Exploring Perspectives - A Survey

Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus

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# Acknowledgement

We would like to thank all those who took the time to participate in the Survey and send their thoughts and feedback. We would also like to thank members who were present in Geneva who were constantly feeding the IGC with updates aside from the webinar with special mention and much appreciation to Robert Guerra, a MAG Nominee who was working tirelessly to set up e pads that enabled the IGC etc.

We thank Fatima Cambronero, a MAG Nominee who together with the Coordinators designed the Survey form which allowed us to carry out the Survey. Whilst the theme has already been selected, it is useful to see how the list is thinking.

Most of the themes were raised at the Consultations in Geneva of late and this was put to the list.

We hope you enjoy reading the results just as much we enjoyed carrying out this brief and spontaneous Survey.

Yours faithfully,

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**IGC Coordinators**

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# INTRODUCTION

This Survey was carried out during the Consultations in Geneva over the IGC Mailing list to gather feedback from the list on what they thought about the themes that were being discussed. The Survey also extracted perspectives and to gather a “feel” of what members are thinking of.

# Countries that Participated in Survey

Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Burundi, Congo, Fiji, France, Japan, Lebanon, Morocco, Pakistan, Spain, St Lucia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom, Venezuela. There were some who participated who did not disclose countries that they were from.

## Number of People Who Participated in the Survey

There were a total of 20 people who participated in the Survey which ran for 24 hours from when it was published.

## Participation by Region

The Survey was done via the IGC mailing list with participants from various regions in the world and the distribution is as per the illustration below:

It was good to see a healthy spread of participants from around the globe who participated and with interesting and valuable perspectives.

## Subscribers of National, Sub Regional and Regional Internet Governance Forums

The following is a list of subscribers to national, sub regional and regional Internet Governance Forums. There were some people who participated in the survey who did not list the Internet Governance Forums that they were involved with.

# THEME

## What do you think should be the Theme for 2012 Internet Governance Forum?

The most popular was Internet Governance for Sustainable Economic and Social Development and Human Rights followed by Internet Governance for Sustainability and Freedom. The table below illustrates the ranking placed on the themes in order of popularity.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Theme** | **Yes** | **No** | **Undecided** | **Rank** |
| **Internet Governance for Sustainable Economic and Social Development and Human Rights** | 80% | 10% | 10% | 1 |
| Internet Governance for Sustainability and Freedom | 55% | 15% | 30% | 2 |
| **The Internet for Sustainable Human, Social and Economic Development** | 45% | 20% | 35% | 3 |
| Internet Governance at the Crossroads: Finding the Balance between Human Rights and Responsibilities | 45% | 15% | 40% | 3 |
| **Promoting Popular Participation in the Information and Knowledge Economy** | 40% | 15% | 45% | 4 |
| Responding to Internet Governance Challenges – Who determines the Balance? | 35% | 30% | 35% | 5 |
| **Infrastructure, Technical, Options or Technical and Human Rights** | 30% | 30% | 40% | 6 |
| Internet Governance for Social and Economic Development | 30% | 20% | 50% | 6 |
| **Towards Social and Economic Sustainability of the Internet** | 30% | 25% | 45% | 6 |
| ICT for Disaster Recovery | 25% | 30% | 45% | 7 |

## Alternative Suggestions from the Participants

* Internet Governance – How Should The Balance be Determined?
* I am not clear if the above were overarching themes for the IGF, or for main sessions.  
  I prefer to try to get a main session on HR, rather than lose the battle for an overarching theme that includes HR.
* Implementing human rights online: how to engage the multi-stakeholders in local, regional and transnational policies;
* Pragmatic implementations of human rights online: lessons for an ethical governance of the networks;
* Implementing the human rights framework online: policies for and from multi-stakeholder perspectives
* Under point 9 and 10, ACTA and related national and international copyright initiatives;
* Establish significant co-operation between both   
  the private and public sectors;
* We need also to think of "structuring" the CS participation and contribution. This survey is very good in that sense;
* Always assign exclusive remote participation coordinator/moderator (who do not have other jobs at the same time) and is responsible to interact between the meeting physical participants+ speaker and the Remote Participants).   
  Provide plural means – video, voice and text channel, as well as real-time transcription and video streaming / coverage of the meeting.  
  Enable the meeting and remote participation through interactive presentations access through RP. Due to limitation of sufficient funds availability it is crucially required for a common Remote participants as well as for a MAG members.

## Should Human Rights be the Theme?

55% voted that Human Rights should be the theme although 20% voted against having Human Rights as the theme.

### Perspectives of Participants

These are some perspectives that were captured in the Survey:-

* Probably, but I don't think it will make it through in the theme, certainly not by itself. I expect that effectively it will be the theme of the meeting.
* For the whole IGF? Unfortunately no, it is not time yet. For a main session, yes.
* Yes, because at the moment a lot of us have been talking about it but we have not done calls on good practices and we haven't done the economic and political analysis that such practices entail to be shared and transferred worldwide. We have to stop talking about the rights as a kind of incantation and get down to the nitty-gritty so as to show states and private sector what the practicalities of such implementation are, create criteria to evaluate them by and hold them accountable on that basis. The most difficult exercice is to bring the different parties around the table: the multi-stakeholder perspective can be easily lost in the process...
* Not as such. This would be too broad and I would have reservations about spending a lot of time discussing matters which would not give rise to specific IGF 'messages', relevant to the Internet. The theme should be more specific and focus on those human rights which are directly affected by Internet governance. e.g. freedom of speech, languages, privacy, etc.
* OF course yes, but being in the consultation meeting, chances are almost zero to bring it as a main theme. But we can still ask to organize main session under the theme of Human Rights.

I think it's time to push forward the Rights theme to be at the core of discussions in IGF since it was refused many times before. I recall it was proposed to be the theme of IGF 09 but it was not approved by the host country.

* It could be in the theme, but not alone
* In the African reality, it is necessary
* No. It is what we are fighting for but we need to focus on a definition clearer that "HR".   
  We are going to disperse our energy and there will be confusion

## What do you think is the biggest challenge facing Governments today?

* Balancing human rights and responsibilities and how this impacts the policies and in turn affects people.
* Managing the shift in control.
* Balancing money and rights -- not even security and rights-- it is about money. In Greece? money vs rights.
* Awareness and power sharing
* Balancing protection of free speech with that of privacy, copyright and dignity (against hate speech).
* obsolesence
* striking a balance between protecting freedom of expression and accesss to inform on the internet for citizens and national security
* The economic crisis, that makes them be even more disengaged from our issues, and capitulate in the face of the financial toxic world
* Disaster recovery, famine, insecurity, forced migrations, climate, demography, economic crises, youth unemployment.  
  Do not escalate IG out of proportion to other real challenges.
* The government challenge at the moment is to figure out how to ensure their economic stability, sovereignty and security. I think this question should have been more specific because I am not sure if it's specific to the Internet. Therefore, I had to give a general answer.
* In the Internet governance field, most of the governments don't understand well how can ICANN be out of there total control. And one of their biggest challenge to bring it back under an intergovenmental entity.
* Lack of involvement
* -legal and regulatory framework on cyber security  
  -exchange points (with respect to Africa)  
  -internet critical resources  
  -broadband internet  
  -connectivity
* Making sure the extremes are not monopolizing the arena.
* There is a constant tension remains between public, regulatory and judicial contention among network users and access providers. Which type of contents should be blocked under which National Policy.

## What is the biggest Challenge in Internet Governance Today?

* Balancing human rights and responsibilities and how this impacts the policies and in turn affects people.
* Managing the shift in control.
* Same thing: balancing money and rights (IPR, SOPA, ACTA--that's all about money)
* Adequate and effective engagement of all stakeholders especially Civil Society and youth (stress on funding)
* Inter-border effects of national regulation
* a relevant forum involving all major players (IGF has not become this yet)
* Issue of human rights protection on the internet, including access to information
* The fragmentation of entities that pretend they have authority on internet governance and as a result impede and slow down a bottom-up approach from civil society
* Universal access, ICT for development.
* Ensuring fair balance of participation and engagement between and among multi-stakeholders.
* The biggest challenge in IG is how to make the whole process even more inclusive. To reach out people that IG affects their lives everyday, they just still don't know about it!
* Keep the Internet governance out of the control of government, and make ICANN more International and more open out of any government control.
* Inaccessibility to the information of high number of people around the world
* -cybercrime  
  -IPV4 to IPV6 mutation  
  -financing the participation of civil society
* Multistakerholderism and how to "structure" less structured CS representative. Institutionalization will kill our legitimacy and we will become counter-powers
* Organization Linking between IG and the Internet/Network/WAN/Communicaitons Regulating Authorities, to have official dialogue between IGF Secretariat (after getting Advise from MAG) and to convince them in Public Interest for the Implementation of NN & IGF Theme in their Countries.