

WSIS+10 ISSUES DOMINATE IGF 2015 OPENING SESSION

Whether by coincidence or intent, speakers at the IGF 2015 Opening Session [coalesced](#) around key themes also under discussion in the WSIS+10 review process under way in New York. [Four](#) key issues that many speakers addressed were:

- How Internet governance should evolve
- How to address concerns related to increased use of the Internet
- The role the Internet can play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- The role of governments in addressing Internet-related issues

Network neutrality, also in the WSIS+10 draft outcome document, and its younger brother, zero rating, made an appearance, with speakers holding divergent views on whether zero rating could be beneficial in certain contexts. Joana Varon Ferraz, Founder Director, Coding Rights, who was strongly against zero rating, stated her position plainly: 'Let's not sell donkeys, pretending they're horses'.

At the Opening Session, multilateralism and/or multistakeholderism continued to be a perennial favourite topic of discussion, with Tian Lin, Head of Delegation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of China, arguing the case that clarifying the principle of sovereignty in the governance of the Internet would help to build a healthy environment for international cooperation.

In line with the SDGs, speakers expressed a desire to see the Internet as a driver for development. Internet Society CEO Kathy Brown noted that the Internet had greatly expanded and call upon each person to play their role in ensuring that the unconnected got connected, while Virgilio Almeida, coordinator of the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee, emphasised that the Internet of the future must contribute to improving health, the preservation of the environment and other SDGs.

Andrus Ansip, Vice-President of the European Union, stressed: 'The Internet has become a common good. Bringing it to everyone should be our common goal.'

Fadi Chehadé, ICANN CEO, recommended that Internet governance should promote public-private partnerships, multistakeholderism, and most importantly, trust among stakeholders. Many supported the continuation of the IGF in its current mandate, while some gave suggestions for improvement of the IGF processes, should its continuation be approved.



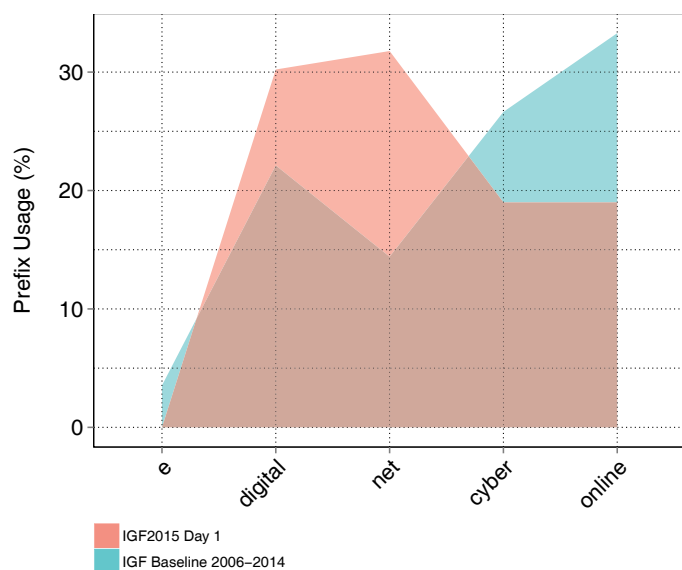
Photo by UN DESA, @UNDESA

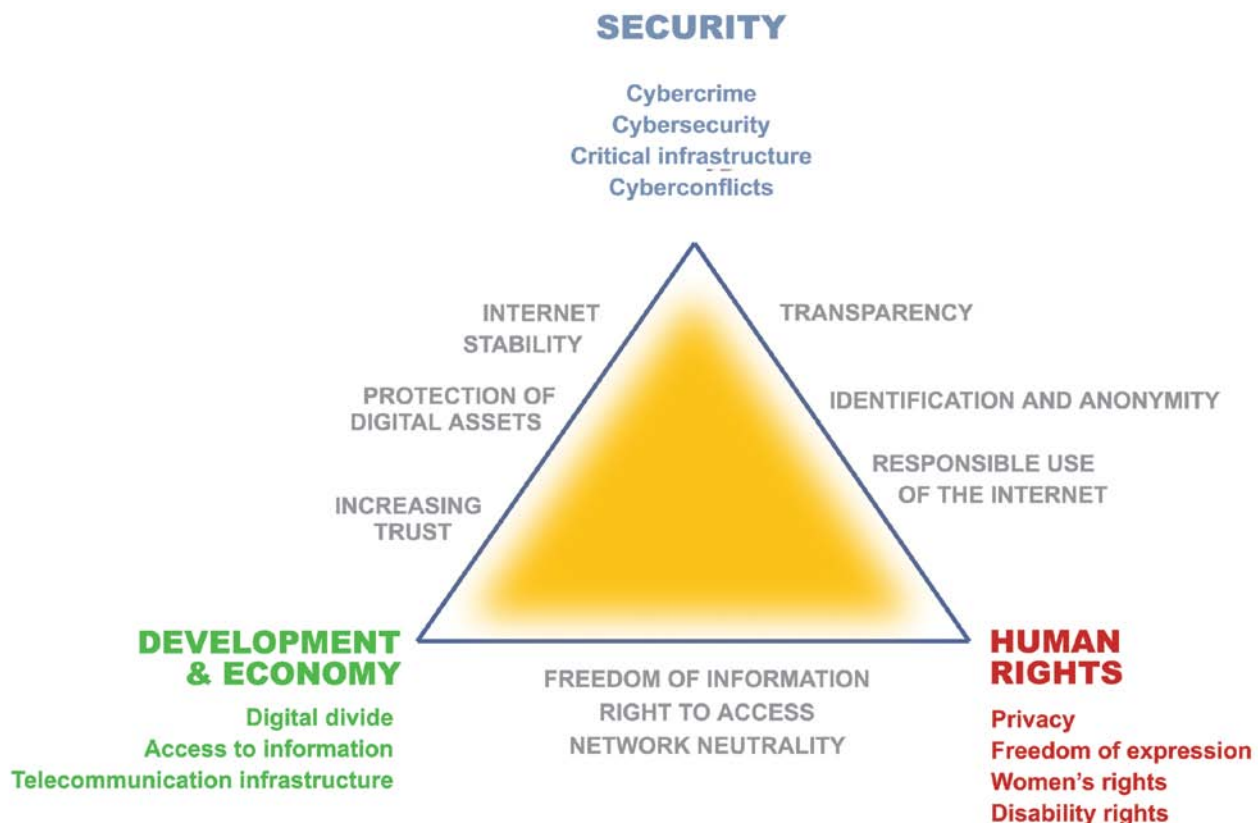
PREFIX MONITOR

Prefix Monitor for Day 1 of IGF 2015 (10 November) shows increasing relevance of *digital* and *net* in comparison to the IGF baseline. The frequent use of *digital* may be explained by the focus of discussion on development issues, including the sustainable development goals, during the first day.

Digital is often used to highlight development aspects of digital policy (e.g. digital divide, digital growth, digital development). The frequent use of *net* may be linked to the high relevance of net neutrality in discussions in Brazil on Internet governance. *Cyber*, used often for security, and *online*, used often for human rights, featured slightly lower than expected in the analysis of transcripts. *E* has almost disappeared from use. This analysis is based on the 19 available transcripts from the Day 1 of IGF 2015.

Prefix Monitor follows the use of prefixes and identifies trends in discourse shaping, session by session, at the end of each day. Percents represent the relative presence of a particular prefix among all characteristically prefixed IG terms used. Diplo's CreativeLab text-mining DTAF platform powers the Prefix Monitor. [Link](#)





The interplay between development/economy, security, and human rights is emerging as the main pattern of discussion after Day 1 of the IGF, as described in the above illustration. Below is a summary of specific issues highlighted by our rapporteurs, and an analysis of session transcripts.

PRIVACY AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS

Privacy was the common denominator in many of the workshops we reported from. Both UN Special Rapporteurs on freedom of expression and on privacy referred to issues related to privacy, in the workshop on **Implementing Core Principles in the Digital Age** [\(WS 114\)](#). David Kaye (UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression) said that encryption and anonymity need to be reinforced around the world. Joseph A. Cannataci (UN Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy) said that people need 'safeguards without borders' and 'remedies across borders', which he believes is not possible at the moment. If we want to make sure that the safeguards and remedies are in place, we must involve governments, especially where the private sector is powerless, he said.

In the session on **Freedom of Expression Online: Gaps in Policy and Practice** [\(WS 153\)](#), the panellists recalled the ground-breaking report of former UN Special Rapporteur Frank La Rue [\(WS 153\)](#) which led to a resolution proclaiming that human rights offline must be respected online. [\(WS 153\)](#) The same session brought together views on how La Rue's indicators were being applied in various countries, and the gaps in policy and practice that have emerged.

During the workshop on **Balancing Privacy and Transparency to Promote Freedom Online** [\(WS 124\)](#), speakers referred to the fact that the treatment of personal data must be public and transparent, and that unless the rights to privacy and freedom of expression are considered complementary, society is unlikely to trust the sharing of data. Another intervention referred to the recently negotiated trade agreements, and the fact that rules related to e-commerce, telecommunications, and other areas have an impact on privacy.

DIGITAL ECONOMY AND LABOUR

There is no doubt that the Internet has brought about significant economic growth. Yet, in at least one area – the job market – automated tasks and a reduction in routine time for certain tasks has had an impact on jobs. The workshop on **Digital Economy, Jobs and Multistakeholder Practices** (WS 29) [\(WS 29\)](#) considered the impact of the digital economy on the job market. Job losses have been experienced in some markets. However, there is broad consensus that this phenomenon - due the growth in the digital economy - is temporary and that the sector will reabsorb the damage with time.

ACCESSIBILITY, AFFORDABILITY, AND EFFECTIVE USE

Access is not only about technical access to the Internet, but should also take into account affordability and accessibility of the Internet connection, a representative from the Digital Empowerment Foundation explained during the session on **Freedom of Expression Online: Gaps in Policy and Practice** (WS 153). In the workshop **Can Internet Rights and Access Goals be Reconciled** (WS 126), the issues were addressed from a developing country perspective. Once again, it was stressed that access is about providing the context for full and effective use of the Internet, and about strengthening human rights. In addition, panellists expressed concern over the Facebook-led Internet.org initiative: the initiative may limit innovation by providing a strategy akin to a walled garden. However, a Facebook representative explained that the project is still in its infancy, and that one has to keep in mind different perspectives, based on social and cultural diversity.

INTERNET AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Sustainable development and the role of the Internet in achieving the new sustainable development goals (SDGs) were discussed in a number of Day 1 sessions. Apart from being the main theme for this year's IGF – which was also highlighted during the **Setting the Scene** session – Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff declared her support for the IGF's mandate to be extended in order to enable the sustainable and inclusive development of the Internet. During the **Opening Ceremony**, Ricardo Coutinho, Governor of the State of Paraíba, emphasised that an open, free, and neutral Internet would empower sustainable development.

In the **Opening Session** which followed, speakers expressed a desire to see the Internet as a driver for development, in line with the new SDGs. While the Internet has greatly expanded, each person needs to play their role in ensuring that the unconnected get connected. The Internet of the future must contribute to improving health, preservation of the environment, and other SDGs.

Interplay of IG issues

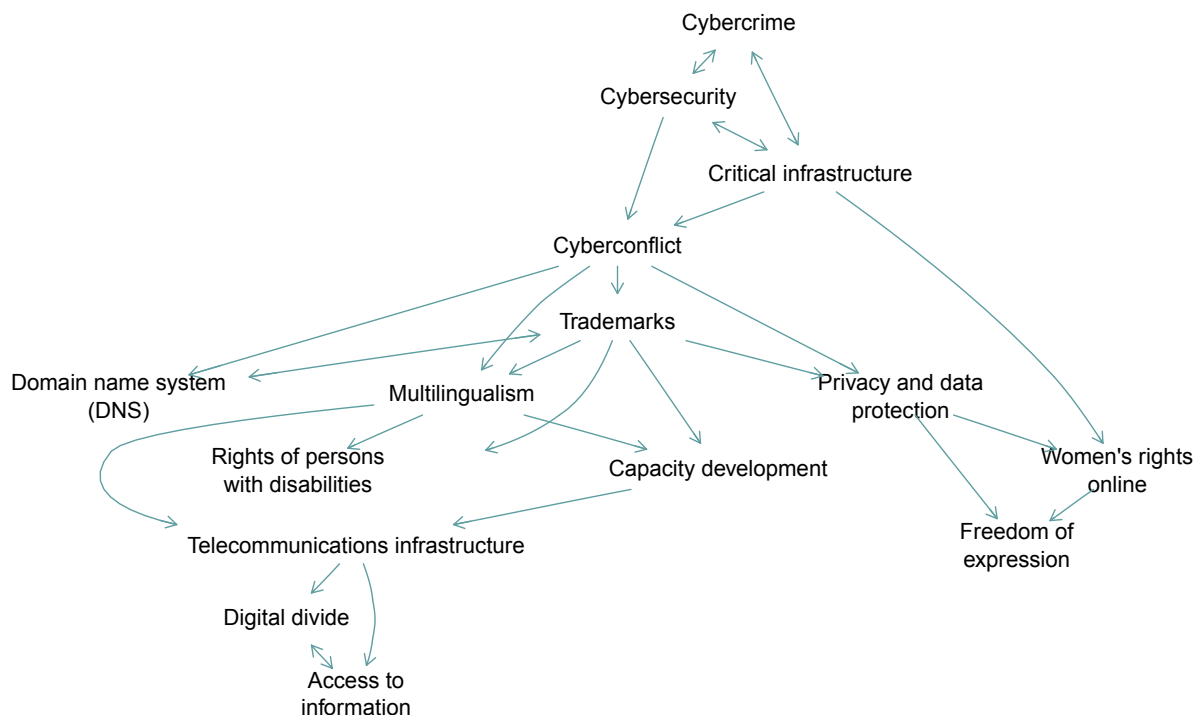
In this diagramme one can see the top fifteen IG issues recognized in Day 1 session transcripts, identified from session transcripts through Diplo's CreativeLab text-mining methods. Each issue receives two inputs: the two issues that extend their links towards it are the two most closely associated issues.

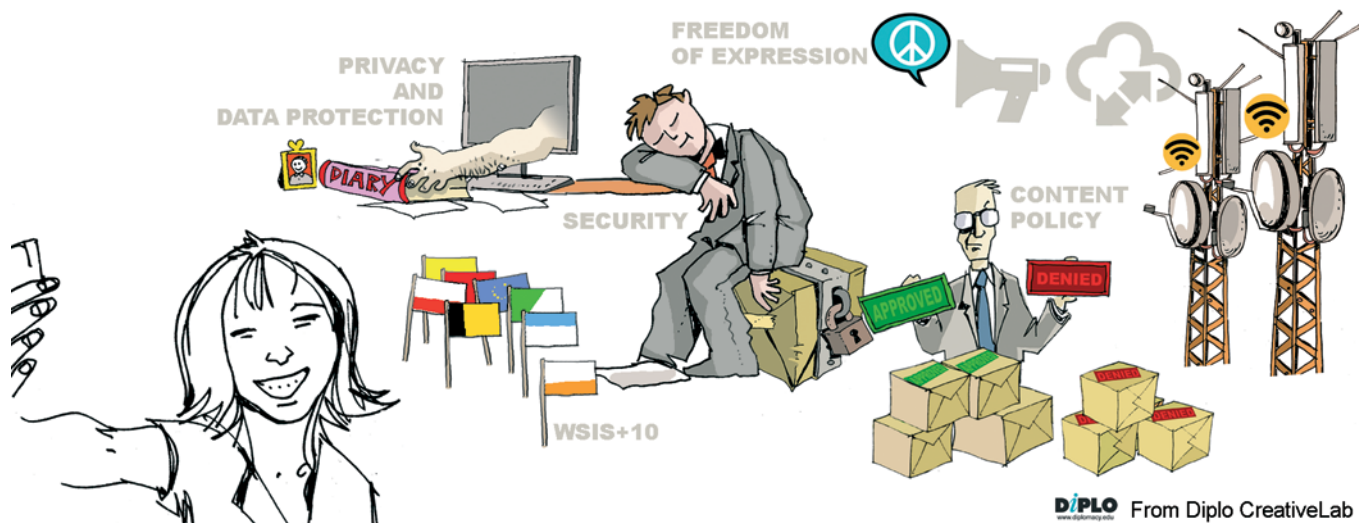
Security issues (cybercrime, cybersecurity, critical infrastructure, and cyberconflict) are grouped at the top. They extend their associations downwards towards multilingualism, trademarks, and privacy and data protection.

One can observe an interplay between human rights issues (privacy, women's rights, freedom of expression) and development issues (digital divide, access to information, and telecommunication infrastructure). An emerging pattern from the discussion is the function of intellectual property issues (like trademark) and sociocultural ones (like multilingualism) as 'mediators' between security at the top and development issues at the bottom of the image.

This text analysis helped Diplo's expert team to identify the interplay described in the digital policy triangle on page 2 of this issue of the *IGF Daily*.

Note: Terms such as 'digital divide' and 'trademark' describe a grouping of issues. They are not employed narrowly, for example through simply counting uses of the term 'digital divide'. The 'digital divide' grouping, for example, includes more than 40 terms describing digital and development issues.





DO NOT MISS TODAY

Building on the WSIS+10 topics that dominated the main sessions on day 1, today's three picks are related to hot topics in the WSIS+10 arena.

Internet Economy and Sustainable Development – 9:00-12:30 (Main Session) [↗](#)

WSIS+10 is discussing how ICTs can help enable the Sustainable Development Goals. This IGF main session takes a more targeted look at this larger topic by looking specifically at the role the Internet economy can play in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

BPF Online Abuse and Gender-Based Violence Against Women – 9:00-10:30 (Workshop Room 6) [↗](#)

The gender digital divide didn't appear at all in the first version of the draft document for the UNGA WSIS+10 process. Now, the need to remove barriers to women's participation is front and centre in the draft. This IGF Best Practice Forum (BPF) looks at one of the barriers that women face: online abuse and violence. The organisers of the BPF themselves came under a coordinated online attack earlier this year for raising the issue of gender-based violence online.

IGF Intersessional Work: Policy Options and Best Practices for Connecting the Next Billion – 14:00-17:30 (Main Session) [↗](#)

This session has two WSIS+10 related links. First, one of the core priorities of WSIS is connecting the unconnected. Second, there has been a lot of discussion as part of the WSIS+10 process on possible enhancements to IGF practice. This policy options work is an experiment that originated within the IGF community, prior to and independent of WSIS+10, to produce more tangible outputs from the IGF.

CALL FOR CURATORS FOR GIP DIGITAL WATCH

Geneva Internet Platform (GIP) Digital Watch is an online repository maintaining a comprehensive summary of Internet developments and providing access to the latest research and data on Internet policy. GIP Digital Watch serves as a one-stop-shop for related issues, featuring both explanatory texts and live updates. GIP Digital Watch is a product developed in partnership with the Internet Society. See more at <http://dw.giplatform.org>

43 Internet governance issues are closely followed by a network of curators. They ensure issue descriptions are always accurate, and cover the latest developments in their respective areas.

GIP and the Internet Society are now searching for assistant curators from around the globe to enrich the regional focus of GIP Digital Watch.

To find out how to apply and what the requirements are, check out <http://dw.giplatform.org/aboutus>

