Youth Coalition on Internet Governance (YCIG)

Yearly Report
2015-16

Final draft

Activities summary

The follow-up actions of the discussion held during IGF 2014 in Istanbul, Turkey, about the "IGF Youth Survival Kit" and "A Day 1 Youth get-together" were held in João Pessoa, Brazil, at IGF 2015. Meanwhile, an informal discussion and information exchange platform was created on Facebook and Skype.

IGF ABCs for Newbies (IGF Youth Survival Kit)

The development team, including Bianca Ho and Anri van der Spuy as well as contributors Ginger Paque and Susan Chalmers, created the content, which is an evolving project that aims to create a welcoming IGF environment and enhance the experience for youth. New input and contributions from all parties, especially youth, are welcome. NetMission.Asia helped build the website and designed the postcard for its promotion (around 500 postcards were distributed during the event).

Website: http://www.igf-abc.info/

Mentor Youth Meet Up (Day 1 Youth get-together)

A casual, IGF Day 1 social event for youth to interact with senior IGF participants was organized on 10 November 2015, from 12:30 to 14:00 (UTC-3). Around 40 youth participated in the session, which was hosted by Bianca Ho and David Ng, along with Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) members Ginger Paque, Joonas Mäkinen, Ephraim Percy Kenyanito, Peter Dengate Thrush, Avri Doria, and Aida Mahmutović.

Event schedule: http://sched.co/4e0o
Photos: https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=oa.1928879164003771&type=1

YCIG Facebook

As discussed previously, an informal discussion and information exchange platform was needed to facilitate easier communication. As such, the YCIG Facebook group was created last year, and it now boasts 435 members (as of October 2016). The Facebook group is meant to support the YCIG Google Group, which acts as the mailing list.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/youthcoalitiononinternetgovernance/
YCIG Google Group (mailing list): https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/ycig

YCIG WSIS+10 statement

The YCIG came together to produce a youth statement for the World Summit for the Information Society (WSIS) 10-year review process (WSIS+10) in December 2015.

The statement is available at: https://bit.ly/YCIGWSIS10

Online youth advocacy

The momentum generated at IGF 2015 helped create new levels of youth advocacy within the global Internet governance ecosystem. YCIG members Michael Oghia and Adela Goberna produced statements advocating for greater youth involvement and more opportunities for mentoring and shadowing. Other members, such as Su Sonia Herring and Auke Pals, continued to advocate for youth engagement and inclusion at various forums throughout Europe (as part of the Network of EuRopean Digital Youth (NERDY), which is an the Erasmus+ program), while members such as Yannis Li, Bianca Ho, and David NG advocated for the same in the Asia-Pacific region and on the MAG.

Adela's statement (published by the Internet Society): https://www.internetsociety.org/blog/chapters-members/2016/03/youth-arent-future-we%E2%80%99re-present

Michael's statement (published on CircleID): https://bit.ly/CircleIDYCIG

Contributions to Taking Stock of IGF 2015 and Looking Ahead to IGF 2016

YCIG members collaborated together to submit the YCIG feedback statement for Taking Stock of IGF 2015 to the IGF Secretariat. It provided suggestions for improvements to future IGFs in order to create a more youth-friendly discussion platform. YCIG members also worked collectively to produce suggestions and recommendations as part of the YCIG Looking Ahead to IGF 2016 statement.

Taking Stock of IGF 2015 statement: http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/contributions-taking-stock-of-igf-2015-and-looking-ahead-to-igf-2016

Looking ahead to IGF 2016 statement: https://ycigweb.files.wordpress.com/2016/10/ycig-igf-feedback-statement.pdf

Ongoing charter review & steering committee election discussions

Due to ongoing discussions on the YCIG mailing list and at the YCIG session at IGF 2016, the YCIG community agreed on the need to review and revise the YCIG charter. The issues that appeared to be the most urgent were the election procedures, clarifying the membership structure, especially since some of the existing members of the YCIG steering committee are retiring due to the mandatory age restrictions, electing new steering committee members, and solidifying the YCIG mission and vision.

Discussion archives available at:
https://groups.google.com/d/msg/ycig/ieJjKQ71Tv4/sFjKXnwtBgAJ

Youth activities hosted by YCIG Members

AFRICA

The Youth activities during the African IGF 2016 in Durban, South Africa

The African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) is a multi-stakeholder forum of different Internet actors addressing Internet governance from an African perspective. AfIGF conveys the voices and efforts of the African continent to the global Internet governance community, while ensuring that the benefits of a viable information society accrue to every African. The AfIGF was launched at IGF 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya, and the AfIGF has since held five successful multi-stakeholder engagement events throughout Africa. The AfIGF Secretariat is jointly hosted by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Website: http://afigf.org/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/AfrIGF
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/AfricanInternetGovernanceForum/

Draft AfIGF report:
http://afigf.org/sites/default/files/2016/docs/REPORT%20AFIGF%202016%20Draft%20outcome%2018102016_evening.pdf

Since its inception in 2011, youth participants – many of whom had participated in the African School on Internet Governance (AfriSIG) that took place few days before the IGF – were given a platform and an opportunity to participate in the AfIGF for the first time as stakeholders. As a result, youth were involved in the main sessions of the AfIGF, which included a youth-led panel. Youth members also organized their own side session. They experienced challenges during this process, however, because some of the youth initiatives were not taken as seriously as the organizers would have hoped. Nevertheless, the participating youth participants welcomed the efforts of the AfIGF Secretariat in involving them for the first time. Below are some of the key outcomes and highlights from their sessions.

1. Main session on youth: "Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Accelerating the Digital Transformation of Africa"

- Government should involve young people when creating policy for youth and children;

- Governments need to integrate innovation and entrepreneurship into education systems and support hubs that teach young people innovation;

- African Union (AU) member states should implement the African Union Pan African radio and television project taking into account the needs of youth; and

- An appeal was sent to different stakeholders to support youth-led initiatives in order to provide capacity building opportunities to them in areas such as cybersecurity (child online protection), innovation, and entrepreneurship.

2. Youth parallel session at the AfIGF

The AfIGF youth parallel session was supposed to take place before lunch on Day 1, but it was changed and scheduled for after lunch because government delegates had to use the assigned room for a press conference. This change was made two hours before the session was supposed to begin and many participants had already planning to attend other sessions, which resulted in a very small number of attendants to the youth session.

As a result, the youth submitted the following recommendations to the AfIGF Secretariat:

- Youth sessions need to be given the same time and priority as other sessions;

- More youth-led sessions at future AfIGFs;

- We agreed with the AfIGF Secretariat that the youth will be contacted ahead of time and be involved in the creation of the program; and

- The AfIGF Secretariat should create a fund to support youth participation since young people, if not sponsored, will likely be unable to attend otherwise.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Youth Internet Governance Forum

On 26-29 July 2016, the 7th Youth Internet Governance Forum (YIGF) was successfully held at the NTUH International Convention Center in Taipei, Taiwan, as one of the core events of the Asia-Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF). NetMission.Asia, an organization represented by many YCIG members, organized various engagement activities, ranging from simulation and role play games to workshops for more than 50 students from Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Hong Kong.

More information is available at: http://www.yigf.asia/ &
http://www.aprigf.asia/documents/reports/2016_YIGF_Report.pdf

Hong Kong Youth Internet Governance Forum

Initiated by NetMission.Asia in cooperation with the DotAsia Organization and Microsoft Hong Kong, the first-annual Hong Kong Youth Internet Governance Forum (HKYIGF) was held in July 2016. HKYIGF aims to provide mass education among local high schools in Hong Kong to engage teenagers, and encourage them to take part in global Internet governance discussions and processes as digital citizens, help them develop a sense of belonging in the

digital society, and understand their rights and responsibilities vis-à-vis other Internet users. Attending the Asia-Pacific regional IGF has inspired youth in Hong Kong to organize a local youth IGF, which they hope to replicate in the future in other countries. Eventually the vision is to have representatives from each local YIGF to attend the regional YIGF.

More information is available at: http://hk.yigf.asia & https://www.facebook.com/hk.yigf.asia/

EUROPE

European Dialogue on Internet Governance New Media Summer School

YCIG members, including Su Sonia Herring, Auke Pals, Michael Oghia, and Ayden Férdeline, took part in the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) New Media Summer School (NMSS) and produced youth statements as part of the program, which were then transmitted to the EuroDIG Secretariat and submitted to the IGF Secretariat. The NMSS youth fellows also led a silent protest against geo-blocking while European Commissioner for the Digital Economy and Society, Günther H. Oettinger, spoke during EuroDIG.

The NMSS 2016 Key Messages are available at: http://www.eurodig.org/eurodig-2016/youth/y-messages-16/

Austrian Youth Internet Governance Forum

On 30 September 2016, the Austrian Youth Internet Governance Forum took place in Vienna, Austria, as an Austrian IGF pre-event. It focused on the topic of hate speech and civic activism on the Internet, involving stakeholders from civil society, law enforcement, and academia. The event was co-organized by YCIG member Florian Daniel. The messages can soon be found at: http://jugend-igf-d.tumblr.com/

The key messages are available at: https://www.bjv.at/activities/youth-igf-2016-meinnetz-ohne-hass/

Dutch IGF Young Internet Debate

On 13 October 2016, the Dutch IGF Young Internet Debate was held in The Hague, Netherlands. As part of the Dutch IGF framework, this year's event was co-organized by YCIG members Auke Pals and Thijl Klerkx.

More information is available at: https://www.nligf.nl/young-igf/

German Youth IGF

The German Youth IGF took place on 8 September 2016, in Berlin, Germany, just before the German IGF. The German Youth IGF is an official part of the German IGF and involves young people as an individual stakeholder group. YCIG member David Krystof co-managed the youth IGF and summarized the messages for IGF 2016.

More information is available at: http://jugend-igf-d.tumblr.com/

European Youth IGF Project

NERDY is hosting a project to bring together European IGF initiatives, currently involving the Austrian National Youth Council, the ECP-EPN Foundation (a Dutch NGO), the German Youth IGF initiative, and the Turkey-Europe Foundation. NERDY involves several YCIG members, and it also supports youth IGFs financially, administratively, and by training offers and providing capacity development.

More information is available at: http://www.youthigfproject.com/

Youth involvement at the Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF

At the second-annual Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF (BHIGF), which was held on 21 October 2016, 24 students from all over the country were supported by the Council of Europe (CoE) and spent two days learning about the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), Internet governance, Internet freedoms, civil society, local and global advocacy, and the feminist principles of the Internet.

More information is available at: https://oneworldplatform.net/en/bh-igf-en/

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Youth LACIGF

The Youth IGF of Latin America and the Caribbean was established in 2016. On 26 July 2016, and accomplished by Youth Observatory, an unofficial pre-event of the Latin America and Caribbean Internet Governance Forum (LACIGF) was held in Costa Rica in order to increase the participation of young people in Internet governance-related discussions and processes in the region.

More information is available at: http://youthlacigf.com/

Youth Unconference at Brazilian IGF

The Youth Participation in the Internet Ecosystem unconference took place during the Brazilian IGF on 12 July 2016. The overall objective was to collect data, information, and opinions on the inclusion of this new stakeholder group in governance, increase youth participation in Internet governance, and build a network of contacts.

The themes of the discussion were:

- Traditional societies and new information technology and communication: Empowerment, visibility, and resistance;

- Truly multi-stakeholderism? When the big voices silence the voices that matter in Internet governance debates; and

- Freedom of expression: Virtual act, real consequences.

More information is available at: http://bit.ly/2eMrt5E

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