IGF DAILY

REPORTING DAILY FROM THE 12th INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM DAY 3

Yesterday was the busiest day of this year's IGF. More than 60 sessions tackled most of the 43 digital policy issues included in our taxonomy.⤴ Some issues – such as cybersecurity and content policy – remained in focus from previous days. Others, such as capacity development, were more prominent during Day 3. This is the fourth and last *IGF Daily* newsletter, before we publish the final report. Here's our recap from yesterday.

Building capacities: A cross-cutting theme

Capacity development in digital issues is a topic very closely linked to the dynamics of the IGF. The terms *capacity building* and *capacity development* were mentioned in almost half of the sessions during this year's forum, showing how the need to build capacities arises in many digital policy areas.

While this need is mentioned frequently, the IGF has served as an avenue for new efforts as well. One of Wednesday's sessions⤴ announced the launch of the Geneva Initiative on

Capacity Development in Digital Policy, which encourages Geneva-based players to take more responsibility in the field.

This initiative is the conclusion of the Geneva Digital Talks⤴ which brought organisations in the Geneva Lake Area together to contribute to finding sustainable solutions to the main digital governance problems. The initiative complements other existing initiatives, including the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise,⤴ whose progress was updated in a different session.⤴

IN PARALLEL TO THE IGF: COURTS DECLARE UBER A TRANSPORT COMPANY

While we are addressing Internet governance issues at the IGF, courts worldwide continue to shape digital policy in fundamental ways. Yesterday, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) ruled that Uber is a transport company in the EU, and will be treated like other taxi companies. Member states will be able to regulate the conditions for providing that service.⤴

Court rulings are gradually developing Internet governance in response to requests for justice by individuals and institutions. Through their direct or indirect extra-territorial impact, these cases are shaping global Internet governance.

An open question remains: Will digital policy be developed *proactively* in an inclusive and fully informed way by concerned actors, or will it emerge *reactively* through court rulings or as a reaction to a possible major digital crisis in the future?

Credit: Sandeepnewstyle

Geneva Internet Platform
DigitalWatch

IGF Internet Governance Forum

ICANN

Internet Society

DiPLO
www.diplomacy.edu

Another session tackled digital literacy, from empowering women to retooling educational institutions, to highlighting responsible and safe use of the Internet by youth, and surveyed global trends, programmes, and activities from stakeholders around the world.↗ It focused on existing gaps and possible opportunities to overcome them. The role of the IGF in connecting different initiatives to encourage cooperation and avoid duplicated efforts was emphasised in several sessions.

What can help to explain Internet governance to friends and colleagues? One of the session's outcomes was to increase the capacity of university lecturers, for instance, to teach IG and integrate it in university curricula, as well as teaching more IG to the public.↗

Capacity development and the efforts in this field by the ITU will be further discussed in a dedicated session on the last day of the IGF↗ while cybersecurity capacity development will be tackled at another session.↗

Fast development of AI brings solutions to global challenges

There is good and bad in artificial intelligence (AI): It could bring innovative solutions to some of the world's most pressing challenges, such as disaster management and hunger. But it may also cause disruptions in the job market, and raise concerns on privacy and security. How to shed light on the good and minimise the bad will continue to be a topic of dis-

cussion for years to come. For now, calls are being made for more education and training to prepare the workforce for a potentially AI-driven society, as well as for embedding ethics, transparency, and accountability in algorithmic decision making processes.↗

There are several initiatives studying ethical principles for the development of AI and looking into how ethics could be incorporated into AI systems. But some open questions remain: If ethical principles vary across societies, wouldn't it be better to focus on more universal principles such as trust, justice, and security?↗

Progress is constantly being made in improving the way AI systems function, but better algorithms do not necessarily mean better decisions. It is also the quality of data used by machine learning and algorithms that matters. This is where transparency comes into play: knowing how data is used and how algorithms operate can help us identify possible bias, discrimination, and other unintended consequences in AI decisions.↗

A point made during previous days emerged again: while some countries invest in AI research and development and make this a priority, others may not be adequately equipped to use AI technologies to their advantage. The risk of a new form of digital divide is very real, and how to confront it should concern us all.↗

IGF 2017 participants reading the *IGF Daily* 3 newsletter. Today's is the fourth and last newsletter, before we publish the final report. Read our session reports and download the final report from dig.watch/igf2017   *Credit: Glenn McKnight*

While there is a lot of public debate on the dangers of AI – and even fear that humans will be replaced by machines – there is some optimism too. Humans have managed to stay in control despite the many disruptive technologies that have appeared over time. AI should be no different, if we understand it properly, and prepare for it as a society.

AI was not the only innovative technology examined at yesterday. There was also discussion about virtual reality (VR) and its related benefits and risks. While VR is best known for games and entertainment, it also has applications in areas like education and health. Since VR stores large amounts of data about people, there are privacy and security concerns that need to be looked at. Similar concerns are raised when it comes to the use of big data in other areas, and the Internet of Things is one example. But, as with everything else technology-related, big data also has significant potential for good; it can be used, for example, to better predict and track storms, climate change impacts, and other natural processes.

Child safety online: Tackling psychological wellness of content analysts

The fight against child sexual abuse content relies heavily on reporting mechanisms which allow online users to anonymously (mostly) report inappropriate content. Analysing such reports are people who assess whether the flagged images and videos depict criminal content.

Assessing inappropriate content can be a traumatic experience. Repeated exposure to disturbing content has a significant impact on the content analysts' psychological well-being – an important detail in the fight against CSAM which is rarely discussed in digital policy debates on child online safety.

Yesterday's Dynamic Coalition served to highlight the psychological well-being of those who are typically the first line of defence. Analysts need to be reminded of the value of their work and their positive contribution to society. Managers needed to take preventive steps to avoid employee burnout and to tackle the possible trauma associated with assessing criminal content.

Another session yesterday saw the launch of the revised Council of Europe's *Internet Literacy Handbook*. Children need to be able to navigate the Internet and digital environments safely, especially in a constantly evolving technological landscape. The handbook, which includes ethical aspects, provides families, educators and policymakers with sufficient technical know-how to navigate through important communication technologies.

Content policy: Between governments and intermediaries

Throughout the world, certain countries continue to impose content control policies, ranging from Internet shutdowns and blocking of services and applications, to removal of online content.

Such policies, be they motivated by safety and security reasons, or by the need to combat phenomena such as violent extremist online, raise challenges in terms of freedom of expression and the right to privacy, in the light of potential abuses. So where and how do we draw the line between what is appropriate and what is not when it comes to content policies, and how do we avoid abuse? The answer can be found in international law: any limitations to human rights must be based on law, and must be in line with the principles of necessity, proportionality, and transparency.
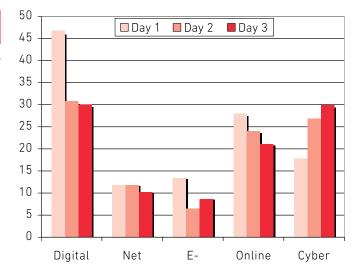
The need for transparency also comes into focus when legitimate content control policies (those respecting the principles outlined above) are implemented by Internet intermediaries.

Several platforms are publishing transparency reports regarding the requests they receive from governments to remove certain types of content. There are calls for other platforms to follow this practice.

A LOOK AT THE PREFIX MONITOR

After three days of discussions, the prefixes *digital* and *cyber* have finally attained balance. Gradually, the discussion evolved from an initial wider coverage of digitalisation of society on the first day, to a more focused discussion on security, typically associated with the prefix *cyber*.

The prefix *online*, used predominantly in human rights and in discussions about content or fake news, declined on the third day. The Prefix Monitor in the forthcoming final report will provide an overall analysis of trends in the use of prefixes with regard to topics and discussions at the IGF.

THE IGF AS A PROCESS: DYNAMIC COALITIONS AND BEST PRACTICE FORUMS

As the third day of IGF 2017 unfolded, meetings of Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) were complemented by the main sessions from DCs and NRIs, as well as Best Practice Forums (BPFs). *See page 1 for discussions from the DC on Child Safety Online.*

As in previous years, the DC on Accessibility and Disability reviewed accessibility issues at this year's IGF meeting. The speakers made several recommendations, including dedicating more time to testing technical equipment before the start of the meeting. *[Editor's Note: The Taking Stock process, which takes place after every IGF, will invite comments on what worked well and what did not.*
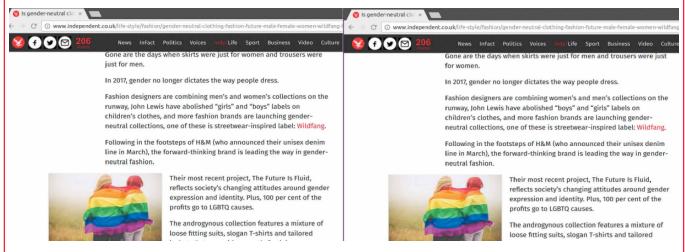
Thirteen DCs gathered in a dedicated main session, discussing many issues. Among them: Community networks and public libraries can benefit from joining efforts in improving access to the Internet; the 'consent-by-design' principle, inspired by the privacy-by-design principle, can be a complementary way of safeguarding our rights to privacy.

Women's abilities to access and use the Internet are dependent on circumstances, and vary across different communities. The BFP on Gender and Access noted that we need tailored solutions to empower the different categories of women and address the difficulties they face in the digital space. The DC on Gender and Internet Governance presented a set of feminist principles of the Internet, which defend the rights to privacy and freedom from surveillance, among others.

The BPF on Cybersecurity presented its year-long work, and a report that examines the role of cybersecurity as an enabler for development, and what possible solutions exist to mitigate cybersecurity threats. The report also lists the most critical cybersecurity issues and the forums that are tackling these issues.

The NRIs' dedicated main session focused on rights in the digital world. Although the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online, rights might not be defined in a uniform manner around the world. The question of whether access to the Internet is a human right was met with mixed reactions.

What would the world be like if we reversed the way we speak about gender? *Jailbreak the Patriarchy* is a browser extension that genderswaps online content. It is featured in the Gender Rights Online installation at Art@IGF. Today is your last chance to visit the exhibition, open during the 12th IGF at the Palais des Nations, Block E, Level 1.

DON'T MISS TODAY

Digital transformation: How do we shape its socio-economic and labour impacts for good?
10:00 – 13:00 | Main Hall (Room XVII - E)
The Internet of Things, data analytics, machine learning, and artificial intelligence are expected to have a significant impact on global economies. The sharing economy brings new business models into focus. How will these dimensions of the digital economy affect global production and commerce, and how will they impact development?

Open Mic /Taking Stock
15:00 – 17.00 | Assembly Hall - A
The traditional open mic session at the IGF serves many purposes. It takes stock of the meeting and reflects on what can be improved for the next IGF. Participants can reiterate points they made during the meeting, or add new thoughts. Do you have a strong view on something? Express it during the open mic session.