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## **Ninth session**

### **Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme**

UNESCO House, Paris (Fontenoy Building, Room XI)

30-31 May 2016

9.30 a.m. -12.30 p.m. and 2.30 p.m.-5.30 p.m.

#### **Item 6 of the provisional agenda**

Visibility of IFAP



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## UNESCO contributes to another successful edition of ICEGOV



UNESCO at ICEGOV 2016, Montevideo, March 2016. © UNESCO

**The 9th International Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance was held in Montevideo, Uruguay from 1 to 3 March 2016. The conference was organized under the patronage of the Presidency of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay by the Agency for Electronic Government and Information Society (AGESIC) and the United Nations University's Special Operating Unit on Policy-Driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV) in collaboration with UNESCO.**

Held under the theme "Transparent and Accountable Governance for 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda", the event generated considerable interest amongst governments, academics, policy-makers and representatives of civil society. More than 300 participants from every continent, representing developed as well as developing countries attended the event. Over 150 papers and posters were submitted by authors from almost 50 countries. These statistics pointed to the scale, scope and impact of the event and the global commitment amongst the ICEGOV community to contribute to the realization of the 2030 sustainable development goals.

For the first time in the history of the conference UNESCO participated as an Official Collaborator. This provided additional opportunities for UNESCO and its intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP) to play a larger role in the event, to strengthen its collaboration and role in ICEGOV and to showcase UNESCO's activities.

During the opening ceremony Mr. Engida Getachew, UNESCO's Deputy Director-General thanked co-organizers the Government of Uruguay and the UNU-EGOV for the fruitful collaboration over the past years and joint efforts that were contributing to the development of knowledge societies and the attainment of the sustainable development goals.

A special UNESCO thematic track moderated by Mr. Paul Hector, Programme Specialist with responsibility for IFAP, provided an opportunity to present the outcomes of a 1-day Expert Group Meeting convened to validate a new policy resource jointly developed with UNU-EGOV. According to Mr. Hector, the Knowledge Societies Policy Handbook, will provide guidance to cities, national and international policy actors in meeting the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. The session also served to enroll nearly 40 experts who will support the development of case studies, translation, conducting of surveys and other activities to promote this resource.

In a gripping keynote lecture under the theme "How can Digital Government Support the Development of Knowledge Societies?", UNESCO's Deputy Director-General explored conditions that digital government strategies must embed if their potential for building knowledge societies is to be realized. Mr. Engida also drew attention to the Fourth Industrial Revolution resulting from convergence in fields such as artificial intelligence, robotics, big data, the internet of things, biotechnology and quantum computing. He signaled the need for broad-based, strategic, reflection and coordinated action to address the new and urgent policy questions they were emerging.

The animated plenary debate that followed the UNESCO keynote was followed by a panel discussion which explored the ideas presented by Mr. Engida. The panel moderated by Ms. Chafica Haddad, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Grenada to UNESCO and Chair of the IFAP Council. In addition to the complementary perspectives of the principal discussants, Executive Director of AGESIC, Mr. Jose Clastornik and Mr. Tomasz Janowski, Head of UNU-EGOV several rounds of questions were fielded from the enthusiastic audience. Throughout the conference various bilateral meetings provided opportunities to share information as well as to identify specific areas for cooperation. These included the establishment of UNESCO Chairs in the IFAP priorities, development of joint research projects and the development of partnerships agreements.

The closing ceremony provided an opportunity to recap milestones and achievements and to announce the selection of India as the venue for ICEGOV2017. UNESCO and IFAP will again be playing a leading role participating as official collaborators and members of various organizing committees.

## IFAP supports more effective policy responses to SDGs



Cover design of the Knowledge Societies Policy Handbook. © UNESCO

**On Monday 29th February, 2016 an international Expert Group Meeting co-organized by the Agency for Electronic Government, Information and Knowledge Society (AGESIC), the United Nations Universities Special Operating Unit for Policy-driven Electronic Governance (UNU-EGOV) and UNESCO's intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP) opened in Montevideo, Uruguay.**

The event brought together some 40 international experts to discuss the Knowledge Societies Policy Handbook and Platform (UNKSOC.ORG), a policy instrument developed by UNESCO/IFAP and UNU-EGOV.

The brief opening ceremony was chaired by Mr. Tomasz Janowski, Head of UNU-EGOV and featured interventions by representatives of AGESIC, UNESCO and IFAP.

Executive Director of AGESIC, Mr. Jose Clastornik welcomed participants. He underscored the key role that broad-based, equitable and inclusive access to information and knowledge had played in contributing to human development and Uruguay's success as a regional leader in various ICT and access measures.

Mr. Guilherme Canela, Advisor for Communication and Information in UNESCO's Montevideo Office, highlighted the role of public policy and public debates in raising awareness amongst citizens of the emergence of Knowledge Societies. He also pointed to the need for sharing good practices, ensuring adequate resources to implement policy initiatives, protection of rights including data protection and privacy, the need for indicators.

Ms. Chafica Haddad, Deputy Permanent Delegate of Grenada and Chair of the IFAP Council expressed appreciation to the co-organizers and highlighted the extensive and fruitful collaboration between UNU-EGOV and UNESCO/IFAP which had led to the development of the Knowledge Societies Policy Handbook. She expressed confidence that this tool and methodology could assist developing countries with more holistic approaches to addressing urgent challenges.

At the close of the day's session experts favorably assessed the handbook and its methodology. A number of areas for improvement such as the inclusion of more case studies, translation into more languages and strategies for mobilizing an online community were noted. A number of institutions including the Government of Colombia's Ministry of Information and Communications Technologies (MINTIC), committed specific direct and in-kind contributions to the project.

According to Mr. Paul Hector, UNESCO Programme Specialist with responsibility for IFAP, the Handbook will update the IFAP Knowledge Societies Policy Template created in 2009 to support Member States in their design, implementation and review of national information society policy strategies and frameworks. The revisions introduced reflect changes in the international development landscape and will provide guidance to national, local and international actors engaged in developing, implementing and evaluating Knowledge Societies Policies to further the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

## **25th IFAP Bureau Reviews Contributions to International and National Action Plans**



Group Picture of 25th IFAP Bureau. © UNESCO

**The twenty-fifth meeting of the Bureau of the Intergovernmental Council for the Information for All Programme (IFAP) was held in Paris on Friday 26th February. The event brought together Member States elected to the Bureau as well as observers from various Member State Permanent Delegations.**

The meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on the progress made during the Bureau's 2-year term, to explore in-depth activities for further strengthening the Programme's visibility and fundraising as well as to discuss projects and activities to be carried out in 2016. The Bureau meeting also contributed to the preparation of the 9th session of the IFAP Council that will be held on 30 and 31 May, 2016 at UNESCO's Headquarters.

The meeting was opened by Mr Getachew Engida, UNESCO's Deputy Director General with responsibility for the Communication and Information Sector. He congratulated the Bureau on the many achievements realized under IFAP during their term and drew particular attention to the international conference "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism", initiated by IFAP and organized at UNESCO on 16-17 June, 2015. This landmark conference brought together participants from some 70 countries to share policy intervention experiences, initiatives and processes for promoting the use of the Internet as a tool for peace and to counter youth extremism and radicalization. The conference also served as a platform for UNESCO's Director-General, Irina Bokova, to launch the new UNESCO Framework for Action "Empowering Youth to Build Peace: Youth 2.0 - Building Skills, Bolstering Peace".

IFAP's Activities undertaken over the last two years have directly benefitted policy-makers and information professionals in every region with special attention being directed to the needs of Africa and Small Island Developing States (SIDS). In this regard a number of capacity-building events were organized in the Dominican Republic, Lesotho, Mozambique, South Africa and St. Kitts-Nevis benefitting policy-makers in more than 35 countries.

"Furthermore, to align IFAP's work with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals we have been participating in various expert groups and supporting alignment between the WSIS and the SDGs. As part of this effort, the IFAP National Information Society Policy Template, adopted by Member States as a policy tool to support the design, implementation and review of their national information policy frameworks and strategies is being updated in concert with the United Nations University (UNU-EGOV)", explained Ms. Chafica Haddad, Deputy-Permanent Delegate of Grenada and Chair of the IFAP Council and Bureau.

The outgoing Bureau is composed of Member States' representatives from Austria, Botswana, Grenada, Indonesia, Israel, Oman, Peru and Russian Federation. At the 9th IFAP Council meeting a new Bureau will be elected to manage the implementation of IFAP over the next two years.

## **UNESCO calls for research proposals: Social media and youth radicalization in the digital age**

**UNESCO launches a call for research proposals to provide a global mapping of research into the assumed roles played by social media in radicalization processes in all regions. The research should also examine ongoing steps being taken to counter radicalization, and provide an in-depth analysis on their potential impact on online and offline freedoms. Building on these empirical findings, the study should also include recommendations for various actors including state actors, Internet companies, news media, civil society and researchers.**

UNESCO, therefore, invites interested researchers, institutions, research consortiums and organizations to submit their proposals, according to the General Terms of Reference and [Background note](#) by email to [internetstudy@unesco.org](mailto:internetstudy@unesco.org) before noon (CET), 24 March 2016. Proposals should include a detailed description of the research methodology, research outline, timeline and the requested funding in US\$ with a budget breakdown.

For further enquiries, you may contact Ms [Xianhong Hu](#) and Mr [Paul Hector](#).

### General Terms of Reference

The research shall be written in English or French at mother-tongue level, in the form of a policy paper that will be drafted in a style targeting UNESCO's constituents (Member States and policy makers as well as private sector, media and civil society actors in fields and areas related to UNESCO work and mandate). The final study will be published and distributed in print and electronic formats. The research shall comprise at least 100 standard pages (minimum of 320 words each) excluding annexes and bibliography.

The final research will likely be published as part of a new UNESCO's Series on these issues and budget allowing, will be translated to all six UN official languages, which will inform UNESCO's 195 Member States and other international policy-makers on intermediaries-related policy making to promote online freedom.

The proposed study will focus on the following three areas:

#### 1. Global mapping of research into the role of social media in radicalization process in all regions.

As radicalization is a global phenomenon, the study will firstly conduct a global mapping of research findings about the roles that social media, in the context of the wider media ecosystem, are assumed to have played in the radicalization process in different regions. An empirical and evidence-based approach should be taken in order to collect materials and cases from all regions, building on an extensive review of diverse literature and existing studies in multiple languages and regions. The category of social media will include both global platforms as Facebook and Twitter, as well as regional alternatives or variants. The function of social media and radicalization will be analyzed in terms of its specificity and interaction with news and entertainment media and their diverse effects.

#### 2. An analysis of counter-radicalization measures and their impact on online freedoms

The study will provide information on the current efforts and various counter-radicalization measures (both negative and positive) being taken by governments, social media companies and other actors in different parts of the world. The study will focus the analysis on the challenges of protecting privacy and freedom of expression online and offline including on issues like removing content, blocking websites, requesting data from intermediaries, creating and disseminating counter-speech and narratives, provision of alternative platforms, etc. The analysis will examine various elements at stake and discuss challenges for different stakeholders including governments, judicial system actors, the private sector, civil society, media organizations, etc, in combating radicalization and terrorism and protecting human rights. Attention will also be given to identifying other unintended consequences of these measures and their impacts.

#### 3. Recommendations

By drawing on the findings of the literature review and analysis of the impacts of counter-radicalization measures, the study aims to provide recommendations and share good practices for governments, judicial systems, law enforcement agencies, Internet companies, news media, civil society, individual users and researchers in balancing de-radicalisation measures and the protection of human rights.

Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee

Given the global reach and complexity of the subject, it is recommended that a research venture establish an advisory committee which is composed of men and women experts from all regions including developing countries, for providing inputs and comments at each stage of the research. The Advisory Committee should be multi-stakeholder in character, bringing together governmental, industry, technical and civil society. The role of the Committee will be to guide the scientific and administrative development of the study. Its input may be required to make suggestions at different stages of the project, help raise funds or present the study's findings publicly.

**Time Frame:** 12 months (with the first draft to be submitted by September 2016)



## **UNESCO to organize a high-level international expert meeting on youth radicalization in cyberspace with Quebec (Canada)**



UNESCO's first international conference "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism," June 2015, Paris. © UNESCO

**On 12 February, Mr Philippe Couillard, Premier of Québec, announced that half a million dollars would be allocated to holding an international conference of high-level experts in autumn 2016. The conference, to be organized under the aegis of UNESCO, will address radicalization leading to violence and extremism through the Internet.**

Made in the framework of the official visit to Canada by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the announcement is part of the follow-up to UNESCO's first international conference "[Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism](#)," held in June 2015 at the Organization's Paris Headquarters.

This landmark conference, organized in the framework of its Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP), allowed participants from some 70 countries to share policy intervention experiences, initiatives and processes for promoting the use of the Internet as a tool for peace and to counter youth extremism and radicalization. The conference saw the UNESCO Director-General, Irina Bokova, launch the new UNESCO Framework for Action "Empowering Youth to Build Peace: Youth 2.0 - Building Skills, Bolstering Peace".

On 12 February, Mr. Couillard underlined the deep commitment "to promoting the sharing of expertise based on constructive dialogue and strong partnerships in the fight against radicalization".

As part of its efforts to counter radicalization, Quebec has developed a strategy and established a Center for the Prevention of Radicalization Leading to Violence (CPRMV). The Center is playing an important role in conducting research, building capacity and supporting the sharing of information and expertise across communities and government services.

UNESCO's Director-General welcomed the announcement and looked forward to taking this initiative to fruition:

"UNESCO's message is clear – we must build the defenses of peace in the minds of young women and men, including through the Internet, to promote human rights and equal dignity, to support engagement and advance narratives of humanity as a single community around shared values, to counter radicalization and violent extremism."

## **UNESCO and Government of Quebec to cooperate on preventing radicalization and extremism through the Internet**



© UNESCO/A. Trujillo-Fernandez

**The representatives of the Knowledge Societies Division of the Communication and Information Sector, together with the Chair of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP) met yesterday with a delegation from the Government of Canada and the Government of Quebec at UNESCO's Paris Headquarters.**

This meeting was held on the occasion of the visit to Paris by H.E Mrs. Christine Saint-Pierre, Quebec's Minister of International Relations and La Francophonie. It provided an opportunity for further discussions around the cooperation initiated in 2015 within the framework of UNESCO's actions aimed at preventing violence, extremism and radicalization of youth in cyberspace.

In June 2015, UNESCO organized, in the framework of IFAP, the first international conference entitled "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism". This major event allowed participants from some 70 countries to share policy intervention experiences, initiatives and processes for reducing the use of the Internet as a tool for youth extremism and radicalism. It also provided a platform for launching UNESCO's New Framework for Action "Empowering Youth to Build Peace: Youth 2.0 - Building Skills, Bolstering Peace". In underscoring the vital role of the Internet, the Director-General, Ms. Bokova, urged Member States to support follow-up efforts: "we must build the defenses of peace in the minds of young women and men, and this must start also online, by mobilizing the full power of the Internet for peace".

Condemning the tragedies provoked by violent extremism, Mrs. Saint-Pierre, expressed the interest of the Government of Quebec in responding to the appeal made by UNESCO's Director-General by hosting a high-level international expert meeting that is to be co-organized with UNESCO and IFAP as a follow-up to the June 2015 Conference. The event would allow the Quebec Government to contribute actively to global discussions on this issue and highlight its expertise in the fight against radicalization. A preparatory expert meeting at UNESCO foreseen for June 2016 will serve to prepare UNESCO's inputs to the international conference in Quebec.

## **First regional meeting held in the Dominican Republic to discuss Internet Governance and Info-Ethics**



© UNESCO

**Eminent experts, legislators and civil society representatives from Latin American and Caribbean countries - Peru, Brazil, Paraguay, Colombia, Argentina and Uruguay among others -, met in Santo Domingo on 26th and 27th November 2015 to share experiences and explore common regional approaches to Internet Governance and Info-Ethics in building open and inclusive Knowledge and Information Societies.**

This Conference, held under the theme, “The challenges of the Internet, governance and ethical dimensions of the information society: Towards an integrated agenda of Latin America and the Caribbean”, was organized by UNESCO and the National Authorities of the Dominican Republic in the framework of the Information for All Programme (IFAP) on the occasion of national celebrations commemorating UNESCO’s 70th Anniversary.

It included a presentation at the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development (FUNGLODE ) of the UNESCO study: "Keys to the promotion of inclusive knowledge societies: access to information and knowledge, freedom of expression, respect for privacy and ethics for a global Internet " by the Deputy Director-General of UNESCO, Mr. Getachew Engida, followed by observations from Mr. Marco Herrera, Executive Director of FUNGLODE, and Mr. Domingo Tavarez, Director of the Center for Technology Studies of FUNGLODE. This meeting was attended by the President of FUNGLODE, the former President of the Dominican Republic, Dr. Leonel Fernández and Mrs. Margarita Cedeño de Fernandez, Vice-President of the Dominican Republic.

The event attracted leading figures in the Internet Governance space including, among others, Ms. Amparo Arango, Director of International Relations at the Dominican Institute for Telecommunication (INDOTEL) and national President of the Internet Society (ISOC); Ms. Amalia Toledo, expert consultant-lawyer from Puerto Rico, working for the Karisma Foundation of Colombia; Mr. Preetam Mallor, ITU Representative; Erick Iriarte, Legal Framework for Information Society Working Group, eLAC; as well as Brazil's Ambassador Mr. Benedicto Fonseca Filho, Director of the Department of Scientific and Technological Affairs of the Ministry of External Relations.

The opening session of the regional Conference was attended by the President of the Senate of the Dominican Republic, Ms. Cristina Lizardo and by the Dominican Minister of Culture, in his capacity of President of the Dominican National Commission for UNESCO, Mr. Jose Antonio Rodriguez.

The Conference provided the conditions for experts, legislators and civil society actors to share national and regional approaches and best practices around current and emerging public policy questions that are playing out in the Internet Governance space. It also allowed to advance regional cooperation and integration efforts, as well as to enable a more effective and expanded role for access to information and knowledge, in supporting national sustainable development strategies and managing potential Internet related challenges.

Mr. Miguel Mejía, Minister for Regional Integration Policies (MRI) of the Dominican Republic, believes that “the Internet not only enables a more effective and expanded role for access to information and knowledge, but it also represents an opportunity to advance in regional cooperation and integration efforts to face the Internet challenges on governance and ethical issues”.

Noting that “within the Latin American and Caribbean region lies a wealth of world-class experience with a strong social orientation and participation of civil society”, Mr Getachew Engida, UNESCO’s Deputy Director-General, stated on this occasion that “upholding the sharing of regional experience in access to information and knowledge across linguistic zones could strengthen regional cooperation and potentially trigger new waves of social innovation that could further support national knowledge societies strategies”.

Ambassador Laura Faxas, Permanent Representative of the Dominican Republic to UNESCO, marked out the importance to bring into this regional context the topics of the Internet governance and the ethical

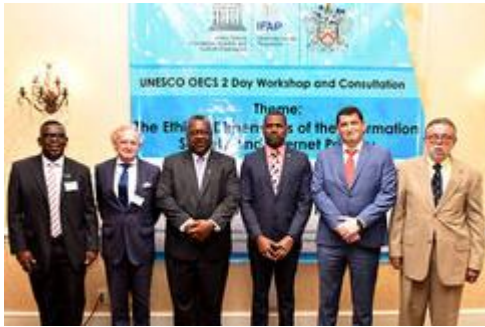
dimensions of the Information Society “in order to move forward the creation of a regional platform for debate and exchanges, oriented to a concerted regulatory framework for Latin America and the Caribbean, which will support the national processes of elaboration of legislative instruments that guarantee the free access to new technologies and defend the rights of citizens”.

Ambassador Benedicto Fonseca Filho shared his experience about the NETmundial event that was held in April 2014, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and presented an evaluation of the outputs of this meeting, which was the first global forum where the Internet governance was discussed in-depth.

The Conference in Santo Domingo was built on the agreements and discussions that have emerged from major regional and international conferences, fora and strategies such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals Agenda, UNESCO’s Report CONNECTing the Dots, the WSIS Process and ELAC2018.

At the closing session, chaired by Mr. Boyan Radoykov from UNESCO’s Knowledge Societies Division, the text of the [Final Declaration of the Conference](#) was successfully negotiated and unanimously adopted by the participants in order to formalize the agreed areas for future regional and international cooperation and action.

## **Infoethics Conference for Eastern Caribbean States organized in St Kitts-Nevis this week**



Opening of UNESCO's Conference on the Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society and Internet Privacy. © National Commission of St Kitts-Nevis for UNESCO

**The first-ever “Conference and Consultation on the Ethical Dimensions of the Information Society and Internet Privacy” for Member States - Antigua & Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Martin, St. Lucia and St Vincent & The Grenadines, and Associate States - Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands, of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) opened in Frigate Bay, St. Kitts-Nevis yesterday.**

This major event, organized together with the Government of St. Kitts-Nevis in the framework of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP), will examine the current information ethics challenges and particularly those facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS). It is also expected that the event will provide a number of strategic recommendations for shaping national and regional information and knowledge societies programmes and policies, thus enabling SIDS to develop a range of proactive responses.

The Hon. Shawn Richards, Deputy-Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Youth, sports and Culture welcomed the some 100 participants who included Cabinet Ministers, diplomatic corps, senior Government officials from the OECS and St. Martin, civil society, the private sector as well as teachers and student representatives from high schools on both islands.

Dr Boyan Radoykov, from the Knowledge Societies Division, in his capacity as official Representative of UNESCO, extended welcome remarks on behalf of the Organization and stressed that “(...) We have to strengthen even more our efforts in addressing the info-ethical dimensions and their social implications, and in promoting the basic values and principles that are to be further convincingly enshrined in the information society such as peace and democracy, free flow of information in the public domain, freedom of expression, tolerance, cultural and linguistic diversity, solidarity, etc.” He ended by emphasizing: “It is our role, it is our task, it is our utmost responsibility to ensure the progress of civilization in cyberspace”.

Mr Antonio Maynard, Secretary-General of the St Kitts-Nevis National Commission for UNESCO, who played a key role in the organization of the event, underlined his confidence that the Conference will contribute to “raising awareness and support for the development of a holistic regional approach by OECS States to the complex issues around the Internet”.

Ambassador Dr David Doyle, Permanent Delegate of St. Kitts-Nevis to UNESCO, was of the view that “the proliferation of IT use is now indelibly linked with youth, their learning aspirations, friendships, hobbies, games etc. But it comes with risks to internet use in areas of cyberbullying, privacy violations and unwanted solicitations. The St. Kitts-Nevis conference is timely stakeholder event aimed at contributing to the SIDS dimension of UNESCO's work on ethical practices in information society and internet privacy.”

Also in attendance was Ms Sandra Cortesi, Director of Youth and Media at the Berkman center for Internet and Society at Harvard University who underlined, “the importance of including youth voices and perspectives into the conversation” and “welcomed the participation of a contingent of youth representatives from high schools on St Kitts and Nevis”.

The Conference is expected to close with a press event during which the Declaration endorsed by the participants will be presented.

## Empowering Youth to Build Peace



Director General Irina Bokova

**On 16 June, 2015, the UNESCO Director-General, Ms Irina Bokova, launched UNESCO's new integrated Framework of Action - Empowering Youth to Build Peace - in the context of the International Conference on "Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism," held at UNESCO Headquarters on 16-17 June, 2015.**

"We see the rise of a new generation of digital natives today," said the UNESCO Director-General. "Our task must be to empower a new generation of digital citizens at the global level – starting with education, new intercultural skills, and deeper media and information literacy. Our goal must be to support the positive civic engagement of young people and youth initiatives online, to support cohesive societies, to advance peace on the basis of respect, human rights and dialogue."

The Conference opened in the presence of Her Excellency Ms. Margarita Popova, Vice-President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Excellency Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr, Chairman of the UNESCO Executive Board, Ms Chafica Haddad, Chair of the UNESCO Information for All Programme, Ms Albana Shala, Chair of the UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communication, M. Daniel Zielinski, Directeur de Cabinet du Ministre de la Ville, de la Jeunesse et des Sports, France, as well as Mr Hugues Mingarelli, Managing Director, European External Action Service of the European Union.

More than 250 officials, experts, academics, youth activists, civil society leaders and media representatives attended the Conference, coming from all parts of the world.

Keynote speeches were given by Prof. Gilles Kepel, Professeur des Universités, France, and Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, India, followed by a leading intervention by Mr. Ahmad Alhendawi, the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. The Conference was organized with generous funding by the Republic of Bulgaria, the Arab Republic of Egypt and People's Republic of China, in the framework of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Information for All Programme and in partnership with UNESCO's International Programme for the Development of Communication.

The Director-General made the stakes clear in her opening statement.

"Today, 25,000 foreign terrorist fighters, from over 100 States, are active in Syria and Iraq, as well as Afghanistan, Libya and Yemen -- most are young men, between 15 and 35 years old, but there are increasing numbers of young women," she said. "Today, we must build the defences of peace in the minds of young women and men, and this must start also online, by mobilizing the full power of the Internet for peace."

From socializing and entertainment to homework, the Internet has become an essential part of life for young people today, opening vast new opportunities for connecting and learning. At the same time, the Internet provides violent extremists with powerful tools to propagate hatred and violence and to identify and groom potential recruits, creating global online communities that promote radicalization, that promote hatred, intolerance as well as new forms of racism, including anti-Semitism.

"All too often, the Internet can provide a powerful megaphone for violence," said Irina Bokova. "It can be a platform for ideologies that reject human rights, that castigate diversity, that sow discord, often drawing on false visions of faith. Far too many young men and women cross from the 'virtual' to the 'physical,' to enrol with extremist groups."

"Violent extremists are radicalising young men and women through the Internet – we must harness the Internet's full potential for peace, to widen opportunities for dialogue and civic engagement, to nurture and take forward youth concerns and visions."

This goal guides all of UNESCO's action -- to advance new forms of global citizenship education, to bolster cultural literacy and build new bridges for intercultural dialogue, to develop stronger media and

information literacy and support media development for human rights and peace, to provide young women and men with skills and opportunities to engage positively in their societies.

Empowering Youth to Build Peace is UNESCO's new integrated Framework for Action, drawing on existing activities –including Global Citizenship Education, the NET-MED Youth project, implemented in 10 countries of the Mediterranean and the new social media campaign, #Unite4Heritage launched by the Director-General at the University of Baghdad in March to counter the propaganda of violent extremism.

The new Framework for Action is guided by a single objective: to equip young people with knowledge, skills and values that empower them to live peaceful, constructive and productive lives to engage as responsible global citizens and to be resilient to any form of abuse or manipulation, including radicalization and violent extremism.

A new component of the Framework for Action is Youth 2.0 -- Building Skills, Bolstering Peace, launched during the conference. This is designed to support young people in building new forms of global solidarity, including online, in resisting and countering radicalization and violent extremism.

This new action will move forward at four levels. It will, first, support multidisciplinary research on linkages between Youth, Internet, radicalization/de-radicalization, as well as research-informed policies and actions. It will also work to empower youth online communities and key youth stakeholders on topics relevant to counter-radicalization, by building their competencies and skills and by equipping them with creative tools and knowledge. Third, it will strengthen mobilization and cooperation between media professionals and practitioners to combat radicalization and online hate speech, with a focus on countries suffering tensions and conflict situations. Lastly, it will support supporting creative media campaign and outreach strategies targeting policy makers and opinion makers as well as the general public (including young audiences).

“Our goal is to empower youth online,” said the Director-general, “to build their resilience against hate speech, radicalization and violent extremism, to empower their civic engagement online.”

These messages were echoed by Mr Mohamed Sameh Amr, Chairman of the UNESCO Executive Board, who spoke of the crucial importance of the Conference and this new work: “Youth will reinvent our future, a better future for all.”

Her Excellency Ms. Margarita Popova, Vice-President of the Republic of Bulgaria, spoke of the challenges facing young women and men across the world today, from alienation, poor opportunities, marginalization and discrimination -- highlighting their key role as “ambassadors and messengers for peace, for more peaceful societies.”

Mr. Daniel Zielinski, Directeur de Cabinet du Ministre de la Ville, de la Jeunesse et des Sports, presented the wide range of measure being introduced by the Government of France to prevent radicalization through an emphasis on renewed citizenship”, underlining the importance of “creating a community of destiny and shared values with young people.”

Mr. Hugues Mingarelli, Managing Director, European External Action Service of the European Union, spoke about the 2014 Communication of the Commission on preventing radicalization, stressing also the need to protect freedom of expression on the Internet.

Ms. Chafica Haddad, Chair of the UNESCO Information for All Programme, and Ms. Albana Shala, Chair of the UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communication presented the essential work of IFAP and the IPDC in these areas.

The International Conference is designed to support the action of States and the international community, by understanding more clearly the use of Internet in fueling violent extremism and by exploring effective tools in response. From a range of angles and experiences, the Conference will discuss the insight and experiences of Governments, international organizations, research and academia, as well as Internet companies, and present case studies from around the world. It will also focus on the rich, multifaceted landscape of youth online engagement, particularly youth-led initiatives that are paving the way ahead.

“Young women and men must have confidence in themselves, in their communities, in their futures,” said Irina Bokova. “They must know their own histories to defend those of others. Their rights must be respected, to share these with all humanity. This is the importance of this Conference, working with and for young women and men, to nurture their ideas, their imagination, their visions.”

## **UNESCO conference on fighting radicalization of youth on the Internet to be held in Paris next month**



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**On 16 and 17 June 2015, UNESCO will bring together government officials, academics, policy-makers, youth NGOs representatives, experts and practitioners from a range of institutions and disciplines for its first-ever international conference, Youth and the Internet: Fighting Radicalization and Extremism.**

Participants will discuss policy interventions and processes for reducing the use of the Internet as a tool for youth extremism and radicalization, as well as the ways ahead for the engagement of young people for a culture of tolerance and peace.

Organized in the framework of the Intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP), the Conference will provide a platform for debates regarding the current challenges of youth radicalization on the Internet. It will also sensitize about the reality and the potential risks if the issue remains unaddressed in a relevant and holistic way.

Furthermore, the Conference will seek to identify specific areas for UNESCO's action, across all its areas of competence, to support Member States in tackling these important challenges. The knowledge shared at the Conference will be taken forward through pilot projects, which will also act as a learning lab for more effective policy responses in the future.

This Conference will attract some 200 delegates from around the world and will be conducted in English and French.

The intergovernmental [Information for All Programme](#) was established in 2001. It provides a platform for international policy discussions, cooperation and the development of guidelines for action in the area of access to information and knowledge. The Programme supports Member States to develop and implement national information policy and strategy frameworks.



## IFAP's capacity building efforts bear fruits



Dignitaries Group Photo. © UNESCO

### **The Executive Training on Foundations of Government Information Leadership, designed in the framework of UNESCO's intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP) to benefit East African countries continues to bear fruits in the region.**

This specialized capacity-building forum organized in July 2013 in Kampala, in concert with the United Nations University (UNU) and the Government of Uganda was targeted to meet the needs of executive senior civil servants charged with directing current and future national e-governance initiatives in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, as well as host country Uganda. The one week-long training event sought to enhance the role of e-governance initiatives in the effectiveness of national policy implementation and the delivery of public services to citizens. In particular, the programme emphasized how the goal of building of knowledge societies could be more effectively integrated into ongoing and future national information and e-governance initiatives. In this regard, officials were introduced and sensitized to the contribution that the IFAP National Information Society Policy Template could provide in the development, review and implementation of national information and knowledge societies policies.

The first South Sudan Information Communication Technology for Development Conference, held in Juba from 25 to 27 February, 2015 provided a launching pad for the practical application of the IFAP National Information Society Policy Template into South Sudan's national policy planning processes. The IFAP Policy Template provided the framework for structuring this intensive three-day national and international co-operation, policy and partnerships building event which aims to support the creation of inclusive Knowledge Societies in the newly formed nation. Drawing on the experiences of other nations and regions, but fully focused on South Sudan's specific context and needs, the IFAP Template provided a methodological framework around which appropriate, comprehensive, forward-looking and sustainable ICT strategies that align with vision of its national development plan and poverty reduction strategy can be developed. Government ministries, institutions and parastatals involved in public service delivery, vocalized keen interest in mainstreaming the IFAP National Information Society Policy Template in national planning processes.

Similar reactions were also observed by Mr Jaco Du Toit, UNESCO's Advisor for Communication and Information (ACI) in the Nairobi Regional Office during a recent mission to Djibouti where he presented the IFAP Policy Template to Governmental officials. According to Mr Du Toit, "The government of Djibouti welcomed the IFAP Template as a key tool for developing a national roadmap to implement a Strategic Programme for the development of Information Technology in Djibouti. Not only did they view the IFAP Policy Template as a means to elaborate interventions and attract national and international partners in addressing the challenges of ICTs in Djibouti, but also as a key resource for sensitizing civil servants to the importance of ICT in public administration".

According to UNESCO's Deputy Director-General with responsibility for the CI Sector, Mr Getachew Engida, "I'm very pleased to see the growing interest across Africa, Asia-Pacific as well as Latin America and the Caribbean in this important IFAP resource which UNESCO's General conference at its 36<sup>th</sup> session mandated as a tool to support Member States in implementing national information policy frameworks for universal access to information and integrating them in their common country programming processes. I call on Member States to provide additional resources to support this tool that clearly responds to their needs. To broaden the reach, use and impact of the IFAP Policy template the Secretariat is exploring the development of an electronic version of this important resource that will incorporate an online case library to which national experiences, statistics and new resources can be readily made available to policy-makers. However, to achieve this goal, tangible demonstrations of solidarity are key".

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## **UNESCO convenes an International Expert Group Meeting on the promotion of Arabic language on the Internet and in multi-stakeholder processes**



International Expert Group Meeting on the promotion of Arabic language on the Internet and in multi-stakeholder processes, UNESCO Headquarters, April 2015. © UNESCO/Alina Kirillina

**UNESCO, together with The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), and in cooperation with the International Centre for Terminology (INFOTERM) have initiated in 2013 the project entitled “Developing language tools and building institutional capacities with respect to the promotion of Arabic language on the Internet and in multi-stakeholder processes”, with the aim to provide Arabic-speaking countries and communities with specific language tools, in particular with a glossary on Internet Governance (IGG) for their effective participation in the relevant multi-stakeholder processes.**

As the debate on the Internet Governance related issues is rapidly growing among Member States and other multi-stakeholder groups, and the issues are discussed during various major international gatherings, it is important to provide the non-English/French language speakers with appropriate language tools, such as specialized glossaries. The meeting that started its work today at UNESCO in Paris, with eminent experts representing some 15 countries, reflects precisely this foremost concern and will aim to achieve the following objectives :

Present a methodology applied for the development of the IGG as a standard practice and possible procedure for the development of other glossaries;

- Consult experts on the IGG in Arabic, review and revise the proposed entries;
- Validate the IGG in Arabic on a consensus based model;
- Identify the next steps to ensure an adaptation and localization of the IGG at regional level,
- Discuss the conditions for ensuring the sustainability of the IGG.

At the end of this initiative, it is expected that Arabic speaking countries could benefit from using the glossary of the Internet governance terms developed in a fully collaborative and multi-stakeholder way in order to help them developing common positions, contributing to decision making processes and thus facilitating their effective engagement in multi-stakeholder processes and Internet Governance mechanisms.

During the opening plenary session, in his introductory remarks, H. E. Mohamed Amr, Chair of the Executive Board and Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Egypt to UNESCO underscored: “Despite recent considerable technological developments, many linguistic communities are still unable to fully enjoy and exercise their rights, express their opinions, communicate and participate in social, political and economic processes. Your goal is to suggest ways for ensuring that there is an adequate use of supportive tools, and that appropriate content and services are available in Arabic. Your work today will make a difference for tomorrow.”

At this session, Ms. Chafica Haddad, Chair of the intergovernmental council for the [Information for All Programme \(IFAP\)](#) presented the main objectives of the Programme and its priority areas, including multilingualism, as well as its salient activities and recent achievements. In that respect, she warmly thanked H.E. Ambassador Mohamed Amr and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for their substantial support provided for the translation into Arabic of the IFAP Strategic Plan Report (2008-2013). She then invited the participants to use this report in developing and further promoting the objectives of the Information for All Programme in their respective countries. After presenting the IFAP activities in the area of multilingualism, she concluded by emphasizing that “one of the key challenges to information for all is the promotion of linguistic diversity in cyberspace”.

“We are very pleased to partner with UNESCO to develop a much needed Internet Governance Glossary of terms in the Arabic language, since it is imperative that all stakeholders have a good grasp of the

terminology applicable to them in their own languages. There is clearly a need for such a glossary in the Arab world, and having experts from all stakeholders across the region participating in this project is yet another example of the multi-stakeholder process at work”, said Mr Baher Esmat, Vice President, Global Stakeholder Engagement, ICANN. “It is indeed worth underlining that Internet Governance is important for every country and for every citizen. The Internet Governance Glossary helps to clarify core terms and make them shared and understood”, added the Director of InfoTerm, Mr Galinski.

The renowned experts were also warmly greeted by Dr. Boyan Radoykov from the [Knowledge Societies Division of UNESCO](#), who presented in his opening address the historical and institutional perspective of UNESCO’s work in the area of multilingualism as well as the process that led to the adoption and subsequent implementation of the unique normative instrument within the UN system – the [Recommendation concerning the Promotion and Use of Multilingualism and Universal Access to Cyberspace](#). He ended by emphasizing that UNESCO has always considered cultural diversity and multilingualism as key factors in fostering pluralistic, equitable, open and inclusive knowledge societies and that the Organization strongly encourages its Member States to formulate comprehensive language-related policies, to allocate resources and to develop and use appropriate tools in order to promote linguistic diversity on the Internet and in the media.

## African States benefit from IFAP's efforts to establish policy frameworks



Conference on Information Ethics and Digital Opportunities, March 2015, South Africa. Left to right: Hezekiel Dlamini, Nomawethu Ngcakani, Hlengiwe Buhle Mkhize, Zukiswa Ncitha, Videsha Proothveerajh, Dennis Ocholla, Theo Bothma. © UNESCO

**With the support of the intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP), the UNESCO Harare Office, in concert with the African Centre of Excellence for Information Ethics (ACEIE), the University of Pretoria and the South African Government's Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services organized a regional capacity building conference for African policy-makers.**

The event, which attracted some 140 senior policy-makers representing 14 African countries across the continent and also including representatives of IFAP structures, UNESCO National Commissions and universities, was held from 26 to 27 March in South Africa, under the theme ***Information Ethics and Digital Opportunities***.

In her message to conference participants, Ms Chafica Haddad, Chair of the IFAP Intergovernmental Council, underscored the importance of the conference and its key role in "creating a forum for regional policy dialogue, learning and reflection amongst policy makers to raise awareness, shape national strategies, foster regional cooperation and strengthen African nations in their effort to harness the opportunities of Knowledge Societies".

Professor Hlengiwe Mkhize, South Africa's Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, was the guest of honour and keynote speaker. In accepting a first edition of the newly published seven-volume toolkit on information ethics developed by the ACEIE, she commended the Center of Excellence on the tremendous progress that they had made since 2007, noting that "As South Africa rolls-out its broadband infrastructure towards 100% national penetration by 2020, information ethics is going to be our next challenge. This conference allows us to interrogate how we should use information ethics to defend our identities, cultures and traditions of Ubuntu (doing good to others)". The Deputy Minister also recognized the contribution that UNESCO and IFAP have provided through their ongoing support.

Ms Menesia Muinjo of the Namibian Broadcasting Cooperation (NBC) remarked that "This event is giving participants an opportunity to learn from one another in terms of how to coordinate IFAP activities in their respective countries and particularly to implement IFAP objectives based on existing partnerships, as long as the work is done. What is coming out is that a lot is being done in terms of the IFAP pillars, but these need to be efficiently synergized and packaged as country positions."

Hezekiel Dlamini, Communication and Information Adviser at the UNESCO Harare Regional Office opined that, "To achieve the ideal goal of safe-access-to-information or access-to-safe-information, will take leadership at the political, social, academic and other levels to address the current and emerging ethical issues of the information society in order to create the much needed trust in our digital world."

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## IFAP contributes to CONNECTing the Dot's success



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**Over 350 participants representing governments, academia, civil society, private sector and the technical community gathered at UNESCO from 3 to 7 March, 2015 to participate in the CONNECTing the Dots Conference: Options for future Action, and to discuss the draft Internet-related study on access, free expression, privacy and ethics. Following two days of exchanges, the conference adopted an outcome document which will be submitted to the forthcoming session of UNESCO's Executive Board for consideration.**

Also present at the CONNECTing the Dot conference were partners and network members of UNESCO's intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP), who participated as panelists, discussants rapporteurs and supported the drafting of the outcome document adopted by the conference.

Since receiving a mandate from UNESCO's General Conference at its 37th session in November 2013 to conduct the Internet study, a series of consultations, surveys and other processes have been undertaken to advance this work and IFAP has been closely following and contributing to this process. As a consultative and advisory body to the Organization that supports Member States to create and implement national information policy and strategy frameworks that support the building of knowledge societies, IFAP was ideally placed for playing this role.

In his intervention during the opening ceremony, the Chairperson of the Executive Board, His Excellency Ambassador Mohamed Amr, paid noticeable tribute to IFAP's important contribution by underlining: "From the outset, I would like to thank the intergovernmental Information for All Programme, which has been closely associated with the organization of the Connecting the Dots Conference. As I am certain you all know, IFAP is one of the most important frameworks for international cooperation in our global effort to build inclusive knowledge societies."

Ms Chafica Haddad, Chair of the IFAP Council, played an active role throughout the event, and also participated in the High-level governmental dialogue and the Multistakeholder Input Coordinating Group responsible for guiding the preparation of the Outcome Document. Ms Haddad also used the conference as an opportunity to raise the visibility of IFAP's policy tools such as the National Information Society Policy Template and to highlight upcoming events on the IFAP calendar. As Ms Haddad explained in her intervention, IFAP "has long recognized the power of increased access to information as a vehicle and tool for positive social transformation and development and the importance of engaging and empowering youth. Accordingly IFAP will be organizing an international conference at UNESCO on the Internet as a tool for development of youth against all forms of extremism and radicalism in June 2015. The conference will share experiences amongst experts and policy-makers on policy interventions and develop pilot projects which benefit youth and serve as a learning lab to closer link policy, practitioners, academics and stakeholders".

Current and past members of the IFAP Bureau and its Working Groups, many of whom were in Paris to attend the 24th IFAP Bureau immediately following the CONNECTing the Dot conference also contributed significantly to the discussions.

Reflecting on the outcomes of the two-day event Dr Indrajit Banerjee, Director of the Knowledge Societies Division and Secretary of IFAP had this to say: By helping to bring the right people together around the right agenda, IFAP is contributing to crafting innovative solutions to the challenges that all societies face today. The study and outcome document are an important landmark that will orient UNESCO's response to the opportunities and challenges of cyberspace.

## IFAP Addresses Well Being in Digital Media



Organizers of the Well Being in Digital Media Conference, Ben Gurion University, Israel, February 2015.  
© UNESCO

**More than 50 international experts representing 20 countries from across 5 continents are gathering in Israel for the first international conference Well Being in Digital Media to be held under the auspices of UNESCO and its intergovernmental Information for All Programme (IFAP).**

This landmark event, organized by the Israel National Commission for UNESCO and its National IFAP Committee along with the Department of Education at Ben Gurion University, the Sammy Ofer School of Communication at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) Herzliya and the Open University of Israel will be held from 17 - 19 February 2014 in Beer Sheba, Israel.

According to Mr Getachew Engida, UNESCO's Deputy Director-General, the Forum comes at a critical juncture. "We are living through times of incredible changes with new opportunities for addressing development challenges... But, we are also seeing new digital divides and new forms of exclusion that raise hard ethical questions about balance, rhythm and harmony, indeed about well-being. So we must give all people particularly young women and men the tools and opportunities to ensure that they are not controlled by technology but rather harness its full power for their own fulfillment and the benefit of all. Furthermore, as we look towards the post-2015 period, I think the outcomes of the Forum can help to shape more effective strategies and frameworks for enlisting information and communication technologies to implement the global sustainable development agenda".

The conference will take place in two phases consisting of a two-day expert conference followed by a one-day conference aimed at raising awareness amongst the general public.

The conference of experts will provide a forum for sharing and comparing the latest research and emerging global experiences and trends in this field. In particular, their deliberations will seek to deepen understanding of how the long-term interactions between digital media, on one hand and individuals and society on the other, are affecting well-being. These experts will also focus on the development of indicators and the establishment of a program to measure and assess well-being.

The one-day event for general audiences will be structured around lectures, panel sessions and debates that will culminate with the launching of the Forum on Well Being in Digital Media. The event is expected to attract media and generate broader awareness and understanding of the related challenges amongst the wider public.

The Forum on Well Being will serve as a global observatory supporting ongoing monitoring and measurement, collating research and policy documents on digital well-being. It will also host an online community of practice that links researchers, policy makers, users and industry actors to share information and develop responses that enhance well-being for individuals and society.

## Towards UNESCO's World Atlas of Languages: Final Recommendations for the Action Plan



Bunuba speakers in Australia. © Discovery Communications, Inc.

**UNESCO has released a strategic document on the next steps to promote linguistic diversity and multilingualism in cyberspace. More than 60 leading experts and professional organizations from 25 countries contributed to the elaboration of this document and provided concrete suggestions for the preparation of a plan of action in order to launch UNESCO's World Atlas of Languages.**

According to [this document](#), stakeholders such as governments, academia and professional community, industry, media and content producers, and others should, among others:

1. Formulate, contribute and adopt sustainable national language policies on the crucial issue of linguistic diversity and multilingualism, including promotion, safeguarding, representation, technological development, especially for the improvement of access to cyberspace for disadvantaged communities;
2. Encourage developments on language technology systems and tools with extensive multilingual capabilities, with regard to operating systems, search engines and web browsers and to consider facilitating affordable Internet access in public service institutions.
3. Strengthen international cooperation and building partnerships to support capacity-building for the production and distribution of local and indigenous content in digital and open forms and work to provide necessary resources to alleviate barriers for a different language users, including marginalized communities.

Recalling the importance of upscaling the existing tool for promotion and monitoring of linguistic diversity and multilingualism, experts recommended to develop [UNESCO's World Atlas of Languages](#) along the following steps over the next two-year period:

1. Establishment of an Advisory Group composed of professionals and experts within the relevant fields, respecting geographical representation and gender balance;
2. Development of a mechanism and sustainable tools for monitoring language vitality and for the assessment, promotion and preservation using innovative technological solutions;
3. Promotion of multilingualism in the context of the international frameworks such as Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals and on the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) outcomes implementation and seek support for other international events.

Once operational, the [UNESCO's World Atlas of Languages](#) should contain a full data on languages, policies, regulations, technical recommendations and best practices in this field. It is expected that a new globally accessible and open online platform will be used for monitoring and promotion of the world's languages online, strengthen cooperation and knowledge sharing using open and inclusive technological solutions among international, regional and national language institutions.

The [international expert meeting](#), held from 28 to 29 October 2014 in Paris, was organized by UNESCO in cooperation with the Government of Khanty-Mansiysk Autonomous Okrug-Ugra (Russian Federation), the Permanent Delegation of the Russian Federation for UNESCO and the Russian Committee of the [UNESCO Information for All Programme](#).

## **UNESCO Global Questionnaire on Internet study: around 200 responses received**

**Following UNESCO's launch of a global questionnaire during July-December 2014 to collect inputs and research from a range of stakeholders on internet study, around 200 responses and submissions were received which provide diverse and substantial inputs in the areas of access to information and knowledge, freedom of expression, privacy, and ethical dimensions of the information society as well as options for future actions.**

The questionnaire consultation consists of two components: a global consultation through UNESCO website with 94 responses submitted and a regional pilot one with 102 questionnaires completed in the Latin America through a portal website of Observacom as ensured by UNESCO Advisor for Communication and Information in Montevideo Office.

The 94 responses and submissions to the global consultation are submitted by all stakeholders including Governments (14), International Organization (5), Civil Society and NGOs including individual users (41), Private Sector (3), Academia (27), Technical Community (2) and Others (2).

In the regional consultation in Latin America, the actors who participated in the consultation were from the following countries: Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, USA, El Salvador, Spain, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela. According to the record participation stemmed from the following sectors: Civil Society and NGOs, including individual users (32.65%), Academia (36.73%), Private Sector (3.06%), Technical Community (1.02%), International Organizations (3.06%), Government (4.08%), Individual users (19.39 %).

These responses, will feed into a comprehensive Internet-related study in access, freedom of expression, privacy, and ethical dimensions of the information society as well as options for future action, as mandated by UNESCO's 195 Member States through Resolution 52 of the Organization's 37th General Conference (November 2013). It will also help with the discussion of the first draft in the forthcoming Multistakeholder Internet Conference: **CONNECTing the Dots: Options for Future Actions** at UNESCO headquarters on 3-4 March 2015. More information on the Internet Conference is available [here](#).

UNESCO thanks all those submitters, whose responses have been well considered and provide solid basis for the implementation of the Internet study. These responses and submissions are therefore published at the below link, for the reference of general public.

Please note that all submitters have been explicitly informed that their responses would be published on UNESCO's website prior to their submission. The ideas and opinions expressed in their responses and references are those of the submitters; they are not necessarily those of UNESCO and do not commit the Organization.