Summary

1. The 2016 Best Practice Forum on IXPs held its second open virtual (webex) meeting on 9 August 2016 at 2 pm UTC, the meeting was lead by the BPF IXP Coordinators, Ms. Salanieta Tamanikaiwaimaro and Mr. Douglas Onyango. The main agenda points were the BPF's scope and goals, a first discussion on the structure of the outcome document, a proposal for a regional work process and the collection of contributions.

2. The webex recording of the meeting can be accessed at:
   https://intgovforum.webex.com/intgovforum/ldr.php?RCID=5b77a6b3f2c8c1ea9715e72a4d01d85e

3. Participants shortly introduced themselves. They were invited to actively participate in the discussions and to take ownership of the BPF. It was reminded that the BPFs intend to be open bottom-up processes to collect best practices and present them as tangible outcomes of the IGF to the Community.

4. Scope and Goals.
   The revised scope and goals document (version 3 – see annex), which takes into account input received at and after the previous call was presented. The version 3 is considered to be a stable draft, a basis on which the BPF will work. However, it is still possible to fine-tune the document as the BPF proceeds.

5. One participant referred to the BPF's intention to take into account the regulatory environment when looking into the factors that can contribute to the development and success of IXPs (scope and goals, par. 14, 2nd bullet point) and asked to clarify whether it was permissible within the scope of the BPF to comment on regulatory approaches and their effect on an IXP's development, or whether the BPF merely had to accept the regulatory environment as a fact of life, similar, for example, to whether a country is landlocked or not.
   It was agreed that the BPF could explain how, in specific cases, specific regulations effect(ed) the development of the IXP because such information could help inform those making policy choices. The BPF should not intend to formulate prescriptive policy recommendations, as there is no one solution that will work in all circumstances and in every county or region.

6. It was suggested to include as an additional objective for the BPF "to identify factors contributing to the successful management and operation of IXPs".

7. The participants reflected on a first draft structure for the BPF outcome and discussed what information should be collected through the case studies. It was recommended to define metrics and parameters for the case studies, but also to limit the amount of detail that is asked, eg in a template or questionnaire. The following metrics were suggested: GDP growth, growth of the digital economy, FTE employed in the digital economy, size of the digital economy as % of the GDP.

8. Participants also discussed and alternative approach to collect case studies. Instead of using a template or questionnaire the BPF can reach out, directly and

through regional and local focal points, and invite IXPs to share their story in a text format. IXPs would be asked to focus on what they consider to be the main challenges and factors influencing their development.
It was suggested to combine both approaches.

9. Work process.
The participants had a lengthy discussion on a proposal to work with regional leads to make the BPF more geographically and stakeholder inclusive. The regional leads would, within their regions, reach out and coordinate the engagement of different stakeholders in the BPF, help to identify resources and good practices, stimulate the discussion between stakeholders, organise regional calls, provide input in the BPF as expert from their region, etc. There could be one or more leads per region, for Africa, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, Latin and North America.

10. Several points were raised during the discussion. It was suggested that the BPF should work with the IX federations in the different regions and avoid duplicating their work. Questions were raised about the role of the work done on the BPF mailing list and during virtual meetings, and how it relates to the proposed regional processes. There were concerns about adding an extra layer of complexity to the BPF process and increasing the workload. It was suggested to look into potential synergies with local and regional IGF initiatives, for example to raise awareness on the BPF and collect input. Questions were asked on how the product of regional discussions would be incorporated in the BPF outcome document.

11. It was concluded that the proposal needs further discussion and that several aspects need clarification. Participants requested that the proposed work process would be put in writing and shared on the BPF mailing list to facilitate the online discussion.

12. Next steps:
- Scope and goals: a clarifying note will be added on policy recommendations; "factors contributing to the successful management and operation" will be incorporated in the objectives;
- A google doc will be created to brainstorm on metrics;
- A draft proposal for the BPF process will be shared online for further discussion;
- A doodle poll will be used to schedule the next call.

13. Practical information
- BPF IXP webpage: http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/best-practice-forums/bpf-ixps
- BPF IXP mailing list: bp_ixps@intgovforum.org
  (Subscribe at http://mail.intgovforum.org/mailman/listinfo/bp_ixps_intgovforum.org)

- summary by Wim Degezelle

List of Participants

1. Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong
2. Mike Blanche
3. Jane Coffin
4. Malcolm Hutty
5. Allan MacGillivary
6. Mike Nelson
7. Jon Nistor
8. Michael Oghia
9. Sumon A. Sabir

10. Bijal Sanghani
11. Ismail M. Settenda
12. Sharada Srinivasan
13. Kyle Spenser
14. Nico Tshintu Bakajika
15. Douglas Onyango (BPF coordinator)
16. Salanieta Tamanikaiwaimaro (BPF coordinator)
17. Wim Degezelle (BPF consultant)

Annexes

IGF 2016 - Best Practice Forum on IXPs

Scope and Goals
Version 3 Final draft

I. Introduction

1. After last year's focus on creating and establishing Internet exchange points (IXPs), this year's Best Practice Forum (BPF) will focus on growing and further developing an IXP.
   IXPs play a critical role in improving the affordability, performance, and reliability of the Internet. They therefore play an important role in enabling inclusive and sustainable growth in their communities.

2. The BPF output will document and acknowledge the benefits of an IXP, and identify, via case studies, factors that can contribute to the development and success of IXPs as well as the broader Internet ecosystem. The outcome of the BPF should be a living and flexible resource intending to inform all kinds of policy debates on IXP related issues in a neutral way.

II. Background

3. In December 2015, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the remarkable progress of the Internet and information and communication technologies (ICTs) at the overall review of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10). As part of the outcome of WSIS+10, the General Assembly acknowledged the role of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as a multi-stakeholder platform for discussion of Internet governance issues and extended the IGF mandate for 10 years.

4. Bridging the Digital Divide
   The recognition of the role that ICTs hold toward bridging the digital divide was an intrinsic part of the endorsement of the IGF. For more than 10 years, the IGF has been a catalyst for facilitating dialogue and sharing knowledge around key Internet public policy areas. Over the course of the years, there have been numerous additions to emerging policy issues; however 10 years later, there are still numerous challenges that affect access, availability, and affordability. Internet exchange points (IXPs) contribute substantially to the creation of an accessible, available, and affordable Internet and as such help to bridge the digital divide.

5. Concrete Tangible Output of the IGF
   As the IGFs progressed, the Working Group on Improvements to the IGF called for the development of more tangible outputs to enhance the impact of the IGF on global Internet governance and policy. The IGF's intersessional work program, which includes the Best Practice Forums (BPFs), was designed to enrich the potential of the IGF and develop more tangible outputs which can serve as resources and provide input into other pertinent forums.

   III. The 2015 BPF on IXPs

6. The first BPF on IXPs (IGF 2015) produced a report on Internet Exchange Points (IXPs) titled Enabling Environments for Establishing Successful IXPs. The report explained why IXPs matter, identified the primary stakeholders, and outlined some of the conditions which can help them develop and flourish. It also contained a number of examples related to how IXPs cope with various challenges in their environment.

7. The 2015 BPF on IXPs resulted from an open, collaborative, and bottom-up iterative process, which culminated in a Best Practice workshop at the 10th IGF meeting in João Pessoa, Brazil, and the Best Practice outcome document.

IV. Scope and Goals of the 2016 BPF on IXPs

8. Enabling Inclusive and Sustainable Growth is the overarching theme of the 2016 IGF that will be held in Guadalajara, Mexico, between 6-9 December 2016. In its work, the 2016 BPF on IXPs will identify linkages to the general theme and the IGF's intersessional work on Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion. The the outcome of the 2016 BFP will serve as a resource for its target audience: policy-makers, regulators, governments, and the private sector.

9. How can the BPF on IXPs contribute to enabling inclusive and sustainable growth? Estimates by the 2015 Global Commission on the Internet predict that the Internet's contribution to the global economy will be as high as $4.2 trillion this year. Moreover, an estimated 20 billion devices will be online within five years, and the Internet of Things (IoT) could result in economic growth of $11.1 trillion by 2025.

10. The Internet infrastructure needs to be prepared for future growth in the number of connected devices, and an ever-increasing volume of data traffic. At the moment, however, many countries are still struggling with poor penetration and affordability, as well as challenges to online freedom and security. IXPs play a critical role in improving the affordability, performance, and reliability of the Internet. They therefore play an important role in enabling inclusive and sustainable growth in their communities and can significantly contribute toward the achievement of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

11. Scope and Goal
The BPF will acknowledge work that is done by other Forums in order to minimise duplication and will also incorporate the knowledge and expertise from other external organisations such as regional IXP Associations, the IXP Toolkit, PCH, and individual IXPs. The outcome of the BPF should be a living and flexible resource intending to inform all kinds of policy debates on IXP related issues in a neutral way.

12. The BPF output will document and acknowledge the benefits of an IXP, and put them into this perspective by addressing the following questions with evidence from concrete case studies:

13. How do IXPs contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth?
What are case studies that show tangible evidence of this contribution to inclusive and sustainable economic growth?
How have IXPs contributed to the growth of local content and services?
How have IXPs impacted innovation?

14. The 2016 BPF aims to list factors that can contribute to the development and success of IXPs as well as the broader Internet ecosystem. IXPs and their stakeholders often look for experiences of other IXPs in order to identify what made them flourish. The BPF will take into account the following perspectives.
   • Geographic perspective: Isolated areas (small islands, landlocked countries), villages in remote regions, etc.
   • Development perspective: Developing countries, underdeveloped regions, big cities, etc.
   • Regulatory environment: Strongly regulated, not regulated, etc.

- Telecoms market environment: Level of competition, relative size of operators, etc.

15. The BPF outcome document will target policy, business, and regulatory stakeholders within the IXP environment. After last year's focus on creating and establishing IXPs and identifying an IXP's relevant stakeholders, this year's BPF will focus on growing and further developing an IXP after this initial period.

V. Participating to the work of the BPF and Call for contributions

16. The BPF on IXPs is seeking to widen its group of contributors and obtain best practices and lessons learned from different stakeholders and organizations, different geographic regions, and from individual IXPs. The BPF invites stakeholders to share policy and regulatory experiences, and wants to explore the mindset of the business community.

17. Volunteers and experts are encouraged to join the BPF and participate in the discussions on the mailing list and during virtual meetings. Subscribe to BPF on IXP's mailing list (bp_ixps@intgovforum.org) at:
http://mail.intgovforum.org/mailman/listinfo/bp_ixps_intgovforum.org

18. Kindly note that the work of the BPF is voluntary and pro bono.