



REPORTING DAILY FROM THE 11th INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

dig.watch/igf2016

IGF Daily prepared by the Geneva Internet Platform with support from the IGF Secretariat, ICANN, the Internet Society, and DiploFoundation

Highlights of Day 1

As predicted yesterday, the discussions during Day 1 – the first official day of the 11th Internet Governance Forum – centred on sustainable development, cybersecurity, human rights, new technologies, trade, and legal and ethical issues.

Sustainable development

Connecting people who are still unconnected is one of the priorities for closing the digital divide. Yet, digital connectivity requires much more than access to the Internet. The session Exploring Demand Side Drivers of Internet Adoption looked at some of the reasons why many people are still not using the Internet even though they have access. These range from not recognising the benefits of the Internet, to not knowing how to use it. Lack of interest is possibly a bigger hindrance than the availability or affordability of access.

The sustainable development goals (SDGs) cannot be achieved without the involvement of the people whose lives they affect. They cannot be imposed; they have to be owned by billions of people all over the world. In making the SDGs effective through inclusiveness, the Internet and private-public partnerships are essential, as was highlighted in the session Assessing the Role of Internet Governance in the SDGs. Speakers felt that the SDGs cannot be fulfilled until universal and affordable access to ICTs and the Internet is achieved.



Credit: Glenn McKnight

E-commerce and trade

A number of recent trade negotiations have been criticised due to the lack of transparency with which they were conducted. The session on Aligning Multistakeholder Norms and the Digital Trade Agenda stressed the major tension between, on one hand, the veil of secrecy over trade negotiations and, on the other, openness and transparency as fundamental principles of the Internet. Thus, the digital aspects of secretly negotiated trade agreements may be inherently unstable and difficult to implement.

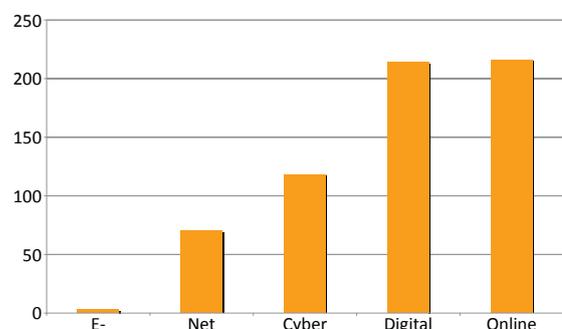
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PREFIX MONITOR

The choice of prefixes is increasingly specific to the digital policy context: *cyber* (security), *digital* (development), *online* (human rights), etc. DiploFoundation has been observing this trend and following other elements of language evolution in the digital policy field for the last ten years.

The Prefix Monitor for Day 1 of IGF 2016 (6 December) shows the increasing relevance of the prefixes *digital* and *online*. The frequent use of *digital* may be due to the focus of discussion on development issues, including SDGs, during the first day. In addition, after the introduction of the EU's Digital Single Market policy, the prefix *digital* is increasingly seen in the economic field (where previously we saw dominance of the prefix *e-*, such as e-commerce and e-trade). The prefix *online* signals focus on human rights and cultural issues such as online education. *Cyber*, associated mainly with security discussions, featured less during the first day of the IGF. Use of the previously prominent prefix *net* has dropped significantly, mainly related

to the lower presence of NETmundial in the IG debate. *E-* is on the road to extinction. These results are based on analysis of 26 transcripts from Day 1 of the IGF. Follow trends on the Prefix Monitor in the coming days!



Continued from page 1

Although emerging trade deals often highlight the conflicting interests of the business sector and civil society, the two stakeholder groups generally share similar concerns with respect to privacy and data localisation.

Apart from the issue of transparency, the plans of the US President-elect for the various trade agreements has led to uncertainty, after the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) was scrapped, and negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) put on hold.

Cybersecurity

'Cybersecurity is on everyone's mind' was an echoing message from Cybersecurity Initiatives in and by the Global South. The session's discussion stressed the interplay between cybersecurity, trade and innovation, and development. This interplay puts what were once separate policy communities in the same boat. Security professionals, programmers, and business people, among others, have to work together in order to address an increasing number of crisis situations. The complexity increases with the need to co-operate across national borders. Joint capacity building and training was highlighted as a way of building trust among different policy cultures.

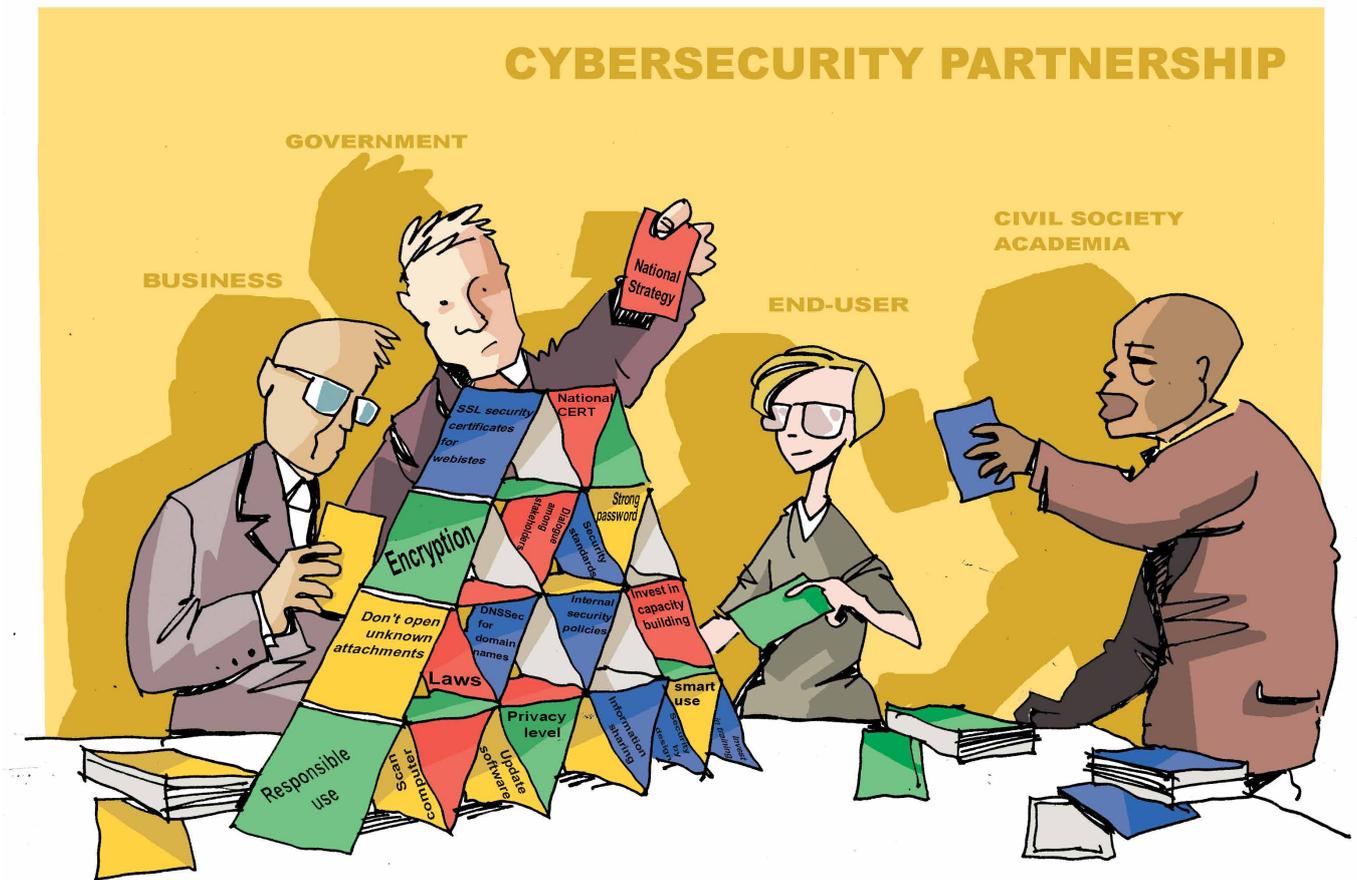
A challenging aspect of cybersecurity is to train people with the required technical skills but also to help achieve a legal, economic, and social understanding of cybersecurity problems. As one speaker noted, this is a collaborative effort, rather than specific to the technical community or to governments.

The issue of online child sexual abuse is still very much a reality; in most cases, the victims are under 10 years of age. The session on WePROTECT: Combating Online Child Sexual Abuse with the MSM introduced the work of the alliance in 70 countries, with the aim of stopping online child sexual abuse and exploitation. A number of technologies – such as Microsoft's PhotoDNA – are used by agencies to detect illegal content as fast as possible. Similarly, measures such as helplines and hotlines facilitate the reporting of content.

The role of intermediaries

In recent years, the role of intermediaries was under focus for different reasons. Companies have had to integrate human rights considerations – such as privacy and data protection – into their business practices. Speakers in Implementing Human Rights Standards to the ICT Sector agreed that companies today understand that such considerations are not only tied to ethical reasons, but also impact their reputation and, ultimately, their bottom line. It is companies and investors who are today raising the need for transparency from a human rights perspective. As to the liability of intermediaries, while platforms should not be responsible for content shared by users, they still have a responsibility to respect and protect human rights.

The issue of transparency of algorithms gained prominence following remarks by the German President last month. The discussion, in Security, Privacy and the Ethical Dimensions of ICTs in 2030, referred to the ethical and value aspect of algorithms. Ethics is the new green, and engineers and the Internet should be part of the movement, a speaker said.



Jurisdiction

Uncoordinated efforts or inaction to solve jurisdiction challenges – raised due to the transborder nature of the Internet – could come at a high cost for the future of the digital economy, human rights, and cybersecurity, a speaker warned during the Open Forum on Internet and Jurisdiction.

One suggestion was for the development of a set of process standards that would involve the entire process from the beginning (the point at which a request for data, content takedown, or domain takedown originates) to the end, without necessarily making the determination as to which territory has jurisdiction.

A call for common global standards for resolving jurisdictional challenges was also made, since court decisions at national level are being applied to services globally, extending the jurisdictional arm beyond borders. While governments are aware of the importance of cross-border access to user data for law enforcement, they are not sufficiently aware of the jurisdictional challenges related to the Internet.

Internet of Things (IoT)

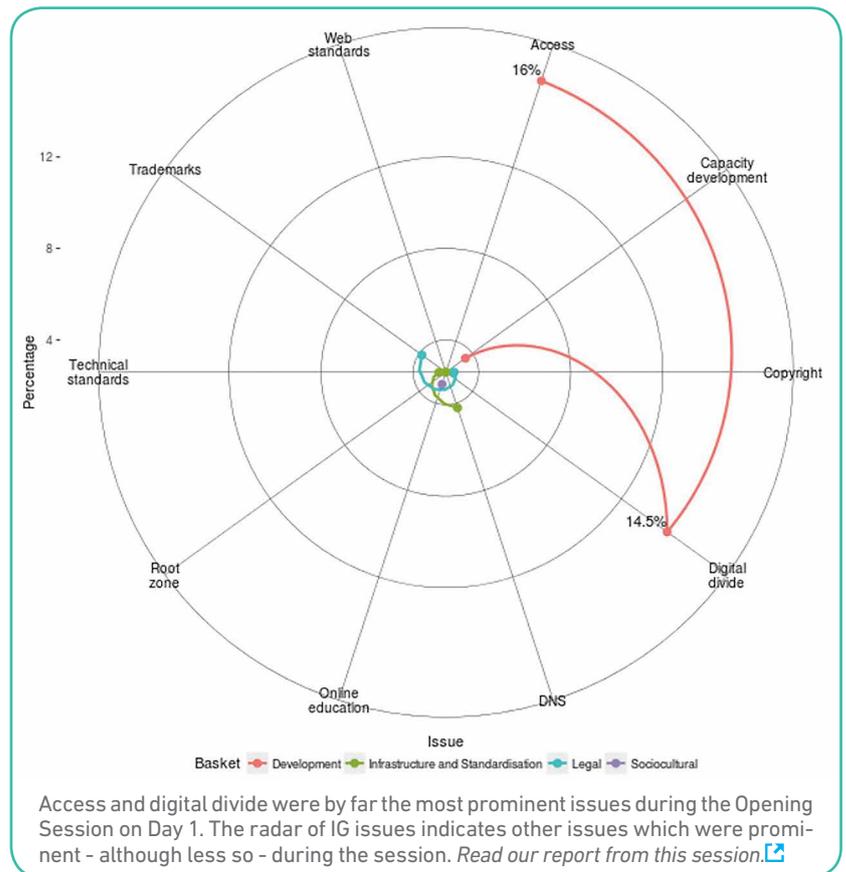
Last month's cyberattack utilising smart devices brought the security of the IoT into focus. This opened the issue of regulating this aspect. Speakers in the session of the Dynamic Coalition on the Internet of Things suggested that best practices be put in place, although this renders their implementation a challenge. At the same time, users of devices also share a responsibility to keep their devices secure.

Other recommendations, made during The Network of Networked Things: Finding the Internet in IoT, included a call for practical collaboration to ensure standards can be widely adopted, the need to ensure interoperability, and a call for implementing IPv6. Since the IoT is considered an enabler for development, IoT solutions need to be brought closer to developing countries.

Gender gap

Women experience barriers to access more acutely due to social norms and structural inequalities. This gender gap was tackled from different perspectives. More women need to be encouraged to connect to the Internet given the opportunities that access can bring. The industry also needs to ensure that more women can get the family support they need to encourage them to get into the labour force.

In the otherwise still male-dominated digital field, the IGF has succeeded in achieving gender balance in all layers of IGF demography,



from members of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), via session organisers and speakers, through to participants.

Values and Ethics in the Online World

Values and ethics are increasingly crucial to addressing challenges of the modern world. The IGF reflects this trend by having two sessions on this theme on Day 1. The session on Dynamic Coalition on Core Internet Values tried to focus on technical values but discussions proved that it is difficult to separate technical values from broader societal values. The question of how the ethos of the technical community affects society arose during a discussion on algorithms, protection of privacy, and cybersecurity, among other topics.

The session on Security, Privacy and the Ethical Dimensions of ICTs in 2030 put trust (and the lack of it) in focus during a discussion on values. While discussions restated the importance of trust for cybersecurity and the overall online world, it was difficult to define trust, let alone to ascertain a clear approach to building it. Trust will remain one of the main challenges for online communities.

DON'T MISS TODAY

Geneva Internet Platform: Building IG hubs worldwide (Open Forum 21)

Wednesday, 7th December, 17.00 - 18.00, Workshop Room 10 (PALCCO)

The session will provide an update on the Geneva Internet Platform (GIP) initiative, and showcase the experience of GIP local hubs that have started operating worldwide, as platforms to discuss local and global aspects of Internet governance. A discussion will be held on how the hubs contribute to creating synergies among different layers of governance and to strengthen collaboration among stakeholders from the developed and developing world. Learn more

INTERPLAY OF IG ISSUES

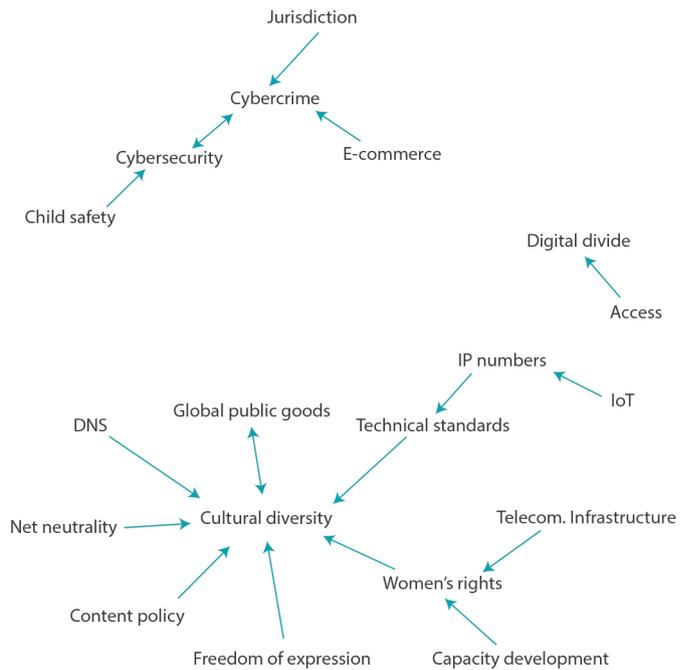
IG issues are highly interconnected, and cannot be addressed effectively in isolation from each other. Our analysis of 26 session transcripts from Day 1 shows the initial cluster of IG issues.

So far, we can identify three main clusters. The security cluster has cybercrime in the centre with links to cybersecurity and child safety.

Jurisdiction (legal basket) and e-commerce (economic basket) are identified to be in linguistic proximity to security discussions. This cluster reconfirms the general trend observed by the Geneva Internet Platform’s observatory of the increasing interplay between cybersecurity, online jurisdiction, and e-commerce.

The development cluster shows the expected interplay between digital divide and access. New interplays, that need further analysis, are visible in the third cluster with cultural diversity in the center and women’s rights online as a sub-center.

Diplo’s CreativeLab team will monitor and analyse developments in this interplay. More will follow after Day 2!



Interview with...



As President and Chief Executive of the Internet Society, KATHY BROWN has raised many issues related to the development of the Internet, and has been involved in policy initiatives that promote the openness of the Internet. We caught up with her at the 11th Internet Governance Forum, to talk about her thoughts on sustainable development, the Internet Society’s priorities for 2017, and plans for the community for next year.

Last year, world leaders agreed on an ambitious development agenda. What is the Internet’s role in achieving the SDGs?

We believe the Internet has brought the world closer together. It is an instrument of peace. It provides the elements humanity needs to connect, communicate, and collaborate with each other. The Internet is a critical enabler for sustainable development. As the UN’s SDGs endeavor to build an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future for people and the planet, the Internet can serve as a powerful partner.

What are the main challenges to achieving this?

At the same time, the world is changing. Internet progress is uneven and threatened by the scope and breadth of issues that have grown, just as the Internet itself has grown.

The lack of affordable access to the Internet and the disparity in levels of access across the world remains a key policy challenge as well as a challenge to our shared future. It is still the case that just under half the world’s population does not have Internet access.

And we now see a wave of security-related issues that are defining the Internet on a daily basis. Issues such as blocking of content, privacy, mass surveillance, cybercrime, hacking, and fake news are all contributing to what is now a growing global erosion of trust among users.

What are the Internet Society’s priority areas in relation to sustainable development?

Access and trust deserve our undivided attention in 2017 and beyond. The Internet Society has worked to promote ICTs in development since we formed in 1992. We are committed to working with multistakeholder partners to integrate the Information Society with sustainable development to fulfill the Internet’s development potential.

How can stakeholders advance other priority areas related to digital policy?

The Internet ecosystem was built to draw on the experience, expertise, and collaboration of diverse stakeholders, including the technical community, the private sector, governments, and civil society. It is inclusive by design and it is this inclusiveness that is its strength. Whether the issues are related to ensuring the robustness and resiliency of Internet security and privacy, advancing the deployment and development of core Internet infrastructure, or any number of other challenges, we need to come together to address issues in ways that do not undermine the fundamental design principles of the Internet.

That is why collaboration, partnership – like the one between the Internet Society and DiploFoundation and the Geneva Internet Platform – is so critical. By working together we learn about each other, we listen to each other, and we build on our collective strength to agree a way forward.