

Internet Governance BAROMETER (NOVEMBER 2016)

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

Global IG architecture



The Wuzhen Report, adopted after the 3rd WIC this month (16-18 November, Wuzhen), referred to five future trends in Internet governance, including: countries will agree on more international rules that respect sovereignty, and multilateral and 'multi-party' participation will become the norm. Preparations for this year's IGF are well under way, while the call for nominations for members of the 2017 Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) has been launched.

Sustainable development



The ITU's *Measuring the Information Society Report 2016* refers to the role of ICTs in monitoring the SDGs, and looks at the 6 of 230 indicators that are explicitly related to ICTs. Korea tops the global ICT Development Index (IDI) for a second straight year.

Security



The Council of Europe marked the 15th anniversary of the Cybercrime Convention during the Octopus Conference (16-18 November), which recognised that attacks against critical infrastructure, fraud, hate speech, and terrorist activities are major threats. China has adopted a cybersecurity law to counter cyberthreats. A secure communication line connecting the Kremlin and the White House was reportedly activated by the US government on 31 October. The UK has approved its new National Cyber Security Strategy. US experts have asked for governmental intervention to secure IoT, through regulations and public policy, while US Congress members are in favour of industry best practices.

Privacy and human rights



The UK Parliament has adopted the controversial Snoopers' Charter, which has been criticised as intrusive to privacy and described as disproportionate. Turkey blocked access to social media websites due to civil unrest; the country's Prime Minister acknowledged that 'from time to time for security reasons [they] can use such measures'. The EU-US Privacy Shield was challenged a second time over its alleged inadequacy. Internet freedom declined for a sixth consecutive year, the *Freedom of the Net* report concluded. New statistics revealed that almost half of US Internet users have experienced online harassment, abuse, or invasion of privacy.

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Infrastructure



China has built a 712-km quantum communication line between Shanghai and Hefei, making it the longest quantum network in use. [↗](#) Among the outcomes of WTSA-16 is a call for the ITU's standardisation arm to expand its study related to smart 5G systems. [↗](#) GSMA has called on governments and regulators to commit to supporting the needs of 5G spectrum allocation. [↗](#) Businesses are still reluctant to adopt cloud computing due to security concerns. [↗](#) The Internet Architecture Board (IAB) is encouraging standards-developing organisations to ensure support for IPv6. [↗](#)

Net neutrality



The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) launched a hearing on differential pricing practices, after complaints over zero-rating practices introduced by an ISP. [↗](#) In the UK, a similar debate is likely to resurface after a major telecom operator introduced a zero-rating data plan. [↗](#) In Morocco, the Telecommunications Regulatory National Agency (ANRT) has lifted the ban on VoIP services. [↗](#)

E-commerce and Internet economy



China and Pakistan are proposing to work on the promotion and facilitation of cross-border trade in goods enabled by the Internet. [↗](#) India will start imposing a 15% service tax on content from overseas providers. [↗](#) Google is expected to reach a tax settlement with the Indonesian government to pay back-taxes and fines. [↗](#) The Swiss Federal Department of Finance called for an easing of the regulatory framework for fintech providers. [↗](#) Senegal announced the introduction of a virtual currency. [↗](#) Sweden's Riksbank is studying the possibility of issuing e-krona. [↗](#)

Jurisdiction and legal issues



Russia has blocked LinkedIn over the social network's failure to move Russian users' data to servers located in Russia. [↗](#) Following the US Presidential election, Internet companies Google, Facebook, and Twitter faced criticism regarding the spread of 'false information' on their platforms. [↗](#) Indonesia has passed new legislation allowing people who are acquitted in court cases to apply for the 'right to be forgotten'; the law requires web administrators to remove the actual content. [↗](#)

IANA transition



CCWG-Accountability made progress on several areas related to ICANN's accountability, [↗](#) including agreement on Draft Supplementary Rules for the Independent Review Process, [↗](#) and the development of a set of questions [↗](#) to identify existing accountability mechanisms within ICANN's supporting organisations and advisory committees.