

IGF 2017: Workshop report

- **Session Title:** Multi-stakeholder consultation on defining Internet Universality indicators to support 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

- **Date:** Wednesday 20th December 2017
- **Time:** 11:50-1:20pm
- **Session Organizer:** UNESCO
- **Chair/Moderator:** Mr. Guy Berger, UNESCO Director for Freedom of Expression and Media Development.
- **Rapporteur/Notetaker:** Ms. Xianhong Hu, UNESCO

- **List of speakers and their institutional affiliations:**
 - Mr. David Souter, APC Consortium
 - Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen, APC (Rights and Gender)
 - Ms Anja Kovacs, the Internet Democracy project (Rights)
 - Prof Xue Hong, China Normal University (Openness)
 - Mr. Stephen Wyber, Manager of Policy and Advocacy IFLA (Access)
 - Ms Dorothy Gordan, UNESCO IFAP Chair on information literacy (Access)
 - Ms. Jasmina Byrne, UNICEF (Youth and Children)
 - Mr. Raul Echeberria, ISOC (Multi-stakeholder)
 - Mr. Ridha Guellouz, President of Tunisian Association of ICTs-ATTIC (Multi-stakeholder)
 - Mr. Indrajit Banerjee, UNESCO Director Knowledge Societies Division
 - Mr. Frank La Rue, UNESCO ADG for Communication and information

- **Key Issues raised** (1 sentence per issue):

- UNESCO presented the first draft Internet Universality indicators during a consultation session.
 - Guy Berger mentioned that this project “aims to identify constructive ways to improve national Internet environments and promote an Internet that is based on human Rights, that it is Open and Accessible to all and that is nurtured by Multistakeholder participation”.
 - Participants were consulted on the draft indicators and discussed about “the challenges to collect data in some countries”, the formulation of a “common and open methodology to implement the indicators” and the relevance of adding more indicators about people with disabilities.
- **If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation:**
- David Souter, representing the Consortium led by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), then presented the project and released the first draft Internet Universality indicators. This framework includes qualitative, quantitative and institutional indicators. “The draft indicators were developed through an extensive programme of desk research and consultation. The online consultation platform attracted more than 165 participants and 25 face-to-face consultations were also held in 22 countries”.
- **Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):**
- Guy Berger, UNESCO's Director for Freedom of Expression and Media Development, opened the roundtable discussing the concept of Internet Universality and the related R-O-A-M principles adopted in 2015 by UNESCO Member States, the indicators' project is a “step forward to support governments and other stakeholders assess and improve their national Internet environments”, he added.

- Different contributors to the project – among whom Prof Xue Hong (China Normal University), Stephen Wyber (IFLA), Dorothy Gordon (UNESCO IFAP Chair on Information Literacy), Jasmina Byrne (UNICEF) and Raul Echeberria (ISOC) – took the floor and discussed the five categories of indicators (Rights, Openness, Accessibility, Multistakeholder participation and crosscutting issues).
 - Guy Berger closed the session saying that this draft framework of indicators will be improved after the second phase of the consultation in March 2018. The indicators will then be pre-tested and pilots will be done in different countries before being submitting to UNESCO Member States in November 2018.
- **Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/potential next steps/key takeaways (3 paragraphs):**
- Anriette Esterhuysen (APC) stated, “we are trying to encourage the practice of always gathering data around the Internet and making sure this data is aggregated”.
 - Stephen Wyber from IFLA talked about Accessibility indicators, referring to “information poverty, culture, people with disabilities, local content and services”.
 - Jasmina Byrne from UNICEF proposed to develop indicators that would distinguish children from the youth as “there rights are distinctly guaranteed by different conventions and as they engage differently on the Internet”.

Gender Reporting

- **Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session: 60**
 - **Estimate the overall number of women present at the session: 30**
- **To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women’s empowerment?**
- The Internet Universality Indicators are developed within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, thus keeping a special focus on gender, children

and youth. One of the major questions raised during the session is how to bring more rights, openness, accessibility and participation to women around the world. Gender equality is, in fact, part of the cross-cutting indicators meant to be broad public policy goals affecting the overall indicators framework.

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

- As David Souter highlighted “looking at the impact of the Internet environment from a gender perspective requires an assessment of all five categories, not to just those supplementary issues within the gender component of the cross-cutting category”.
- Anriette Esterhuysen also added that it is important to keep in mind that there is often reference to desegregated data by age, by gender or other forms. She stressed that although some actors or countries want to focus on accessibility indicators, “they still have to look at the gender dimensions because indicators crosscut, they don't stand alone”.