

Internet Governance BAROMETER (FEBRUARY 2017)

IG Barometer indicates the presence of specific IG issues in the public policy debate in comparison to the previous month

Global IG architecture



Microsoft has called for a Digital Geneva Convention,[link](#) outlining six aims, and calling on both governments and the private sector to do more in the area of cybersecurity. In a similar, unrelated post, an Indiana University professor asks whether cybersecurity should be a human right.[link](#) Both posts emphasise the involvement of International and Digital Geneva as a centre for UN efforts to ensure global cybersecurity.

A new global multistakeholder body – the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace – was launched during the Munich Security Conference. It is tasked with developing proposals for norms and policy initiatives to improve the stability and security of cyberspace.[link](#)

Sustainable development



At the South Asian Speakers' Summit on Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals,[link](#) speakers of parliaments from South Asian countries adopted the Indore Declaration,[link](#) which outlines a series of recommendations on how parliaments can contribute to the implementation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Technology industry body techUK called on G20 countries to prioritise innovation and digital technologies as key towards achieving the UN SDGs, and presented a series of recommendations.[link](#) GSMA and the UN Foundation launched the initiative Big Data for Social Good to accelerate the mobile industry's input to achieving the SDG.[link](#)

Security



The US delegate to the UN GGE has suggested that the group focuses on operationalising existing norms,[link](#) i.e, on ensuring that already-defined norms are implemented.

The second edition of the *Tallinn Manual*, which describes the international law applicable to state actions in cyberspace, was published in February.[link](#)

E-commerce and Internet economy



Uber announced that it will suspend its services in Taiwan, after authorities ruled that operating as an Internet-based platform was illegal.[link](#)

A Brazilian labour court ruled that an Uber driver is an employee of the company and is entitled to workers' benefits.[link](#)

Malta has proposed that Europe should become the Bitcoin continent. 'The rise of crypto currencies can be slowed... but cannot be stopped.'[link](#)

Digital rights



The continuing Internet ban in English-speaking areas of Cameroon is paralysing banks and affecting the economy.[link](#) The UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression urged the government to restore the services.[link](#)

Facebook and Google are co-operating with French news organisations to minimise the risk of fake news affecting France's upcoming presidential election.[link](#) Internet companies are introducing fact-checking tools.[link](#)

Ireland's Data Protection Commissioner is challenging Facebook's model contracts, a legal arrangement under which the data of EU citizens is transferred across the Atlantic.[link](#)

Comments made by the Secretary of the US Department of Homeland Security suggested that the department could require non-US travellers on their way to the US to disclose passwords to their social media accounts as a condition of entering the country.[link](#) A coalition of human rights and civil liberties organisations expressed concern.[link](#)

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Jurisdiction and legal issues



A Philadelphia judge ruled that Google must comply with FBI search warrants, for Gmail messages stored outside the USA, as a part of a domestic fraud investigation. [Google will appeal.](#)

The European Parliament has reached an agreement which will soon allow Europeans to fully use their on-line subscriptions to digital content when travelling within the EU. [EU.](#)

The Swedish Court of Patent and Market Appeals ordered [an Internet service provider \(ISP\) to block access to The Pirate Bay and Swedish streaming portal Swefilmer.](#) In the UK, Google and Microsoft reached an agreement with the UK government and the creative industry to limit pirated films and music online. [UK.](#)

Infrastructure



ICANN proceeded with the delegation of the .africa top-level domain (gTLD), [after a decision by a California Superior Court.](#)

The race to deploy 5G in the market has sped up. The ITU has agreed the minimum network requirements of 5G networks, [while Verizon announced a commercial pilot 5G deployment by mid-2017.](#)

An overview of the status of Internet Protocol (IP) address space in 2016, published by APNIC's Chief Scientist, shows that the number of individual allocations of IPv6 addresses rose by some 20% in 2016 compared to 2015. [APNIC.](#)

Cisco's *2017 Annual Cybersecurity Report* suggests that spam accounted for 65% of the total e-mail volume in 2016, [and that the volume of spam last year is close to the record levels seen in 2010.](#)

Net neutrality



The US Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has set aside [its January 2017 report on zero-rating practices,](#) which had concluded that zero-rating services offered by AT&T and Verizon presented risks to consumers and competition.

Chinese company Alibaba is considering providing free Internet in India and is currently in negotiations with telecom operators and WiFi providers in the country. [It remains to be seen what kind of Internet services the company will provide.](#)

New technologies (IoT, AI, etc.)



AT&T, IBM, Nokia, Palo Alto Networks, Symantec, and Trustsonic have formed the IoT Cybersecurity Alliance, aiming to 'help customers address IoT cybersecurity challenges, demystify Internet of Things (IoT) security, and share best practices'. [A report on The Internet of Evil Things](#) shows that connected devices will be a major security issue in 2017.

According to the GSMA [and Machina Research,](#) Low Power Wide Area (LPWA) connections are set to exceed 2G, 3G, and 4G and become the leading technology for the IoT, with 1.4 billion connections by 2022.

The application of drones for different services continues to grow, as Dubai plans to introduce flying drone taxi services next July. [Dubai.](#)