

# Internet Governance BAROMETER (JULY-AUGUST 2018)

IG Barometer indicates the presence of specific IG issues in the public policy debate in comparison to the previous month

## Global IG Architecture



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres set up a High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation. The aim of the panel is to identify gaps in digital policy mechanisms, and to make proposals on strengthening international co-operation.[↗](#)

G20 leaders convened in Salta, Argentina, agreed on proposals that aim to help governments in their digital transformation, measure the contribution of the digital economy to the overall economy, and narrow the digital gender divide, among others.[↗](#)

## Sustainable development



Officials meeting for the annual High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) at the UN headquarters in New York called for an escalation in progress in meeting the sustainable development goals (SDGs) and their respective targets.[↗](#)

Leaders from the BRICS countries – Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa – which met in July for the group's 10th annual summit, affirmed their support for the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, while calling on

developed countries to meet their foreign aid commitments and provide further support to developing country partners.[↗](#)

According to the UN DESA's latest survey on e-government, the world's poorest countries are lagging behind due to a persisting the digital divide. The digital divide could deepen between people who have access to Internet and online services and those who do not, jeopardising the vision of the 2030 Agenda.[↗](#)

## Security



Heads of State participating in the meeting of the North Atlantic Council in Brussels on 11–12 July 2018, issued the Brussels Summit Declaration,[↗](#) (a) emphasising that the Alliance will continue to implement cyberspace as a domain of operations; (b) reaffirming that international law applies in cyberspace; (c) expressing their determination to deliver strong national cyber defenses by fully implementing the Cyber Defense Pledge;[↗](#) (d) recognising attribution as a sovereign national prerogative and giving Allies the right to consider, when appropriate, attributing malicious cyber activity and responding in a coordinated manner; (e) reiterating the establishment of the Cyberspace Operations Centre in Brussels, announced in November 2017,[↗](#) which will allow the Alliance to integrate cyber measures with conventional military capabilities.

Russia plans to present two new draft resolutions on cybersecurity to the UN General Assembly in the autumn, Kommersant reports.[↗](#) The first will introduce a new Code of Conduct for states, prohibiting the use of ICT to interfere in the

internal affairs of other states and to undermine their stability, and guaranteeing that all states play the same role in Internet governance. The second proposal, Countering the use of Information and Communication Technologies for Criminal Purposes, is envisioned as an alternative to the Council of Europe Convention on Cybercrime, of which Russia is not a signatory. The draft resolution will also provide for data exchange, but 'on a different, purely legal basis.'[↗](#)

The US Deputy Assistant Secretary for Cyber and International Communications and Information Policy said that the US may strike a deal on norms for state behaviour in cyberspace with China and Russia at the UN.[↗](#)

Israel is planning to set up a Cyber Security Operations Center (CSCO) to protect its railways, which are classified as critical infrastructure by the National Cyber Security Authority of Israel.[↗](#)

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## E-commerce and Internet economy



same relevance

Apple became the world's first trillion-dollar public company when a rise in its share price pushed it past the landmark valuation. Meanwhile, the European Commission fined Google €4.34 billion for illegal practices which harmed competition. The practices related to Android mobile devices which were aimed at strengthening the dominance of Google's search engine; the company will appeal.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and US President Donald Trump announced that they will take a series of steps to mitigate the trade tensions between them.

The EU and Japan signed a trade deal in Tokyo, Japan, known as the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA), which has been under formal

negotiation since 2013. The two countries also concluded talks on data protection, agreeing to recognise each other's frameworks as 'equivalent'.

Negotiators working to update the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) resumed meetings at ministerial and technical levels, while negotiators from the EU and Mercosur met on the margins of the ministerial meeting between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the EU, to take stock of their efforts, and decide whether they should set a new target date for concluding the tasks.

The Indian government has unveiled a draft e-commerce policy which imposes restrictions on e-commerce marketplaces to prevent them from influencing the price of the sale of goods and services which puts local businesses at a disadvantage.

## Digital rights



same relevance

Google is planning to launch a censored version of its search engine in China, leaked documents revealed. The censored version will blacklist websites and a number of search terms related to human rights, religion, and peaceful protest.

The European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg has upheld the decision of Germany's Federal Court of Justice, allowing three media outlets to continue offering access to information relating to the murder convictions of two individuals. In this case, the public's right to be informed outweighed the applicants' right to privacy.

The German Appellate Court of Cologne ruled that ICANN cannot stop a registrar from offering and/or registering domain names without additionally collecting the data of a technical and administrative contact for the WHOIS service.

Google, Microsoft, Facebook, and Twitter are working on new standards that will allow users to move their data between online service providers, through the Data Transfer Project. Data portability was introduced by the EU's GDPR.

## Jurisdiction and legal issues



same relevance

Russia is proposing a new bill to counter the spread of domestic fake news. The bill would specifically target social media companies, requiring them to remove factually 'inaccurate' posts and comments made by users within 24 hours of the content's discovery, or face an USD\$800 000 fine.

The Court of Justice of the European Union ruled that copyrighted content posted on a website, which was previously available on another website, requires a fresh authorisation from the copyright holder.

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## Infrastructure



Two new undersea cables - the SACS cable connects Brazil to Angola, and the SAIL cable which connects Brazil to Cameroon - entered the final stage of completion. [Google](#) also announced plans to launch its latest private subsea cable project called Dunant. The cable will cross the Atlantic Ocean from Virginia Beach in the USA to the French Atlantic coast. [Google](#)

Google's parent company, Alphabet, announced the first commercial deal of project Loon with Telkom Kenya. High-altitude balloons will provide 4G/LTE cellular

access to central Kenya by 2019. [Google Station](#), the company's public Wi-fi service, launched Wi-fi hotspots in Nigeria. [It](#) also plans to expand the number of hotspots to 200 locations across major cities.

Meanwhile, leaked emails revealed that Facebook plans to provide broadband access to remote areas from a constellation of satellites sent into a low orbit, called Athena. [Facebook](#)

## Net neutrality



The Telecom Commission of India approved the regulator's net neutrality recommendations, which prevent service providers from discriminating against Internet content and services. [Some](#) critical services, such as remote surgery and autonomous cars, will be kept out of the purview of the framework.

## New technologies (IoT, AI, etc.)



In the USA, the Uniform Law Commission presented a draft law that attempts to clarify property and privacy rights in response to the growing use of drones. [The](#) draft was met with criticism from business and industry associations, for interfering with the federal government's authority to regulate the airspace. [The](#)

The program Maven, the US Department of Defense's program to use machine learning to analyse drone imagery, received an increase in funding. [The](#)

Department of Defense will be looking for a new private sector partner to replace Google, which announced that it would not renew its contract once it expired. [Google](#)

The World Bank's new bond, which is managed entirely using blockchain technology, raised AUD \$110 million. [The](#) bond is managed by the Commonwealth Bank of Australia, and investors include NSW Treasury Corporation, Northern Trust, and the Treasury Corporation of Victoria.