholder model is of particular importance in the field of Internet Governance. Youth represents one of the layers of the multi-stakeholder model, maybe one of the most important. The opinion of young people on different aspects of Internet Governance such as security or the Internet of Things is important to all and of particular interest to the European Parliament. The young are advanced digital users in their daily lives and their vision and Internet habits are crucial. Their vision is the future and should be among the top priorities to be taken into account for the development of legal frameworks and in policy development work.

The arrival of the Internet in our lives over the last 20 years has brought many benefits but also a number of hazards. The young need to ensure that the benefits and advantages of the Internet will dominate in the future. This is their role, which is very important.

The Youth IGF - EU Delegation was underlined as being an important event in providing the opportunity to begin a reflection on how the young can participate more actively in dialogues with decision-makers. Youth IGF events can help to convey to decision-makers the opinion of the young, who will determine how things will work in the future and make choices about the development of the Information Society based on fundamental human principles. In this sense, the Open Forum was described as unique.
Youth IGF events can be in terms of cooperation and development a reference point in a number of countries for other young people on how to establish their own ICT company or business. And this could be a benefit for societies in terms of quality of life and the stimulus it will bring to the entrepreneurship sector.

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

In their messages to the decision-makers, the young underlined the need of the world's youth for capacity-building in different aspects related to the Internet Governance, among them safe and responsible use of the Internet, a culture of cybersecurity, privacy, entrepreneurship, Internet functionality, Internet ethics and on how to distinguish a trustworthy source online from a fake. They underlined the importance of the availability of training sessions in local languages and that these be accessible in different regions of the world. It was also emphasized that media literacy needs to be part of the school curricula.

The young argued that they need the help from leaders not only on how to set up a Youth IGF meeting, but how to make it sustainable. As quite often the young do not have enough influence and they need the different generations to help them, support from decision-makers is particularly important.

The youth of different regions also need to work together, since through collaboration and cooperation the voice of the young will only be stronger. The diversity of youth is really important and needs to be reflected in the sphere of Internet Governance.
It was agreed that Internet has to be a force for good, a force for peace, and has to be a force to bring us together. The Youth IGF could be a step that will help place the Internet in the vanguard of intercultural dialogue, which will help to build a safer and better, more peaceful world and which will allow us to live together in harmony.