

Internet Governance BAROMETER (JUNE 2016)

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

Global IG architecture



According to the Global Commission on Internet Governance (GCIg), the Internet can evolve in one of three directions: it can become a broken cyberspace, feed unequal gains, or foster unprecedented progress. The GCIg report, [presented at the OECD meeting in Cancun in June](#), claims the Internet's future depends on a 'new social compact'.

Sustainable development



The first Multi-stakeholder Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals [stressed that enabling environments for Science, Technology, and Innovation are critical to achieve the SDGs.](#)

'ICT will be the difference between attaining the goals and failing to even come close' – the GIP head said in an interview in *The Guardian*.

The Commonwealth's ICT ministers endorsed a strategic plan from the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO) for 2016–2020, [underlining the importance of sustainable development through ICTs, and linking the CTO's activities to the SDGs.](#)

Security



NATO has declared cyberspace its fourth operational domain, in addition to air, land, and sea. The decision will enable NATO to offer protection against cyberattacks, and to develop capabilities to protect countries' cyber networks.

The UK House of Commons has passed a revised version of the Investigatory Powers Bill (Snoopers' Charter), [in which companies can be asked to remove encryption that they themselves have put in place, if this is technically feasible and not unduly expensive.](#)

A database of almost 33 million Twitter accounts, [and a Windows zero-day flaw](#), [go for sale on the Dark web.](#)

A Joint Framework for the USA-India Cyber Relationship, focusing on cybersecurity, is expected to be finalised soon.

In a white paper on cybersecurity norms, [Microsoft proposes a set of offensive, defensive, and industry norms for both governments and the ICT industry.](#)

Privacy and human rights



The EU and USA have agreed on the final changes to the EU-US Privacy Shield. [The new framework is expected to be adopted in July.](#)

In Russia, a bill passed as part of new anti-terrorism laws is proposing mandatory cryptographic backdoors in all messenger applications. [Encryption backdoors would enable government authorities to obtain access to all Internet communications within the country.](#)

Online expression is more and more affected by private networks, and by platforms created, maintained, and operated by ICT companies and organisations, as well as governments. The newly released 2016 report from the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression [makes seven recommendations, and includes extensive public input.](#)

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Infrastructure



Only 12% of Internet users connect over IPv6, new Google statistics have revealed. [↗](#)

The European Commission plans to modernise the European Standardisation System through a Joint Initiative on Standardisation (a dialogue process to speed up and streamline the standard-setting process), among other initiatives. [↗](#)

As of January 2017, applications in Apple's App Store can only use HTTPS connections. [↗](#) The so-called App Transport Security (ATS) feature will become mandatory for developers.

Net neutrality



The EU telecom regulators' body BEREC has published draft guidelines on the implementation of new net neutrality rules, [↗](#) aimed at clarifying certain grey areas in the EU net neutrality rules adopted in December 2015. The guidelines suggest that regulators should decide on zero-rating 'depending on the market share of both the operator and the company providing the free content'.

The US appeals court for the District of Columbia Circuit has upheld the net neutrality rules introduced by the Obama administration. [↗](#) The legal battle will continue as telecommunication companies are expected to appeal further.

E-commerce and Internet economy



During the OECD Cancun meeting, countries agreed on a range proposals, [↗](#) including using 'multi-disciplinary capabilities [...] to look beyond the ICT sector to look at how to make policies in everything from tax and trade to transport ready for the digital era.' [↗](#)

The European Union has issued non-binding guidelines on the sharing economy, [↗](#) aimed at reaping the benefits of new business models, and addressing concerns over the uncertainty of rights and obligations arising from the sector. Meanwhile, Berlin's administrative court upheld a de facto ban on short-term rentals, [↗](#) affecting Airbnb and other short-term letting agencies.

In India, purchases made online will attract a uniform Goods and Services Tax as of April 2017, according to a newly approved model law; [↗](#) in Russia, a new law is set to impose VAT on foreign Internet companies selling online content. [↗](#)

Jurisdiction and legal issues



An Israeli court has approved a \$400 million class action against Facebook, and ruled that the California jurisdiction clause in Facebook's terms of use is invalid. [↗](#)

A Paris attack victim's father has accused Google, Facebook, and Twitter of offering 'material support' to terrorists, [↗](#) claiming that they knowingly permitted recruitment of terrorists, fundraising, and the spread of extremist propaganda.

A US appeals court has ruled that video-sharing website Vimeo cannot be held liable for copyright infringement for unknowingly hosting older music uploaded by its users. [↗](#) This represents a win for the online platform, and a blow to record labels.

IANA transition



The NTIA has confirmed [↗](#) that the IANA stewardship transition proposal meets the criteria necessary to complete the privatisation of the IANA functions.

In the USA, Sen. Ted Cruz proposed a bill [↗](#) requiring Congress to approve the IANA stewardship transition to the global multistakeholder community.

The Cross Community Working Group on Enhancing ICANN Accountability (CCWG-Accountability) has started working on additional areas to improve ICANN's accountability (the so-called Work Stream 2). [↗](#)