IGF 2016 Workshop Report

Session Title	**Workshop 150: ICT4D: Connecting Civil Society roles on Access, Finance & knowledge**
Date	**Wednesday, December 7th, 2016**
Time	**10:45 – 11h45**
Session Organizer	**Arsene Tungali, Co-coordinator at Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus (IGC). Email: arsenebaguma@gmail.com**
Chair/Moderator	**Arsene Tungali**
Rapporteur/Notetaker	Chenai Chair
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	<u>**Main Speakers:**</u> **Sylvia Cadena,** Head of Programs, APNIC Foundation **Jeremy Malcolm,** Senior Global Policy Analyst at Electronic Frontier Foundation <u>**Group facilitators:**</u> **Dr. Milton L. Mueller**, Professor, School of Public Policy Georgia Institute of Technology, Internet Governance Project **Valentina hvale Pellizzer**, One world Platfoom Foundation
Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):	1) Ffunding ecosystem for civil society has changed which requires a different approach from before in seeking funding and being able to get the little money available with very high standards set by donors 2) Civil society organizations need to understand funders more on issues of flexibility, impact assessment and evaluation 3) Civil society abilities need to take account whether they can deliver on projects as well as developing communication strategies 4) Legal barriers such as of copyright, privacy and data protection, identified as limitations to accessing knowledge (online) 5) Religious or moral issues may also lead to censorship of information limiting access to knowledge 6) Technological issues limiting access to knowledge include net neutrality, geo-fencing and encryption, skewing the kind of information one is able to access or locks out users from accessing knowledge
If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation	**The first presentation** on finance for civil society by Sylvia Cadena pointed out the evolving donor ecosystem that present challenges to accessing finance. She highlighted the need for greater capacity in pitching for funding and in the actual project management. Donors where now looking at whether you could deliver on the project; carrying out impact assessments and evaluation and communications. The funding cuts by donors meant limited funds available with higher standards set.

	The second presenter raised two categories that limit access to knowledge- legal and technical issues. In the legal issues he focused, copyright, privacy, data protection and censorship limiting the content that one is able to access online. These legal issues may take work out of the public domain, limiting what civil society has access to. He pointed out technical issues as issues of net neutrality, geo-fencing and encryption. In each of these circumstances information is skewed to what one is able to access. While internet governance provides for discussion of these issues, there are some spaces like trade agreements, out of IG jurisdiction but actually need to be engaged with
Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session: (3 paragraphs)	The participants were split into two groups with **Group 1** *Focusing on access to financing ICT4D initiatives* and **Group 2** *on access to knowledge and its distribution.* The first group was led by Valentina hvale Pellizzer and the second group by Dr. Milton L. Mueller. These groups were asked to reflect on the assigned issues and share any experience on these issues.

Group 1 looked at access to knowledge from different levels. The first level was for the user of knowledge where by they cannot access the knowledge due to various reasons. Then there are the knowledge producers who do not share their research so well. This limits knowledge access even when its available.

Group 2 discussed challenges they faced in their particular countries of getting funding in particular limitations of transnational funding. There are a number of political regulations placed on transnational funding limiting civil society. They also highlighted the difficulty in finding the appropriate funding. The difference between a donor and an investor was discussed as well as an issue to take into account. |
| Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways: (3 paragraphs) | The first group solution involved making use of public libraries in order to access information. The library has a role to play in providing access to knowledge that is often costly and difficult to access. While not all libraries are equipped the same, they do provide a focal point in gaining access to knowledge.

The second group proposed the solution of looking within country for funding. This would specifically address the issue of regulations limiting transnational funding. |