

# Geneva Internet Conference

# Internet governance at a crossroads

## 18-19 November 2014

Venue: World Meteorological Organization, 7bis, Avenue de la Paix, 1211 Geneva

# Concept

The Geneva Internet Conference (GIC) will address **critical issues**, **gaps**, **and future developments** in Internet governance (IG) and digital politics. As a focal event of the **Geneva Internet Platform (GIP)**, the conference will provide a neutral and inclusive space for debates. It will pave the way to 2015, building on the main developments and events in 2014, including the announcement by the US government on the transition of the IANA oversight, the NETmundial conference and the Internet Governance Forum.

The conference will make use of the comparative advantages of Geneva as a **global hub for IG** with the presence of relevant IG-related institutions and organisations, diplomatic missions, civil society, the private sector, think-tanks, and academia.

# **Objectives**

- Provide concrete proposals for the future IG arrangements.
- Promote an evidence-based approach in global Internet policy-making.
- Articulate the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders, including governments, companies, and civil society.
- Ensure cross-fertilisation between IG and other policy processes.

## **Main themes**

- How to ensure genuine and robust IG processes.
- How to promote the proper participation of various actors in IG.
- · How to overcome policy silos.
- How to make decisions and generate concrete outputs in IG multistakeholder processes.
- How to ensure effective implementation and compliance in IG.

Geneva Internet Platform



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#### **BUILD-UP TO THE CONFERENCE**

The Geneva Internet Conference (GIC), taking place 18–19 November, will be organised as a process with a number of preparatory and follow-up activities. Users and communities worldwide will participate in interactive sessions via e-participation and remote hubs. Before the conference, substantive discussions will focus on three key themes. Each theme will be introduced in an hourlong webinar with open participation, followed by a three-week-long online discussion whose outcomes will feed into the conference.

### 16 September - 3 October

#### How to overcome IG policy silos on global and national levels

Policymakers across different sectors face similar issues, yet follow or adopt very different perspectives. A cross-cutting approach is more the exception than the rule in organisations and institutions dealing with Internet-related topics. What can be done to achieve coordination among different actors on national and international levels? How can we avoid turf battles and foster constructive dialogue?

O Join the **webinar** introducing this theme on **16 September**, 13.00–14.00 CET (11:00–12:00 GMT).

#### 6-24 October

# Whom do I contact if I want to raise my IG concern (clearing house, one-stop shop, router)?

IG is a highly complex policy space with hundreds of actors addressing more than 50 different policy issues in a wide range of forums. Few actors, if any, have a full grasp of the full complexity of IG. This challenge has triggered many small and developing countries to request a one-stop shop for voicing their concerns. The design of this one-stop shop is key: Should it be a new International Internet Organisation, a global multistakeholder IG clearing house, a distributed governance system, or...?

⊙ Join the **webinar** introducing this theme on **6 October**, 13.00–14.00 CET (11:00–12:00 GMT).

#### 28 October - 12 November

#### Evidence and measurement in IG: What sort of data and numbers are we talking about?

Paradoxically, although the Internet is an engineering artefact, we have very little data relevant to IG. In cybersecurity, we are still in doubt about the number of threats and the size of the losses incurred. The same applies in other IG fields. Without understanding the scope of the problem, it is difficult to discuss possible solutions. What can be done to bring more evidence in IG, using what concrete tools and techniques? How should an IG observatory function?

O Join the webinar introducing this theme on 28 October, 13.00–14.00 CET (12:00–13:00 GMT).

## **DRAFT CONFERENCE PROGRAMME**

## **DAY ZERO - 17 November 2014**

14.00-17.00	Introduction to Internet governance (pre-conference workshop)
19.00-20.30	Reception and IG 360: a panoramic view of Internet governance (WMO Attic)

# **DAY ONE - 18 November 2014 The Internet governance landscape**

09.30-10.00	Welcome and opening remarks			
10.00-11.00	HIGH-LEVEL PANEL: One Internet – Many policy angles			
11.00–11.30	Coffee break and conference photo			
11.30–13.00	FORUM: Mapping the Internet governance landscape – actors, processes, and issues			
13.00-14.30	Lunch break			
14.30–16.00	Same issues, different perspectives: overcoming policy silos in privacy and data protection	Legal framework, jurisdiction, and enforcement in Internet governance	E-participation, capacity development, and inclusion in digital policy	
16.00–16.30	Coffee break			
16.30–17.30	Wrap-up and discussion (feedback and synthesis of ideas)			
19.00-20.30	Conference dinner			

# **DAY TWO - 19 November 2014 - The complexity of Internet** governance: sustaining innovation while ensuring equality

09.00-10.30	FORUM: How do nations cope with the complexity of Internet governance?			
10.30-11.00	Coffee break			
11.00–12.30	Aim for full transparency – accept exceptional translucency	Subsidiarity: how to make Internet governance decisions at the appropriate level, building on lessons learnt from Switzerland	Evidence in Internet governance: measurement and data-mining	
12.30-14.00	Lunch break			
14.00–15.30	Implementation and compliance in a multistakeholder space	Drafting in policy processes: how can we best nurture the socialisation of policy texts in multistakeholder contexts?	Funding in Internet governance: accountability and trust	
15.30–16.00	Coffee break			
16.00–17.00	Closing session: wrap-up and concluding remarks			



Engaging digital actors • Fostering effective digital policy • Monitoring digital governance

#### Geneva Internet Platform

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The Geneva Internet Platform is an initiative of the Swiss authorities operated by DiploFoundation