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<http://bit.ly/2016igfrader>

IGF 2016 Main Session Report

Session Title	Trade Policy and the Internet
Date	8th Dec.
Time	16h30-18h
Session Organizer	Renata Aquino Ribeiro, MAG member, civil society Omar Mansoor Ansari, MAG member, private sector Wanawit Akhputra, MAG member, government
Chair/Moderator	Host Country Chair: Dr. Raul Rendón (General Director of Innovation, Services and Domestic Trade - Mexico) Moderator: Emily Taylor, Chatham House Fellow Floor moderators Maryant Fernandez - European Digital Rights (EDRi) - Europe Olusegun Olugubile - MAG Patricia Vargas - Syracuse University - USA Remote moderator Haoran Huang (Youth@IGF)- China Gustavo Diógenes - Brazil - UFRN Koliwe Majama (Media Institute of Southern Africa) - Zimbabwe Ayden Férdeline - NCUC - UK Additional rapporteur Maria Beebe - Techwomen Afghanistan - USA
Rapporteur/Notetaker	Renata Aquino Ribeiro, MAG member, civil society
List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations	Civil society Burcu Kilic (Public Citizen) - Turkey Jeremy Malcolm (EFF) - Australia/USA Technical community David Snead (Internet Infrastructure Coalition) – USA Private sector

	<p>Joseph Alhadeff - Oracle - USA</p> <p>Government, Academia and independent Juan Antonio Dorantes Sánchez (Trade expert) - (Mexico) Marcela Paiva Véliz (Trade expert) - (Chile)</p>
<p>Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):</p>	<p>Just as trade agreements can be used to increase wealth and opportunity by promoting the mutually beneficial exchange of goods and services, so too there is the potential for them to be used to promote a free and open Internet—however without the participation of all stakeholders, they may instead result in affecting a few fundamental core values, principles and rights for the internet.</p> <p>Openness and transparency in trade agreements is needed as experts from all stakeholder groups, including civil society, can contribute perspectives that are necessary to reach rules that are balanced and human rights respecting—but it has proven to be challenging to do this without proper access to information and negotiating texts and the ability and funding to participate in trade advisory processes.</p> <p>Governments and the private sector have come realize that trade agreements need to involve a dialogue with society if they are to be accepted. Therefore, is also important to recognise the efforts and changes the have been made by governments to include more transparency and participation. However, negotiations with government experts are often through specialized spaces, stakeholder networks and not always accessible to the general audience, which requires an effort from all stakeholders in educating and transmitting accurate information. Private sector, on the other hand, has concerns about standards and processes involving technology which are the fundamental core through which the internet evolves and attempts to observe that this core remains preserved.</p>
<p>If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each Presentation</p>	<p>Burcu Kilic Civil society has to be more present in trade agreements negotiations and make their voice heard. In the post-TPP era, the failure to include citizens will result in the rejection and failure of future trade agreements. The transition period in the United States and globally requires a set of new priorities to be reached for future bilateral and plurilateral negotiations.</p> <p>Jeremy Malcolm Our opposition to current trade negotiation processes does not mean that we are against trade. In fact trade can be beneficial to the</p>

Internet, and by the same token perspectives from Internet governance stakeholders are invaluable to concluding successful trade agreements. Although novel, the changes required to trade negotiation processes are quite achievable and simple. First we should decide on a set of issues that are better dealt with in some other forum. Second, proposals and consolidated texts should be released, trade advisory committees should be opened up, and trade negotiators should draw on the IGF community's expertise

David Snead (Internet Infrastructure Coalition) – USA

All participants in international trade must be given real, effectual, procedural avenues for participation in the negotiation and implementation of trade agreements. While there is a place for secrecy and confidentiality in negotiations, and in the text of agreements, it has gone too far. The extreme secrecy surrounding trade agreements should be rethought.

Joseph Alhadeff - Oracle - USA

It is important to consider the proven benefits of trade and the provisions of trade related documents separately from concerns related to the process. Trade benefits should be recognized and positive provisions in trade agreements should be welcome even as work continues to improve the inclusiveness and transparency of the development processes.

Juan Antonio Dorantes Sánchez (Trade expert) - (Mexico)

Trade agreements are not a novelty and their historical effects, such as in the case of NAFTA, can be studied to help understand further steps in the future.

Marcela Paiva Véliz (Trade expert) - (Chile)

Internet is as a new dimension for humanity. Therefore, being a fundamental tool for trade, it also impacts people's lives. This needs to be taken into consideration in trade negotiations. However, stating that trade agreements are broken is not an accurate picture, specially coming from a country where our GDP is mainly based on trade. Governments have their own specialized networks of communication and their own procedures of negotiation.

Understanding democracy as the basis of these interactions, transparency and participation measures are very important as well. At the same time a constructive speech is what can actually make a difference and contribute in the negotiation processes. It is also important to highlight that a lot of related issues are being dealt with in UNCTAD, Human Rights Council and other fora, which also need to be taken into consideration.

	<p>Host Country Chair Dr. Raul Rendón (General Director of Innovation, Services and Domestic Trade - Mexico) Mexico has participated in the history of trade agreements and will continue to engage in the global community of trade and internet governance.</p> <p>Marietje Schaake (Remote intervention by video) Member of the European Parliament (D66/ALDE) Trade agreements can play a crucial role in constructing a global rules- based framework for digital trade, but they cannot change fundamental law, at least not in the EU. This is a perception though that many people hold, and it can lead to confusion. I see both a lot of unjust hopes and unfounded fears. If we want trade rules to strengthen the open Internet and Human Rights online they must take as a baseline strong protection of Human Rights as well as inclusiveness.</p>
<p>Please describe the Discussions that took place during the main session: (3 paragraphs)</p>	<p>IGF was established as a global multi-stakeholder forum to address Internet-related public policy issues. But an increasing number of such issues—including domain name dispute resolution and access to registrant data, the use of encryption standards and source code disclosure mandates, and cross-borders information flows—are now also being dealt with in trade fora such as the WTO and in trade agreements such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), Trade in Services Agreement (TISA), Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP), and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).</p> <p>There is a need to ensure that discussions on trade policy are not isolated from broader multi-stakeholder discussions of those same topics. In particular, because national trade ministries and trade negotiators do not always perceive these as being Internet governance issues, but view them simply as trade issues. Therefore, participation processes for interested stakeholders are very important.</p> <p>The session was open to multi-stakeholder discussion, between trade officials, experts and Internet stakeholders. Participants will include government officials, former trade negotiators, prominent trade experts, industry representatives and civil society representatives. The session also received inputs in its planning by Lee Tuthill (WTO) and Arnold van Rhijn (MAG Member - Government - Netherlands) which were very important to shaping this multistakeholder dialogue.</p>

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

The next steps in the debates regarding Trade Policies and the Internet came from ideas of participants at the panel and the audience. A forthcoming meeting on Trade Policies would be organized by civil society to contextualize the theme upon the changes in USA government. This meeting on 13dec 2017 in Washington DC will have as background material a Trade policies transition memo drafted by civil society representatives.

It is also important to notice how developing countries should pay attention to Trade Policies and the Internet. Although trade negotiators believe these deals are coming through, the WTO, for instance, is an organization split between demands for agricultural commitments coming mainly from developing countries and the need to address new issues, mainly supported by developed countries, proposing commitments on e-commerce, and other related issues. All though this is a much more complex process, as there are developing countries also supporting the discussion on e-commerce, it is important for developing countries to think about their digital trade agenda. In this regard, understanding that infrastructure and connectivity are basic elements, it is also true that we need all the views in defining the rules to have a balanced result, therefore developing countries considerations are very important in this process.

The other problem for developing countries is that once these plurilateral agreements are in place other countries can join on later but by the time they join on the terms are already set. Therefore, it is important to consider the involvement of all countries in Trade Policies and the Internet, which could be met if there is broad engagement in constructive negotiations in a multilateral context.

Link to info about the session

<http://bit.ly/tradebios>

Session on IGF Schedule

<https://igf2016.sched.com/event/8htx/trade-agreements-and-the-internet>

Description in IGF Website

<http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2016-main-session-trade-policy-and-the-internet>

Session hashtags

	<p>#IGF2016 #Digitaltrade</p> <p>Session recordings</p> <p>IGF 2016 - day 3 - PLENARY - Trade Agreements and the Internet - Russian https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gdy4PvNZ2L0&t=7s</p> <p>IGF 2016 - day 3 - Trade Agreements and the Internet - arabic https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v7vRSYU96OY&t=3s</p> <p>IGF 2016 - day 3 - PLENARY - Trade Agreements and the Internet - Spanish https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2bvvofKD3Q&t=9s</p> <p>IGF 2016 - day 3 - Trade Agreements and the Internet - chinese https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Edx-rsoCAaA&t=5s</p> <p>IGF 2016 - day 3 - PLENARY - Trade Agreements and the Internet - French https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zEsXRkCzSw&t=4s</p> <p>IGF 2016 - day 3 - Trade Agreements and the Internet - english https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3lI8BRenuOc</p> <p>Session transcript http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2016-0-day-3-main-hall-main-session-igf-dynamic-coalitions-trade-agreements-and-the</p>
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Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session:

60

Estimate the overall number of women present at the session:

About half of the participants were women

To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?

The perspective of human rights and trade agreements was brought into the discussion, encompassing gender equality and women's empowerment.

If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment,

please provide a brief summary of the discussion:

Trade agreements done without proper transparency and participation measures may disregard a basic framework of human rights considerations within the scope of businesses done between governments, citizens and companies. Therefore transparency on trade agreements was one of the issues raised as it pertains to respecting rights such as gender equality and encompasses women's empowerment.