

Internet Governance Forum Report 2017

The twelfth annual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was held in Geneva, Switzerland, from 17 to 21 December 2017, on the theme, Shape Your Digital Future!.

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The Centre for Internet and Society was invited as one of the participating civil society organisations. The meeting was attended by Sunil Abraham (Executive Director), Elonnai Hickok (Director) - Internet Governance and Vidushi Marda (representing both CIS as Programme Manager and ARTICLE 19 as Policy Advisor). The details of CIS's participation are discussed below:

Human Rights based Cyber Security Strategy

Sunday, December 17 • 09:00 - 14:00

The program which was moderated by Peggy Hicks (OHCHR) began by first addressing the framing of the topic i.e. what does one mean by a rights-based approach to cybersecurity and if such an approach was a pipe-dream, or an essential means to a secure and trusted internet. The panelists for this leg of the program were Chinmayi Arun (CCG), Kathy Brown (ISOC), Marietje Schaake (European Parliament) and Francisco Vera Hott (Privacy International).

The second session dealt with the following topic 'Year in review: Overview of current initiatives in cybersecurity and stability'. A panel consisting of Mehwish Ansari (ARTICLE 19), Madeline Carr (Cardiff University); Lea Kaspar (Global Partners Digital, hereinafter "GPD"), Kaja Ciglic (Microsoft); Markus Kummer (IGF Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity), and Chrystiane Roy (Government of Canada) was requested to provide basic outlines of its current initiatives.

The next session dealt with a deep dive into cybersecurity and human rights issues: What are the obvious risks and challenges? How do policy and norms impact the human rights and security of people? What are the 'not-so-obvious' issues at stake? Who controls the mainstream cybersecurity narrative? Does this need to be challenged, and if so, how? This session was moderated by Lucie Krahulcova (AccessNow) and the Panelists were Maarten van Horenbeeck (Technical community); Maryant Fernández (European Digital Rights Initiative); Maria Paz Canales (Derechos Digitales); Luis Fernando García (Red en Defensa de los Derechos Digitales).

The Closing remarks from event convenors outlining possible approaches towards consolidating a rights-based and inclusive approach to cybersecurity, were made by Sunil Abraham (Centre for Internet and Society) and Matthew Shears (GPD) and moderated by Anriette Esterhuysen (APC).

Body as Data: Dataveillance, the Informatisation of the Body and Citizenship

Monday, December 18 • 09:00 - 10:30

This session was proposed by Ms. Valentina Pellizzer and Ms. Janine Moolman of the Association for Progressive Communication and Ms. Bishakha Datta, from Point of View.

Speakers:

- Valentina Pellizzer, APC
- Bishakha Datta, Point of View
- Jac SM Kee, APC
- Vidushi Marda, ARTICLE 19/The Centre for Internet and Society

Brief Overview-

The session dealt with the issue of surveillance and how the collection of population-data has historically functioned as an oppressive tool to control the bodies of women and other marginalised groups, and is closely related to and informed by colonial modes of managing populations underpinned by white supremacist, capitalist and heteropatriarchal ideologies. Today, “big-data,” metadata and the technologies used to collect, store and analyse them are, similarly, by no means neutral, and come with their own biases and resultant exclusions.

The “informatisation” of the body in the digital age is increasingly redefining how we understand “embodiment” and bodily experience. In this session, participants discussed the connection between “big-data,” surveillance and sexuality in the gathering and exploitation of data relating to internet users’ online identities and behaviors. The session will explore the evolution and normalization of surveillance through “big-data” and its relationship with the growing reliance on algorithmic decision-making, particularly at the level of the development and implementation of public policy.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VN-XSypuMsc>

[What digital future for vulnerable people?](#)

Monday December 18 • 09:00 - 10:30

This session was proposed by Mr. Enrico Calandro and Ms. Chenai Chair of Research ICT Africa a Civil Society organization in South Africa. The session was Co-Organized by Ms., Anri, VAN DER SPUY, Private Sector, Independent Consultant.

Speakers:

- Wakabi Wairagala (Director at CIPESA)
- Alexandrine Pirlot de Corbion (Advocacy Officer, Privacy International)
- Ursula Wynhoven (ITU Representative to the United Nations in New York)

- Elonnai Hickok (Director Internet Governance, The Centre for Internet and Society)
- Yatanar Htun (Director at Myanmar ICT Development Organisation)

Brief Overview-

This session dealt with the issue of the digital divide in African Countries. The divide between the people who are aware of their digital rights and those who aren't. The session sought to identify the vulnerable parts of society, their level of access and the type of access to ICTs they had. There were also questions about individuals' contribution to "shaping their digital future", and their awareness of digital rights and how they could enforce them. The session also looked into how the various stakeholders were engaging with individuals and communities on these issues.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIJHY-zbuXw>

[Benchmarking ICT companies on digital rights: How-to and lessons learned](#)

Tuesday, December 19 • 11:50 - 13:20

This session was organized by Ilana Ullman Policy and Communications Analyst, Ranking Digital Rights. Elonnai Hickok presented CIS's research, which adapted the RDR methodology to examine privacy disclosure from internet and telecommunications in India, towards sharing lessons learned on how to conduct a localized ranking.

Brief Overview-

For this session, Ranking Digital Rights will give an overview of the Index and how their methodology and research process could be used by other stakeholders to hold companies accountable for respecting the rights of their users.

[CyberBRICS: Building the Next Generation Internet, STEP by Step](#)

Tuesday, December 19 • 11:50 - 13:20

This session was proposed by Center for Technology & Society at FGV a Civil Society Organization from Brazil, and Co-Organized by Luca Belli, Academia, Center

for Technology & Society at FGV, Alison Gillwald, civil society, Research ICT Africa and CyberBRICS Project, Multistakeholder.

Speakers:

- Ms Alison Gillwald, civil society, Research ICT Africa, South Africa
- Mr Benedicto Fonseca Filho, government, Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil
- Ms Elonnai Hickok, civil society, Centre for Internet and Society India, India
- Mr Luca Belli, academia, Center for Technology and Society at Fundação Getulio Vargas, Brazil
- Mr Fang Xingdong, CEO of ChinaLabs, China and Dr Bu Zhong, Penn. State University
- Mr Rashid Ismailov, government, Ministry of Telecommunications of Russia, Russia
- Ms Tatiana Indina, private sector, Silicon Valley Innovation Center, and Russia Center for New Media and Society, Russia

Brief Overview-

BRICS countries (i.e. Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) are experiencing unprecedented change due to large-scale deployment of Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) and are intensifying efforts to become key players for the development of the future Internet.

The establishment of STEP (Science & Technology Enterprise Partnership) shows that BRICS are not only promoting a new wave of technological development but also intensifying synergy regarding digital policies in order to drive the fourth industrial revolution, developing effective solutions for shared problems while transforming the economic, social and legal landscape.

The identification of emerging policy priorities, cooperation mechanisms and technology game changers emerging from the BRICS area seem therefore essential to have a clear understanding of the trends that will shape and are already shaping the Internet governance ecosystem.

In this program Elonnai analysed the causes that led to the current thriving startup ecosystem in India, while focusing on the challenges that Indian internet users are facing and putting forward suggestion to cope with such challenges

[State-led interference in encrypted systems: a public debate on different policy approaches](#)

Wednesday, December 20 • 09:00 - 10:30

This session was proposed by Mr. Carlos Alberto Afonso of Instituto Nupef and Mr. Hartmut Glaser of CGI.br.

Speakers:

- Christoph Steck (Private Sector, Telefonica, Spain)
- Demi Getschko (Technical Community, NIC.br, Brazil)
- Diego Aranha (Technical Community, Unicamp, Brazil) [Remote participation]
- Estelle Masse (Civil Society, Access Now, Belgium)
- Monica Guise Rosina (Private Sector, Facebook, Brazil)
- Neide Oliveira (Government Sector, Federal Prosecution Service, Brazil)
- Riana Pfefferkorn (Technical Community, Stanford CIS, EUA)
- Seth Bouvier (Government Sector, U.S. State Department)
- Sunil Abraham (Executive Director, Centre for Internet and Society, India)

Policy presentations:

- Elinor Buxton (Government of the United Kingdom)
- Nina Leemhuis Janssen (Government of The Netherlands)

Brief Overview-

The workshop was built around the policy questions regarding the use and availability of encryption in internet with the challenges that it might pose to the public and national security. The question of whether or not the use of encryption increases the occurrence of organized crime. The workshop also aimed to discuss the debate over privacy and security in the light of the digital age.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3jbuO42Czog>

[Artificial Intelligence in Asia: What's Similar? What's Different? Findings from our AI workshops.](#)

Time Slot - 11:50 - 13:20

This session was organized by Digital Asia Hub and the Centre for Internet and Society.

Speakers:

- Malavika Jayaram - Executive Director, Digital Asia Hub, Hong Kong
- Elonnai Hickok - Director Internet Governance, The Centre for Internet and Society, India
- KS Park - Professor Academic, Open Net Korea and Korea University Law School, Korea
- Vidushi Marda- Policy Advisor, ARTICLE 19
- Danit Gal - AI policy scholar, Israel
- Jake Lucchi - Head of Content and AI, Public Policy, Google Asia Pacific, Hong Kong

Brief Overview-

The session dealt with the issue of Artificial Intelligence in Asia and covered issues relating to the governance of infrastructure, the question of inclusion and multistakeholder governance, the issue of transparency and scrutability, and the construction of a Digital Future. Insights were also taken from Jac sm Kee, lead, Women's Rights Programme at APC, Jake Lucchi, Head of Content and AI, Public Policy, Google Asia Pacific, Hong Kong and Danit Gal, Yenching Scholar, Peking University, China, & Chair, Outreach Committee, The IEEE Global AI Ethics Initiative.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bNUu0LlxacY>

[Datafication and Social Justice: What Challenges for Internet Governance?](#)

Thursday, December 21 • 09:00 - 10:30

This session was proposed by Dr. Stefania Milan & Dr. Arne Hintz of DATACTIVE, University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands) & Data Justice Lab, Cardiff University (United Kingdom). The Onsite Moderator was Stefania Milan, the Online Moderator was Arne Hintz and the Rapporteur for this session was Vidushi Marda from ARTICLE 19/ The Centre for Internet and Society.

Speakers:

- Eva Blum-Dumontet (Privacy International)
- Malavika Jayaram (Asian Digital Hub, Hong Kong)

- Sunil Abraham (Centre for Internet and Society, India)
- Joana Varon (Coding Rights, Brazil)
- Sebastián Becker (Datos Protegidos, Chile)
- Lisa Vermeer (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands)
- Madeline Carr (University College London, UK)

Brief Overview-

The roundtable addressed the theme of big data analytics and the consequences of datafication on social life. It surveyed trends and developments from around the globe, including changes to surveillance policy (such as the UK Investigatory Powers Bill) and citizen registration (such as the Indian Aadhaar system and the planned Chinese social credit scores).

[Fake news, Content Regulation and Platformization of the Web: A Global South Perspective](#)

Time Slot - 10:40 - 12:10

This session was proposed by Ms. Vidushi Marda from ARTICLE 19/ The Centre for Internet and Society and Dr. Stefania Milan of DATACTIVE, University of Amsterdam.

Speakers:

- Stefanie Felsberger (A2K for Development, Egypt)
- Vagner Diniz (Web Technologies Study Centre, NIC, Brazil)
- Amba Kak (Mozilla Policy Fellow and UvA)
- Mahsa Alimardani (Article 19)
- Lillian Nalwoga (Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa, South Africa)
- Romina Garrido (Datos Protegidos, Chile)
- Kelly Kim (OpenNet Korea, Korea)

Brief Overview-

This session dealt with the issue of fake news and how social media has become a platform for news with a special focus on the global south. The panel addressed two questions first, whether this platformization of the web is accompanied by adequate safeguards in context of online content regulation in the Global South. Second, how current internet governance frameworks and processes find relevance in the age of platformization of the internet. The session also aimed to understand the trends of content regulation on the internet and to bring about a transnational, multi

stakeholder dialogue, as well as provide recommendations for possible content regulation with a focus on advocacy, awareness raising and capacity building.

Side Event:

IGF Side-Event on Access to Knowledge

Wednesday, December 20 • 14:00 - 18:00

Sponsors: Wikimedia Foundation, Universite De Geneve, Berkman Klein Center

Participants:

- Jane Coffin (ISOC)
- Maarit Palovirta (ISOC)
- Ceren Unal (ISOC Turkey)
- Stephen Wyber (IFLA)
- Stephane Coillet-Matillon (Kiwix)
- Jochai Ben-Avie (Mozilla)
- Pablo Viollier (Derechos Digitales)
- Sunil Abraham (CIS India)
- Fabro Steibel (ITS Rio)
- Peter Micek (AccessNow)
- Benjamin Bollmann (Swissnex San Francisco)
- Silja Baller (WEF)
- Julio Gaitan (ISUR)
- Andrew Bridges (Fenwick)
- Yaniv Benhamou (University of Geneva)
- Bastian Quaast (ITU)
- Enrico Calandro (ICT Research Africa)
- Abby Rubinson Vollmer (Github)
- Juliet Nanfuka (CIPESA)
- Niccolo Iorno (Swiss Department of Foreign Affairs)
- Jan Gerlach (Wikimedia Foundation)
- Jorge Vargas (Wikimedia Foundation)
- Jacques de Werra (University of Geneva)
- Urs Gasser (Berkman Klein Center)
- Sandra Cortesi (Berkman Klein Center)

Brief Overview-

The session began with the discussion on the current and emerging barriers to access to knowledge. The following sessions dealt with variety of issues including cyber security, advocacy, digital economics and open source. The event also discussed the questions of technical barriers to access, the research and policy on Access to Knowledge, as well as questions regarding the future of the Internet. The second leg of the session dealt IP reforms, Internet Shutdowns, Education and Data Collection and Sharing.