

## IGF 2017 Reporting: Youth Coalition on Internet Governance (YCIG)

- Session Title: Youth Coalition on Internet Governance

- Date: 21 December 2017

- Time: 12:30-13:30

- Session Organizer: Youth Coalition on Internet Governance

- Chair/Moderator: Michael Oghia/Nadia Tjahja/Israel Rosas

- Rapporteur/Notetaker: Su Sonia Herring

<https://dig.watch/sessions/youth-coalition-internet-governance>

- List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations: Nadia Tjahja (recent graduate of the College of Europe), Israel Rosas (international digital strategy at the Office of the President of Mexico)

- Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):

- Cooperation between youth organisations/initiatives without duplicating efforts
- Involving youth from different background areas (recognising and including youth experts, inviting locals to participate, encourage young women participation,)
- Finding and creating support systems for young people involvement (such as mentorship programmes, opportunities platform, preparatory webinars, etc)

- If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation:

N/A

- Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):

During the session, after introducing the organisation and appointing the new steering committee there was participant led discussion, which focused on three key issues: cooperation between youth organisations/initiatives with the aim to create a more solidified network rather than individual work across different areas that may duplicate efforts. There was a call for YCIG to approach international organisations, regional organisations, youth platforms and youth initiatives for outreach and advocating and youth visibility - they are very structured so open to collaboration. This presence allows us to bring in people into IGF but also ensure that issues discussed at IGF go back into the wider international community.

A second key issue was involving youth from different background areas and we discussed having a platform that links to all opportunities for youth (we have now set up the YCIG Events

and Opportunities calendar [here](#)), in addition that we should increase YCIG Memberships and involve locals at events to participate - feedback was that for example, a lot of students haven't been invited or the IGF wasn't promoted locally to attend - although it's in the city they live in - reaching out to them will give us and them the opportunity to engage. There was a concern that the gender issue session had few females and that YCIG should become more active in reaching out to young girls and women to actively engage with internet governance at a younger age. We also spoke about panels not including youth - rather than having workshop sessions with youth only - youth should be sitting as a stakeholder amongst any other in any topic. YCIG proposed to set up a youth experts calendar (which is now available [here](#), in which young experts can leave their information and their specialisations.)

The third key issue focused on creating support systems, particularly a mentorship programme - the YCIG community had mixed feelings about this. Although a better support system should be available at YCIG for those who attend independently, the YCIG community also realises the burden this places on the IGF Secretariat - therefore proposals for lightning sessions for familiarisation of the IGF and buddy systems prior to events were encouraged - nobody eats alone! Pre-event webinars were also suggested for IGFNewcomers that would support young people not only navigating the event but the website prior to the event.

- Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs):

The YCIG Community conveyed that they would like that the Steering Committee address three areas. Firstly, internal YCIG steps in the manner of recruitment and involvement. Secondly, there are IGF/internet governance-event focused goals in terms of youth participation on existing panels (rather than separate youth panels) but also supporting (new) young people and newcomers to participate in international fora's and advocacy goals externally to the IGF.

Going forward, we refer to the discussion section in the previous question, which outlines participant suggestions in detail and what they would like YCIG to achieve in the future.

## **Gender Reporting**

- Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session:  
Approximately 40-50 people

- Estimate the overall number of women present at the session:  
25-30

- To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?  
Briefly raised in discussions by a participant

- If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion:

A participant raised the issue of lack of women in a gender session and would like to see more involvement of females. Furthermore, that encouraging girls at a younger age is important to ensure that women are included in internet governance discussions. Lastly, that it's especially important to Connect Africa to raise visibility on the issue and perhaps this can be created through mentorship.