BEST PRACTICE FORUM GENDER 2016:
GENDER & ACCESS
MEETING 10 (22 OCTOBER 2016)

Background context: in May 2016, at the first open consultations and multistakeholder advisory group (MAG) meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Geneva, Switzerland, input was gathered and feedback was given on the progress and outputs of the 2015 best practice forums (BPFs), including the 2015 BPF on online abuse and gender-based violence against women. At this meeting,[1] the need was stressed for continuing to dedicate an intersessional[2] effort to the study of gender-related challenges where the Internet is concerned. It was decided to continue the BPF Gender in 2016 and, more specifically, to a) build on and improve the outcomes of the 2015 BPF Gender: online abuse and gender-based violence against women, and b) to dedicate the work of the BPF in 2016 to women's access to the Internet (or the gender digital divide).

1. The 10th meeting of the BPF Gender took place on 22 October 2016, and was led Renata Aquino Ribeiro, with Anri van der Spuy representing the IGF Secretariat.

2. The agenda (see Appendix A) for the meeting was focused on the ongoing planning and preparations for the BPF's work; taking stock of progress made thus far; sharing feedback on progress made to update the BPF 2015's work; and sharing progress made on mapping on initiatives according to barriers to women's access. The meeting lasted approximately one hour, and was attended by seven participants[3].

3. Each participant was again given the opportunity to introduce him- and herself, along with his or her interest in the BPF's work.

4. Participants were reminded that whilst the meeting could not be recorded at this stage[4], a meeting summary would be shared on the BPF mailing list and uploaded to the IGF's website.

Update of progress and other news

5. An update of progress thus far, including a description of the BPF's general tracks of work and proposed outputs, was provided.

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[1] A transcript of the relevant session is available online: http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/3063.

[2] 'Intersessional activities' at the IGF refer to activities that take place throughout the year, and that thus continue in the period between annual IGF meetings.

[3] The meeting was kindly hosted by UNESA as a result of a fault with the IGF's Webex account. Unfortunately a recording of the meeting is not available.

[4] Ibid.

Part II of the BPF's work: initiatives to overcome barriers

6. Most of the meeting was dedicated to reviewing the input that had been received on the mailing list and through the survey to support a thorough mapping of initiatives that aim to help enable women's access.

7. Since the previous meeting, a group of volunteers had helped to research initiatives submitted, and to provide a description for each, using Google maps to enable simultaneous collaboration between stakeholders from diverse regions (in India, Brazil, Netherlands, USA). Where necessary, volunteers had conducted additional research to find out more about some initiatives. The initiatives were not only organized according to the region it focuses on, but also according to the barrier(s) each initiative tries to address.

8. The meeting participants not only reviewed this progress, but also decided to select at least one initiative per barrier and to ask volunteers to research such initiative in more detail, or in a so-called 'deep-dive' exercise.

9. For this purpose, a document had been prepared, listing all of the initiatives that had been gathered through the survey. This document was shared with the participants, and participants were reminded that the selection criteria for inclusion would include a primary focus on gender as well as the need to reflect diversity in terms of:

    - the aim of the initiative (or the barrier it aims to address);
    - regional diversity (with a focus on regional initiatives instead of global initiatives) and;
    - initiatives in both developed and developing countries.

10. It was agreed that volunteers would use certain predefined questions to guide the deep-dive exercise, namely:

    - What specific barrier(s) did this initiative aim to address?
    - How did this initiative aim to address this barrier(s)?
    - Did the initiative face any challenges or push-back, also at societal, governmental, or individual level?
    - Is the initiative able to identify any lessons for other initiatives?

11. The rest of the meeting was used to agree on initiatives that would be used for the deep-dive; and Renata volunteered to coordinate the process of following up with volunteers for their input.

Next steps

12. The meeting finished with a summary and the proposal of a number of follow-up actions, namely:

    Action 1: Finalise DRAFT 1: it was agreed that Draft 1 of the BPF's outcome document would be shared with the BPF participants on the IGF's review platform by 1 November.

    Action 2: Finalise case study initiatives: Renata agreed to find volunteers for one initiative per barrier and to ask for their input using pre-defined questions by 1 November 2016.

Action 5: Summary of the discussion and scheduling of next meeting. A summary of the discussion will be prepared and shared on the BPF's dedicated mailing list by 26 October 2016.

Action 4: Next meeting: It was agreed that the next meeting would take place on or around 3 November 2016. The Secretariat would schedule the meeting and would distribute details enabling participation.

Meeting participants:

Anri van der Spuy (South Africa)

Bruna Martins (Brazil)

Kat Jens (UK)

Louise Marie Hurel (Brazil)

Nikole

Renata Aquino Ribeiro (Brazil)

Sara Baker (USA)

Appendix A:

BPF GENDER & ACCESS

MEETING X

AGENDA

1. Introductions

2. Review of progress & other updates

3. Populating framework document: initiatives to address barriers
    - Agreement re coding
    - Select initiatives for deep-dive

4. Next meeting: 27 October (finalise section on initiatives)

5. AOB