**NCUC at IGF 2017: A model of civil society commitment**

With a workshop, a pre-event, a village booth, and the presence of dozens of active members, NCUC figured eminently in the 12th Internet Governance Forum, which took place from 17 to 21 December 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland.

The event’s overall theme "shape your digital future ".The meeting was attended by 2019 onsite participants, from 142 countries representing all stakeholder groups and regions who took part in a total of 231sessions with a wide spectrum of themes ranging from access, inclusion diversity, critical internet resources, cybersecurity, digital economy, digital work ,trade& sustainable development ,gender &youth ,human rights online, multistakeholder cooperation governance , and new technologies and emerging issues such as artificial intelligence etc.

IG2017 witnessed a high level of remote participation as well with 32 remote hubs were organized around the world, with 1661 stakeholders participating online.

For NCUC, the IGF journey started on December 16th2017 with a joint civil society meeting organized jointly by NCUC and the civil society networks the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), Best Bits, the Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus (IGC), the Just Net Coalition (JNC), Diplo Foundation and the Geneva Internet Project.

The 12th Annual Symposium of the Global Internet Governance Academic Network (GigaNet) was a full day pre-event featuring innovative research about a wide range of issues from private regulation of the Internet, trade and the Internet to privacy and economic value of data. The meeting also featured a session to voice regional issues, a policy session about IG and media, IG and IPR, encryption and social justice .Whereas the pre-event’s final session was a mapping up of the civil society’s strategy at IGF.

During the pre-event, the participants delved into the work of NCUC and its values through a presentation Farzaneh badii. Overall, the meeting provided valuable academic insights about the Internet Governance institutions, practices and trends .

During the IGF , NCUC organized a workshop [Content Regulation and Private Ordering at Internet Governance Institutions](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2017-day-3-room-xii-ws-67-content-regulation-and-private-ordering-at-internet-governance) discussion was on how to avoid the potential involvement of ICANN in content regulation due to the impacts this has on freedom of speech.

The workshop shed the light on the potential drift toward content control post the 2013 Specification 11 refered to as the public Interest commitment that requires every new gTLD registry operator to pass along to registrars, a contractual provision that require registrars to pass along to registrant a contractual provision prohibiting privacy on counterfeiting and providing consequences for breach including the suspension of domain names. Another important development was highlighted with respect to migration, content regulation to the DNS which is the 2016 trusted notifier arrangements between Donuts and the Motion Picture Association of America which allows Donuts as the registry operator of hundreds of new ccTLDs to bypass registrars and send Domain Names at the registry level if a registrar refuses to take action in response to the MPAA complaint.

The workshop featured an interactive discussion reflecting the different perspectives of the interested parties notably registry operators, as service providers, registrars, and NCUC members .The discussion touched upon issues of due process when addressing enforcement when it comes to DNS abuse,

the Manila principles on intermediary liability, and copyright policy concerns.

The NCUC membersᶦ commitment was reflected by their remarkable presence either as organizers or speakers within the following workshops directly related to NCUC’s work [The Future of Internet Identifiers: How the DNS will Function in a Smart Cyberspace? (WS48)](https://igf2017.sched.com/event/CSCq/the-future-of-internet-identifiers-how-the-dns-will-function-in-a-smart-cyberspace-ws48?iframe=no&w=100%25&sidebar=yes&bg=no), [Multistakeholder governance of the Domain Name System, lessons learned for other IG issues (WS76)](https://igf2017.sched.com/event/CTqy/multistakeholder-governance-of-the-domain-name-system-lessons-learned-for-other-ig-issues-ws76?iframe=no&w=100%25&sidebar=yes&bg=no) , [the second meeting of all schools of Internet Governance](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2017-day-0-salle-18-second-meeting-of-all-schools-of-internet-governance-all-sig-0) .

In parallel with the sessions, NCUC booth was always a great venue to visit in the IGF village. It was furnished with copies of leaflets and the NCUC brochures in [English](http://www.ncuc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/NCUC-Brochure-English-January-2016MBv14.compressed-1.pdf) and [Spanish](http://www.ncuc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/NCUC-Brochure-Spanish-April-2015-2.pdf). No matter what time of day, morning or afternoon, day 1 or day 4, the volunteer members gathered at the booth to welcome the visitors and provide them with a glimpse on the NCUC’s work .

Alongside with organizing my own workshop titled [Achieving the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in the digital future:Where do youth stand?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvuY2SzXl74) ,being part of the booth volunteer staff was a rewarding experience that did not only allow me to interact with numerous IGF participants from different backgrounds but it also to inform them about how we work to make the civil society’s voice heard within the DNS ecosystem and to transmit my passion about advocating non-commercial users rights as part of the NCUC community .

***My travel to IGF2017 was possible thanks to the generous support of NCUC. Thank you, NCUC!***