



IGF DAILY

REPORTING DAILY FROM THE 12th INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

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IGF Daily prepared by the Geneva Internet Platform with support from the IGF Secretariat, ICANN, the Internet Society, and DiploFoundation

HIGHLIGHTS FROM DAY 0

Although the 12th Internet Governance Forum (IGF) meeting – the annual gathering for digital policy practitioners, which this year is taking place in Geneva – officially kick-starts today, Day 0 was packed with discussions. From cybersecurity and digital rights, to discussions on Microsoft's Digital Geneva Convention, we recap what was said.

Cybersecurity: Overcoming silos, respecting human rights

There has been virtually no IGF without a debate on cybersecurity. It comes as no surprise: cyber-attacks are one of biggest concerns for governments, the industry, and end-users. We all want to use the Internet safely and securely, we want authorities to keep criminals off the Internet, and we want our rights to be respected while stakeholders endeavour to keep us safe.

One concern is that conversations on security and human rights tend to happen in silos. This is something that needs to change. There also needs to be a better understanding about the needs and interests of stakeholders. For example, security is a legitimate concern for governments, and should be understood as such, as long as the principles of proportionality, accountability, and transparency are respected. [↗](#)

There is a growing understanding that security and human rights are complementary and need to be mutually reinforcing. This understanding, however, is constantly being challenged in areas

such as migration and terrorism. Cybersecurity is sometimes used as an excuse to create exceptions to the protection of human rights, and to weaken encryption and introduce backdoors to technology products.

Developing cyber-norms: A bumpy ride?

Over the past year, some initiatives did not achieve the hoped-for results. The fifth UN Group of Governmental Experts (on Developments in the field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security – or the so-called UN GGE) ended without reaching consensus on a final report. The Global Conference on Cyberspace failed to produce a final consensus-based declaration. [↗](#) Experts believe that in light of these developments, discussing treaties on cybersecurity (such as Microsoft's proposal for a Digital Geneva Convention) could be premature. [↗](#)

When it comes to the protection of the public core of the Internet, threats come not only from potentially harming states' behaviour, but also from individuals' choices and even errors in the technical configuration of systems. The Call to Protect the Public Core of the Internet, issued by the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace, is viewed as a positive step in identifying the risks and how they could be tackled. While it has the potential to shape future discussions on cyber norms, experts believe it needs to address the issue of inclusion. [↗](#)

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One of the Art@IGF's exhibition stations being set up ahead of the opening today. [More on page 4.](#) [↗](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD



While the IGF is unfolding in Geneva, two digital policy issues have been gaining their fair share of attention. In the USA, the Federal Communications Commission has voted to repeal the net neutrality rules (in place since 2015), sparking concerns around the world. [↗](#)

At the 11th Ministerial Meeting of the World Trade Organization (WTO), which took place earlier this month in Buenos Aires, governments did not agree to a change in the existing e-commerce mandate. [↗](#)

For more updates, visit the *GIP Digital Watch* observatory. [↗](#)

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The framework for discussions on cybernorms is shaped by often contradictory motivations of states. On the one hand, they want operational flexibility and the freedom to act when they deem necessary; on the other hand, they want other states to be constrained in their use of cyber-tools. This contradiction could remain the underlying challenge in the debate on cybersecurity and international law.[↗](#)

The IGF could play a role in strengthening cooperation, by facilitating discussions at annual meetings, and through its intersessional activities that are carried out between one IGF and the next. The IGF could also create broader awareness of the different initiatives and processes in these fields. It could inform such processes, such as by linking its Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity with the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise.[↗](#)

Capacity development: Of summer schools and observatories

Schools on Internet governance (SIGs) are becoming popular. Some schools are regional, such as the European Summer School on Internet Governance and the Asia Pacific School on Internet Governance. Others have a national focus, like those in Armenia and Brazil.

What do the schools do? Schools help fellows familiarise themselves with the Internet governance ecosystem, while empowering them to be the drivers of change at national level.[↗](#) Given the differences and similarities between the schools, one idea was to introduce standardisation in their curricula.[↗](#) Other suggestions relate to academic aspects, funding and sustainability, and creation of a Dynamic Coalition on Schools of Internet Governance.[↗](#)

Beyond SIGs, Internet governance observatories are also an important capacity development tool, as they facilitate access to information related to digital policy and enable more informed policy-making. The Global Internet Policy Observatory (GIPO), initiated in 2012 by the European Commission, is one such tool.[↗](#) The Geneva Internet Platform's *Digital Watch* observatory, set up in partnership with the Internet Society, is another.

Human rights intersecting with other areas

In 2012, the UN Human Rights Council declared that the same rights which people have offline must also be protected online.[↗](#) Since then, this has been a recurrent message, including at the IGF.

Human rights intersect with many other areas. Take the registration of domain names, for example. Although it might be seen as a purely technical issue, it carries privacy implications such as those concerning the personal data of registrants.[↗](#)



REPORTING FROM THE IGF: WHAT TO EXPECT

This year's IGF is packed with sessions (over 200) – including main and high-level sessions – dozens of workshops running in parallel, Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) and Best Practice Forums (BPFs) presenting their work, and Open Forums and sessions dedicated to newcomers. The complex schedule allows participants to focus on the topics they are interested in. But it is also challenging: Parallel sessions make it difficult to follow and absorb the vast amount of information and data shared.

This week, the *GIP Digital Watch* observatory is providing just-in-time reporting to help IGF participants and the broader Internet governance community address these challenges. The initiative is supported by the IGF Secretariat, ICANN, the Internet Society, and DiploFoundation.

Reports from IGF sessions are available within hours of the end of each session on our dedicated page – dig.watch/igf2017 – together with analysis, data mining, and visualisations that summarise the main themes. In addition, our IGF Daily newsletter (the one you are reading is the first issue) will be available online and at the Palais des Nations every day this week. We will publish a final report, presenting a thematic analysis of the discussions, next week.

Internet intermediaries have an important role to play. They need to be transparent as to how they handle personal data. They also have responsibilities relating to governmental requests for personal data or content control policies that may affect freedom of expression.[↗](#)

Gender issues and equal opportunities

Gender issues are attracting more and more attention. Many initiatives focus on fostering the participation of women and the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex (LGBTQI) communities in Internet governance processes.

What about education and jobs? More needs to be done to ensure that these communities have equal opportunities in the technology field.[↗](#)

The protection of children online is another recurrent issue. Yesterday's discussions tackled two aspects: privacy and security implications linked to online services' terms and conditions, and a new initiative in the global fight against child sexual abuse material.

Children and youth often do not realise what they are signing up to when using online services such as social media. Given the implications, they need to understand the terms and conditions of such services.

What can be done to help them make more informed choices? Potential solutions proposed included the use of short videos, animations, cartoons, and games to explain the terms, and employing machine learning tools to automatically simplify and present them in a user-friendly way.[↗](#)

Law enforcement and other actors have increased their efforts in the fight against child sexual abuse material. A new project by ECPAT International and INTERPOL is the European Commission-funded project 'International Child Sexual Exploitation Database (ICSE) Connectivity and Awareness Raising Enhancements – I-CARE'. The project analyses CSAM data internationally registered in the ICSE database at INTERPOL, and will develop a set of global indicators to support this identification.[↗](#)

WHAT'S NEW AT THIS YEAR'S INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM?

At a quick glance, IGF meetings don't seem to differ much from one year to another. But if you look closely at this year's programme, you will notice quite a few differences.

Main sessions complemented by high-level sessions

Main sessions have been part of IGF meetings since the beginning of the IGF process, in 2006. They are organised by members of the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), with input from the broader IGF community. This year, the main sessions will include important timely discussion topics: multistakeholder cooperation in addressing Internet disruptions, encryption, and data flows; cybersecurity for sustainable development and peace; gender inclusion and the future of the Internet; and digital transformation and its socio-economic and labour impacts.

Main sessions this year are complemented by high-level thematic sessions. Proposed and developed by Switzerland, as the IGF host country, these sessions will bring together high-level representatives of various entities in the Internet governance ecosystem, for discussions on two themes: 'Shaping our future digital global governance' and 'Impact of digitalization on politics, public trust and democracy'.

The key outcomes of the main session and high-level sessions will be summarised in **messages**, to be published on the IGF website.

Presenting intersessional work

When it comes to the IGF intersessional work, there are a few novelties as well. One new BPF, on local content, is presenting its outcome document this week, joining two other BPFs that are continuing their work from previous years (BFFs on cybersecurity, and gender and access). In addition, three new DCs have emerged over the past year – Trade and the Internet, Publicness, and Blockchain technologies – and they meet this week to present their work, together with other coalitions.

Digital Geneva and the data track

The IGF is a result of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), whose first phase, back in 2003, was held in Geneva. It was then discussions started on the concept of Internet governance, and two years later, the UN Secretary General was mandated to convene the IGF.

Having the forum hosted in Geneva this year means not only going back to the place where it all started, but also going to a place which is home to many international and intergovernmental organisations whose work is relevant for Internet governance and digital policy (such as the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the WTO, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)). Many of these organisations will host Open Forums at the IGF to showcase their work on digital policy issues and to interact with other Internet governance actors. Seven of these Open Forums will be part of a data track, coordinated by the Geneva Internet Platform, focusing on how data is shaping our digital future.

National and regional perspectives from IGF initiatives

Last year, national, regional, and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs) had their first ever main session at the IGF, raising their visibility and allowing them to exchange experiences and good practices. This year, they again host a main session, focused on the topic of rights in the digital world. Moreover, and for the first time in the history of the IGF, NRIs have joined forces to organise collaborative sessions on issues that are specifically relevant for them, such as the security of critical information infrastructures, digital competences, digital currencies, and Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs).

Youth and newcomers track

If this is your first IGF, you might feel overwhelmed by the packed programme and the number of people and sessions. The newcomers track has been designed specifically for you, to help you better understand the IGF and to meet community members. The track will have a special focus on youth, so if you are a young IGF attendee, you will get tips on how to engage in the discussions and make your voice heard. Knowledge café sessions are held from Monday to Thursday, between 13:15 and 14:00.



DON'T MISS TODAY



Local interventions, global impacts: How can international, multistakeholder cooperation address Internet disruptions, encryption, and data flows?

10:00 – 13:00 | Main Hall (Room XVII – E)

The Internet does not know borders and jurisdictions, and national policy initiatives may have different impacts on the global Internet environment. The session will look at such initiatives in three areas – Internet disruptions (such as shutdowns and slowdowns), encryption, and data flows – and will try to answer questions such as: What are the reasons and motivations for Internet disruptions, and how do they impact the global infrastructure of the Internet? Is encryption a threat to public and national security?

Shaping our future digital global governance

16:00 – 18:00 | Assembly Hall – A

The Internet and digital technologies provide opportunities for growth and development, but also bring challenges that call for a better coordinated global digital governance system. But what should such a system look like?

This is one of the main questions that high-level participants – including Ms Doris Leuthard, President of the Swiss Confederation, and Mr Liu Zhenmin, Under-Secretary-General, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs – will focus on.

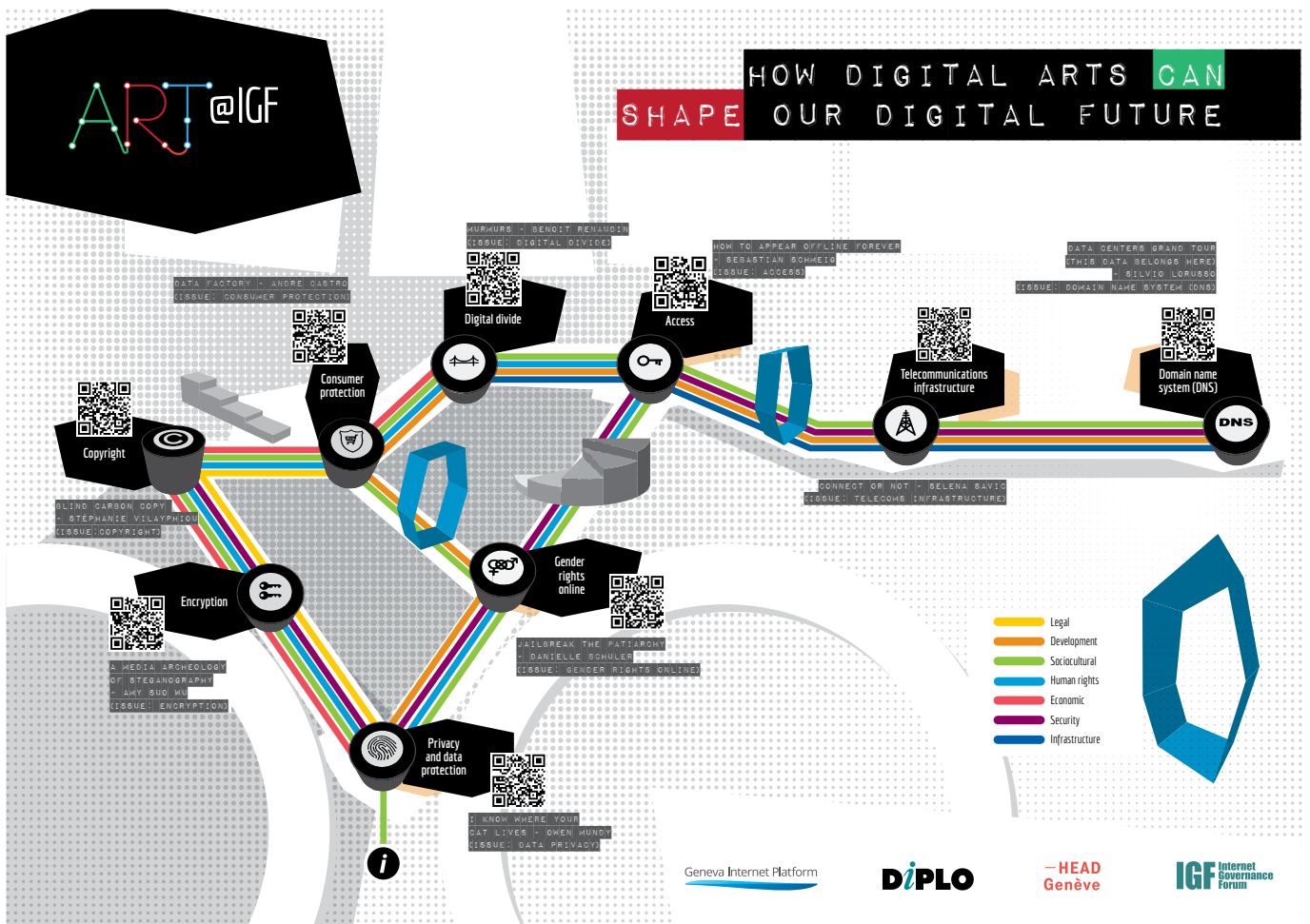
ART@IGF: HOW CAN DIGITAL ART SHAPE OUR DIGITAL FUTURE?

Undoubtedly an innovation at this year's IGF, the Art@IGF project connects digital policy, art, and technology professionals.

The interactive exhibition, set up on the first floor of the Palais des Nations (Building E), uses a subway map as a journey metaphor to explore different Internet governance issues, such as infrastructure, security, and human rights, each depicted as a subway line in a different colour on the exhibition floor.

As participants follow the different thematic lines, they arrive at subway stations where digital artists display their perceptions of the core digital policy issues of the day.

The opening of ART@IGF takes place on Monday, 18th December, at 14.00 CET, Palais des Nations, Building E, first floor. Learn more about Art@IGF





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HIGHLIGHTS FROM DAY 1

The 12th Internet Governance Forum opened officially yesterday with over 30 sessions. The future of global digital governance, access and development, and emerging technologies were among the main themes. We recap what was said.

Digital governance: Maximising opportunities, addressing the challenges

It is now a well-known fact that technology provides opportunities as well as challenges. Yesterday's discussions on digital governance centred on what many have been repeating: we need to maximise the opportunities offered by technology, while addressing the challenges that technology brings.

The question is, how do we do this? Some believe that we should focus on the development of the digital economy; others believe the priority should be on bridging the digital divide, and enhancing confidence and trust in the digital technologies.

This year's discussion shifted from the previous heavy focus on the Internet as a tool, to the new priority of discussing which values the Internet should promote. Here, views ranged from the idea that the Internet is just a mirror of society with no

influence on society, to arguments that the Internet not only changes society, but it does so in a profound way.

The 'mirror of society' position argues that we cannot deal with problems of society by regulating the Internet. We have to change society. The opposing view argues that we can impact society by regulating the Internet.

One shared view is that there are always norms and/or rules that govern the Internet. Norms are an informal determinant of behaviour. Rules are codified in national and international laws. Should these rules take the form of an international convention or treaty? On one hand, it is either not desirable or not possible to have an Internet convention.

On the other hand, those who see the need for an Internet treaty focused on the ways and means to make it a reality.

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Yesterday's high-level discussion tackled the future of global digital governance.

Credit: UN Photo/ Jean Marc Ferré



This report has been prepared by the Geneva Internet Platform, with support from the IGF Secretariat, ICANN, the Internet Society, and DiploFoundation. Session reports and updates from the 12th Internet Governance Forum are available on the *GIP Digital Watch* observatory at dig.watch/igf2017

 Click on the icon in the digital version to access links and additional information.

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The common view is that today, the world is not ready for a treaty. There is fatigue in global treaty-making, added to an unclear delineation of the problems that such a treaty should address. But as technology develops very fast, the situation is likely to change. Whether the need for a treaty will emerge in 10 years' time or later remained an open question by the end of the first day's discussions.

Quite a few references were made to a possible Digital Geneva Convention, which galvanises many discussions on the need for an Internet treaty. The discussion whether there is a need for an Internet treaty, which started on Day 0, is likely to continue during the IGF and beyond.

Artificial intelligence: Education is needed to tackle concerns

The fact that artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential of contributing to growth and development, is something that more and more countries understand as they adopt development plans focused on research and innovation.

But AI also raises concerns, and many of these revolve around social implications, especially in terms of the impact of technological developments on employment and jobs (i.e. with jobs being made obsolete as they are performed by automated systems).[Safety](#), security, and privacy are other

areas of concern, as well as the potential of AI algorithms to perpetuate human biases and discrimination when it comes to decision making.

There is also the risk of a new digital divide, as some developing countries may not be (yet) ready to seize the opportunities offered by AI. These concerns can only be properly addressed if all stakeholders are involved. For example, ethical considerations should be taken into account in both the development and use of AI systems, involves both the technical community and the private sector.

The public debate seems to be more focused on the challenges and risks involved than on the developmental potential of AI. The multiple facets of AI need to be better understood, which drives the need for more awareness raising, education, and capacity development. We need to avoid a future in which a 'fear of machines' dominates the public understanding of AI and leads to a form of 'moral panic'.

Data: Identifying uses and challenges

We often hear that 'data is the oil of the digital economy'. With more and more data being generated not only by individuals, but also by interactions between machines, there is an increasing potential to use data to identify solutions to some of humanity's most challenging problems.

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A LOOK AT THE PREFIX MONITOR

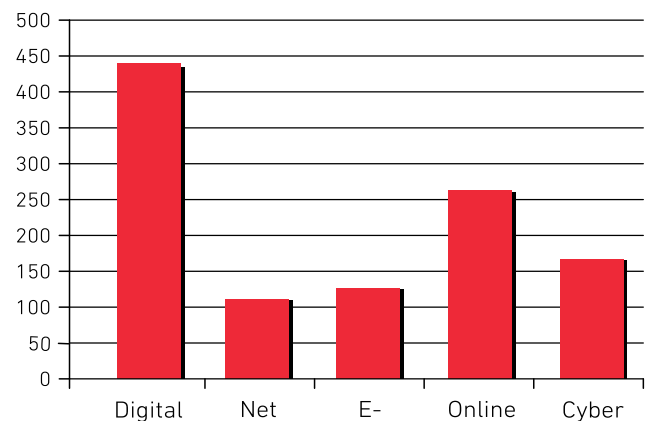


The use of prefixes in digital policy discussions is more than a study of the evolution of language. It tells us in which direction the discussions are going, and how certain issues are framed – and in some cases nuanced. DiploFoundation has been analysing the language of digital policy since WSIS 2005.

The prefix *digital* is by far the leader, based on the analysis of 33 transcripts from Day 1 of the IGF 2017. The popularity of *digital* is triggered by the growing use of the concept of the digitalisation of society. One interesting trend from Day 1 is the frequent use of *digital* governance instead of *Internet* governance.

While leading in overall use, *digital* has lost its predominance in economic issues to the prefix 'e-'. During the last few years, *digital* was used more than 'e-' as dominant prefix for economic issues, probably due to the influence of the introduction of the EU Digital Single Market in the Internet governance debate. The return to the use of 'e' (electronic) for economic and trade matters was supported by the use of the term e-commerce in the preparatory process for the WTO Ministerial meeting in Buenos Aires.

The relatively low frequency of the prefix *cyber* during Day 1 could be explained by the low number of sessions on cybersecurity. Its use is likely to increase today (Day 2) as one of the main sessions and several other workshops focus on cybersecurity.



DID YOU KNOW?

Since data is the oil of the new economy, *data* was very appropriately the most popular word during yesterday's discussions.

Our analysis of transcripts so far shows that the word *data* was used over 500 times, which reflects data's position at the core of modern society, from our digital footprint via e-mail and social media, through to big data analytics. It also confirms that issues related to data underlie many policy discussions. Learn more about the interplay between data and digital policy issues. [↗](#)

In addition to this summary, read our reports from most sessions, at dig.watch/igf2017



Data can be used, for example, for poverty reduction and environmental protection, as well as to achieve other sustainable development goals. In one illustration of such uses, free and open earth observation data can form the basis of projects focused on solving environmental problems. [↗](#)

What about the challenges? Data privacy and security could put the economy and citizens at risk, while possible biases in data can result in misleading analyses. Here too, experts called for education and capacity development for both individuals and institutions, to help capture the potential of data and to become more aware of its limitations and risks. [↗](#)

Organisations rely increasingly on the use of cloud computing services, most of which involve the storage and processing of data in remote cloud servers. The fact that such servers can be located in foreign countries might raise jurisdictional challenges for protecting the data (which laws apply, and how much control do the data owners have over data stored abroad?). [↗](#)

Access: The digital divide still a reality

While the future might be *digital* for many of us, this is not (yet) the case for everyone. Talking about shaping our digital future is premature in many cases, as the digital divide remains a reality, and billions of individuals still do not have access to the Internet.

Solutions focused on bridging this divide should have a holistic approach: building or enhancing infrastructures needs to be complemented with empowering individuals and communities to make meaningful use of the Internet. Children, refugees, indigenous people, people with disabilities, women, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender groups (LGBT) are some of the groups and communities that can be empowered by the Internet, and efforts should be made in this direction. [↗](#)

Internet connectivity in small island developing states (SIDS) also continues to be a challenge, and the development of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), as well as strengthened public-private partnerships for the deployment of networks offer some possible solutions. One important aspect to keep in mind, however, is that SIDS are often prone to natural disasters, which can disrupt the availability of telecommunications networks. [↗](#)

Intermediaries: Defining the extent of their responsibility

In recent months, intermediaries have increasingly come under pressure for the spread of fake news or misinformation, and violent extremism, across their platforms. Governments have been vociferous in their calls for action. In September, for example, the UK called on companies to take down extremist content within one or two hours. [↗](#) In response to the demand to take more immediate action, Internet companies have developed new tools and initiatives for dealing with these issues.

In this scenario, a key question relates to the extent of intermediaries' responsibility. Yesterday's discussions referred to the Council of Europe's draft recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the roles and responsibilities of Internet intermediaries. [↗](#) The draft includes recommendations about specific functions that private companies may perform in the digital world, as opposed to being restricted to general recommendations for intermediaries. [↗](#)

When it comes to content policy, companies still need to improve transparency in the way they deal with content. Artificial intelligence is being used extensively to flag inappropriate content, which is an additional tool to help individuals review such content.

THE IGF AS A PROCESS: NRI COLLABORATIVE SESSIONS AND DYNAMIC COALITIONS

The IGF is a year-long process. Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) and Best Practice Forums (BPFs) form part of what is known as the IGF's intersessional work, focusing on specific digital policy issues between meetings. National, regional, and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs) also feed into the IGF, bringing in local perspectives.

Yesterday, two DCs held their regular annual meetings. The DC on Core Internet Values emphasised that core Internet values are *technical* values, and do not deal with rights and principles. These values refer to the Internet as a global, interoperable, open, decentralised, user-centric, robust, reliable, and end-to-end phenomenon.

The DC on Blockchain Technology explored possible uses of blockchain technology beyond cryptocurrencies, and raised several questions: What can the blockchain community learn from Internet governance processes? Does blockchain governance require a dedicated institution, functioning in a manner similar to how the domain name system is managed by the Internet

Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)? And can the decentralised aspect of blockchain be maintained?

In the session organised collaboratively by NRI initiatives, European NRIs shared thoughts on how to secure the critical information infrastructure, and emphasised that cooperation between different sectors at national and international levels is essential.

The national IGFs from Brazil, Central Africa, and Portugal focused on the need to improve digital competences among individuals in order to empower them to take full advantage of the new digital technologies such as automation and AI. IGF initiatives from Colombia, Croatia, The Netherlands, Nigeria, the USA, and the UK discussed fake news, misinformation, and disinformation in the online space. Because these issues affect citizens and democratic processes, online users need literacy programmes to raise awareness of how to distinguish fake news from real news.



DON'T MISS TODAY

Impact of digitisation on politics, public trust, and democracy
10:00 – 13:00 | Main Hall (Room XVII - E)

The second high-level session of the week will explore the opportunities and challenges that digitisation brings to the digital political sphere, the public trust, and democracy. High-level participants such as Mr Hasanul Haq Inu, Minister of Information, Bangladesh, and Ms Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, European Commission, will share their views on whether education and awareness raising can be the key to empowering citizens to deal with the challenges related to the misuse of the public space.

Empowering global cooperation on cybersecurity for sustainable development and peace
15:00 – 18:00 | Main Hall (Room XVII - E)

Achieving global sustainable development can become a greater challenge if actors fail to work towards global cooperation on cybersecurity and preserving the stability of the Internet. How can we ensure cooperation for sustainable development and peace? Can this be done in a multistakeholder framework, or is an international code of conduct or a global treaty on cybersecurity more feasible? And what are the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders when it come to cybersecurity?



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM DAY 2

The second day of the 12th Internet Governance Forum was dominated by sessions on cybersecurity, content policy, and infrastructure and emerging technologies. Here we recap the main themes.

E-commerce: Will digitalisation widen existing divides or revolutionise the economy?

Digitalisation has affected many aspects of society. One of them is trade, which is increasingly conducted over the Internet.

The World Trade Organization's Ministerial Conference (MC11) which took place last week, and the related debate on e-commerce rules which had been picking up momentum for a few months already, brought development issues into discussion.

Countries which lack Internet access are at a risk of exclusion. There is no stopping digital trade from evolving, nor should there be, as long as the evolution happens through the

lens of appropriate rules, regulations, and inclusion, experts warned. Policymaking at the national and international levels needs to mitigate the risk that digitalisation can widen existing divides and create new gaps.[↗](#)

The sharing economy (such as Uber, and AirBnb) is a recent phenomenon in the evolution of e-commerce. Some see it as an efficient model for utilising excess resources – a view which may not be shared by those who are concerned about the labour implications for contractors. A main question was how to adjust to the sharing economy, since challenges tend to arise at a faster rate than society is able to adapt to them.[↗](#)

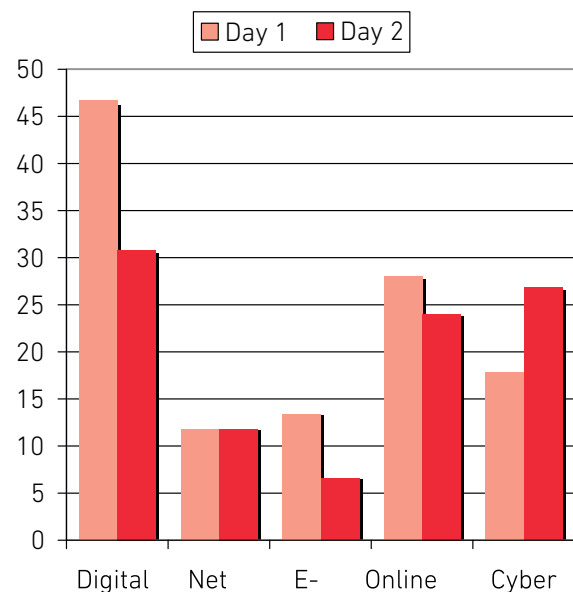
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A LOOK AT THE PREFIX MONITOR

The Prefix Monitor for the second day of the IGF, based on our analysis of close to 60 transcripts, confirmed two trends and revealed a new one.

On Monday we observed that the popularity of the prefix *digital* was triggered by the growing use of the concept of digitalisation of society. The prefix was also widely used to refer to *digital* governance rather than Internet governance. The tendency to use *digital* governance continued during the second day of the IGF.

Retaining its popularity, the prefix *cyber* increased significantly in use on Day 2. This was due to the number of cybersecurity discussions yesterday, starting from a main session on global cooperation on cybersecurity, to more specific workshops. Although both the prefixes *digital* and *e-* had a lower frequency, a closer look at the transcripts confirms this year's trend for *e-* to prevail over *digital* in economic issues.



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Telecom infrastructure: From submarine cables to the Internet of Things

Many of us take the Internet for granted, and we do not pay much attention to its underlying infrastructure. We cannot have the Internet without physical infrastructures, and the availability of such infrastructures remains a challenge in many parts of the world. One solution that is increasingly considered and implemented around the world is the deployment of community networks. These networks are developed by local communities, and this is where their value resides, but they do require support from both policy makers and operators in order to be sustainable.

Some countries are dependent on submarine cables which ensure their connectivity to the global Internet. This makes submarine cables part of the Internet's critical infrastructures, requiring adequate protection not only through measures taken by the companies that own them, but also through international agreements preventing countries from causing disruptions.

As Internet of Things (IoT) devices become ubiquitous, and companies start deploying IoT-dedicated networks, cybersecurity concerns become more and more relevant. Can regulation help address such concerns and prevent cyber incidents involving IoT devices and networks? If so, should regulation be carried out on the national or the international level? Or are these issues better addressed through stand-

ards and certification systems developed by the industry and the technical community?

Answers to these questions vary, but one thing seems to be certain: users need to be educated about cyber hygiene and what they can do when it comes to security and privacy in an IoT environment.

But cybersecurity is not the only concern when it comes to the evolution of the IoT. Inclusion should also be considered, and efforts are needed to ensure that IoT devices are accessible to persons with disabilities.

Cybersecurity: Calling for a human-centric approach

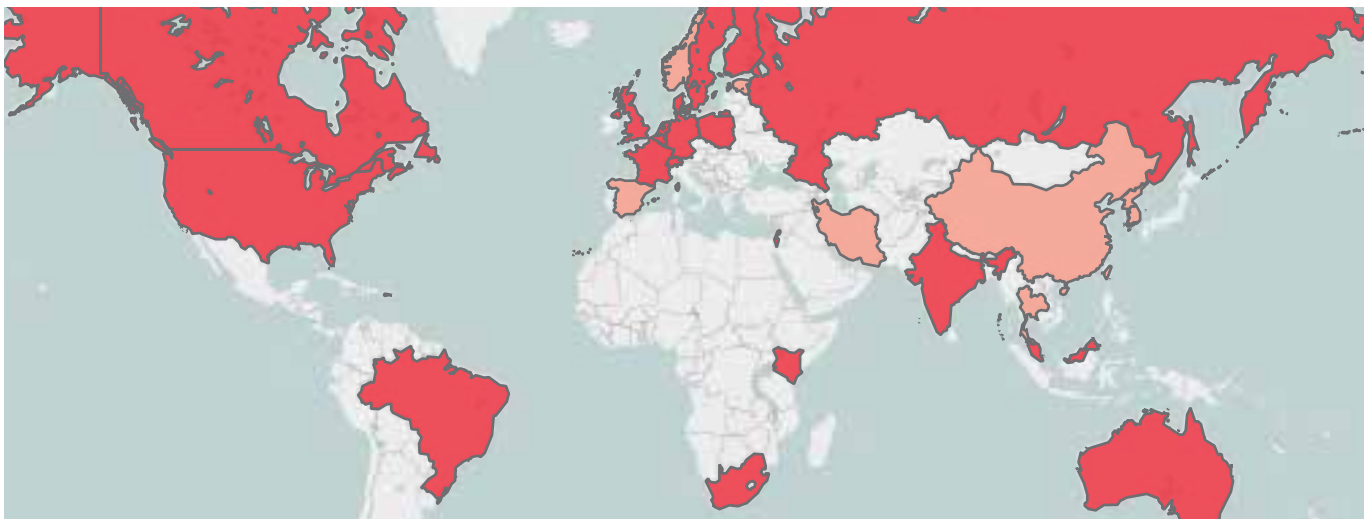
One of the main issues in cybersecurity is how to tackle the seemingly conflicting needs of authorities and users. Law enforcement agencies often need access to users' data when investigating crime; users want their rights to be safeguarded. Although Day 1 discussions supported encryption as a necessary facet of both security and privacy, encryption was described on Day 2 as often being a hindrance to national security.

Although it is often said that security and privacy are complementary (you cannot have privacy without security), some discussions referred to privacy as a possible trade-off for greater security. Rather than balancing security with

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COUNTRIES ARE DEVELOPING OFFENSIVE CYBER-CAPABILITIES

Around 30 countries are developing or have developed offensive cyber-capabilities, according to a new study published on the *GIP Digital Watch* observatory and launched yesterday. Put simply, these states would be able to conduct a cyber attack against another organisation or country in anticipation of such an attack. Referring to the study, which links to official documents and media coverage, experts yesterday called for greater transparency on the development of such cyber-capabilities.



TOWARDS A MORE TANGIBLE IGF: THE IGF 2017 GENEVA MESSAGES

As we outlined in our first newsletter on Monday, there are several innovations in this year's Internet Governance Forum. One stands out, perhaps more than others: *The IGF 2017 Geneva Messages*.

In short, these are summaries of the main points raised during the main sessions and high-level sessions held throughout the week. Their purpose is to enhance the impact of the IGF, and contribute to more visible IGF outputs – a welcome aspect for those who have been encouraging more tangible outcomes.

Of a non-binding nature, these messages are published on the IGF website [and](#) will be included in the Chair's Summary at the end of the meeting.

Curious to know what they say? Take a look! [and](#)

privacy, however, experts are calling for a human-centric approach to cybersecurity, focusing on people, and not just on technology. Users need to regain control over their data; as the owners of their data, they should be the ones deciding what happens to it.

Every company that uses ICT has responsibilities – or so-called 'duties of care' in relation to cybersecurity, according to the Dutch Cybersecurity Council. Experts stressed the need to explore what standards, regulation, and self-regulatory measures, currently exist. We also need to develop a culture of cybersecurity, in which stakeholders understand what is expected of them, and what they can expect in return. [and](#)

Fighting fake news, misinformation, and information disorder

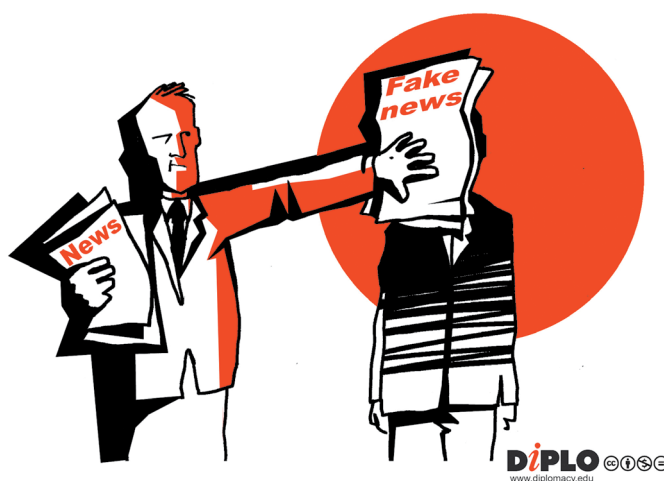
If there is one thing that has caught everyone's attention, it's the issue of fake news. Gaining prominence right after the 2017 US presidential campaign, during the past few months fake news has been the subject of controversy, of tension for Internet companies, and of new studies that seek to unravel why and how this phenomenon is leading to public mistrust and manipulation of public opinion. The term has also morphed into new terms, including *misinformation*, *disinformation*, *alternative facts*, and *information disorder*.

This phenomenon is not new: every great telecommunications invention brought about an influx of propaganda. This now has an instantaneous effect due to lightning-fast digital technologies; the fact that fake news is cheap to produce (compared to high-quality news which costs money) aids its widespread and instantaneous dissemination. [and](#)

When this issue surfaced, Internet companies came under fire for allowing fake news to spread on their platforms.

Critics held that platforms were responsible for content that goes through their pipes. At the same time, as noted in yesterday's discussions, governments also have a responsibility to invest in education and media literacy. [and](#) Media pluralism and education can be more effective in responding to fake news than simply publishing a retraction or a fact check. [and](#)

The tools used to combat fake news include legal and technical means, which do not come without their fair share of challenges. From a policy perspective, one of these complexities emerges from the need to balance regulation with the promotion of freedom of expression. Solutions include developing more transparent measures (and algorithms), educating users about their information rights, and more support for technological innovation. A more daring suggestion was to tax Internet platforms that systematically propagate disinformation on a regular basis, when it has been proven that the disinformation has created a problem. [and](#)



In addition to this summary, read our reports from most sessions, at dig.watch/igf2017

THE IGF AS A PROCESS: NRIs COLLABORATIVE SESSIONS, DYNAMIC COALITIONS, AND BEST PRACTICE FORUMS

Dynamic Coalition (DC) meetings and collaborative sessions organised by national and regional IGF initiatives (NRIs) continued today.

The DC on Platform Responsibility explored issues related to platform accountability and responsibilities in relation to human rights. Regulators around the world take steps to regulate online platforms, requiring them to implement content control policies, such as quickly removing online content containing hate speech or violent extremism. But the rules are not always clearly defined, and their implementation may pose challenges to human rights.[🔗](#)

The meeting of the DC on Net Neutrality served to share regulatory practices around the world. Among them were the EU regulatory framework, which outlines net neutrality principles for states to implement at national level, and India's recently adopted recommendations noting that providers should not discriminate Internet traffic based on content, sender, receiver, protocols, or the equipment used.[🔗](#)

Public libraries can be providers of free and open access to the Internet and online information, and this is the key message disseminated by the DC on Public Access in Libraries. Libraries can (and do) empower vulnerable communities (such as persons with disabilities and indigenous communities) to make meaningful use of the Internet.[🔗](#)

The DC on Trade and the Internet adopted a resolution on transparency and inclusiveness in trade negotiations,[🔗](#) outlining two principles: *transparency* – governments' responsibility to inform citizens about how they regulate trade and to receive public comments on such regulations; and *consulta-*

tion – governments' responsibility to ensure that interested stakeholders can meaningfully contribute to the drafting process.[🔗](#)

In discussing artificial intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things, the DC on IoT stressed that standards should cover issues such as security of and interoperability between devices and systems. The DC called for standard-setting organisations to collaborate towards more harmonised approaches.[🔗](#)

The DC on Community Connectivity showcased the potential of community networks as bridgers of the digital divide, especially in rural areas. Such networks can also promote sustainable access, in the sense of allowing individuals not only to connect to the Internet, but also to stay connected over time.[🔗](#)

In a collaborative session on multilingualism and Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs), IGF initiatives from Macedonia, Nepal, Russia, and South Eastern Europe spoke about the value of IDNs as promoters of diversity of languages and cultures online. Despite their potential to encourage more people to use the Internet, IDNs still face uptake challenges.[🔗](#)

Digital currencies and blockchain technology were the focus of a session co-organised by IGFs from Armenia, Brazil, China, and Nigeria. A key message pointed to the significant potential of using blockchain across different systems (i.e., public institutions, the financial sector, etc.), to improve the security of data and the stability of systems. As for digital currencies, they could co-exist with traditional banking systems, if the risks of abuse by criminals are tackled adequately.[🔗](#)

DON'T MISS TODAY

Dynamic coalitions: Contribute to the digital future.[🔗](#)

10:00 – 11:30 | Main Hall (Room XVII - E)

Thirteen IGF Dynamic Coalitions will come together during this session to showcase their work on technical, rights-related, and other Internet issues: accessibility and disability, community connectivity, innovative approaches to connecting the unconnected, public access in libraries. The Internet of Things, blockchain technologies, network neutrality, platform responsibility, child safety online, gender and Internet governance, trade, publicness, core Internet values, and Internet rights and principles.

NRIs perspectives: Rights in the digital world[🔗](#)

11:30 – 13:00 and 15:00 – 16:00 | Main Hall (Room XVII - E)

National, regional, and youth IGF initiatives will share their perspectives on rights in the digital world. They will ask how

the development of new technologies is affecting our digital rights. What are the challenges and limitations in exercising such rights, and how can they be most effectively addressed? Can the multistakeholder model provide meaningful solutions to problems already identified?

Gender inclusion and the future of the Internet[🔗](#)

16:00 – 18:00 | Main Hall (Room XVII - E)

What does it mean to integrate gender into Internet governance processes? How can this be done, what are the challenges, and how can they be addressed? These are some of the questions to be discussed during the session, which will also look at issues such as access and the gender digital divide (including in relation to new and emerging technologies) and online gender-based violence.



REPORTING DAILY FROM THE 12th INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

dig.watch/igf2017

IGF Daily prepared by the Geneva Internet Platform with support from the IGF Secretariat, ICANN, the Internet Society, and DiploFoundation

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.

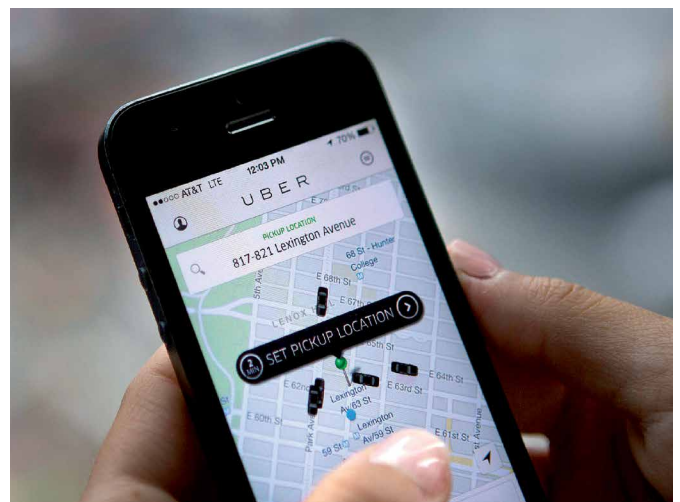
[Continued on page 2](#) 

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



Continued from page 1

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.

Continued on page 3 



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.[↗](#)

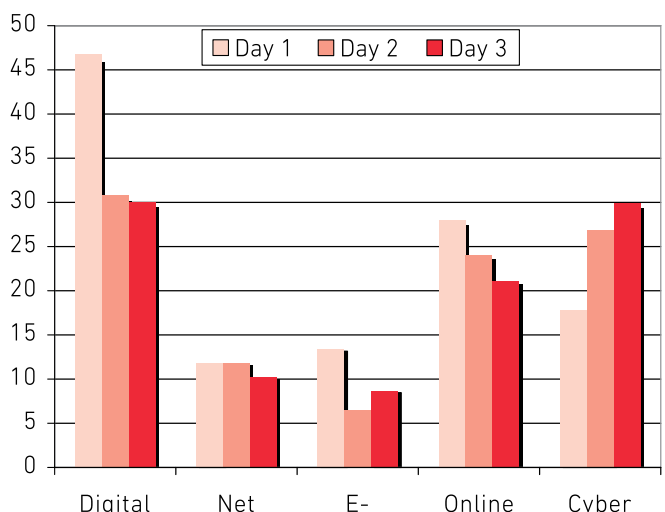
The need for transparency also comes into focus when legitimate content control policies (those respecting the principles outlined above) are implemented by Internet intermediaries.

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 commu-

nities. The BPF 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. [\[](#)

The image displays two side-by-side browser screenshots of a news article from the Independent. The left screenshot shows the original text, and the right screenshot shows the text after being processed by the 'Jailbreak the Patriarchy' browser extension, which has swapped the gendered pronouns and labels.

Original Text (Left):

Gone are the days when skirts were just for women and trousers were just for men.

In 2017, gender no longer dictates the way people dress.

Fashion designers are combining men's and women's collections on the runway, John Lewis have abolished "girls" and "boys" labels on children's clothes, and more fashion brands are launching gender-neutral collections, one of these is streetwear-inspired label: **Wildfang**.

Following in the footsteps of H&M (who announced their unisex denim line in March), the forward-thinking brand is leading the way in gender-neutral fashion.

Their most recent project, The Future Is Fluid, reflects society's changing attitudes around gender expression and identity. Plus, 100 per cent of the profits go to LGBTQ causes.

The androgynous collection features a mixture of loose fitting suits, slogan T-shirts and tailored

Swapped Text (Right):

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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.