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APRIGF 2026

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OPEN DIALOGUE ROUND TABLE, ROLE OF APRIGF IN IMPLEMENTING THE PERMANENT MANDATE OF IGF
LHOTSE HALL
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>> (AUTOMATED VOICE) Recording in progress.

>> (AUTOMATED VOICE) Recording stopped.

>> This is the Singapore hub. We are testing our audio, can you hear us? We can't hear you if you are speaking.

>> Yes, we can hear you.

>> Thank you.

>> Hi everyone, online, local hubs, we will begin shortly. And some setting up we have to do here. And we will begin shortly. Thank you for waiting.

>> Check, check, online participants can you hear me? Great. We will begin shortly. As I mentioned earlier, we are just setting up here. Please bear with us and we will be with you shortly.

>> Sure thing.

>> Hello, check.

>> Hello check. Check check. Check, check, check, check, check. Check, check, check. Check. Check. Check. Hello, check.
Check. Check. Check. Check.

>> Hello, check.

>> Check.

>> I hope you can hear me? Come in and occupy seats as we start. We hope this will be a interactive conversation. And we hope to hear from you so we hope you come up front and be seated.

Okay. So welcome to this session, which is designed as an open roundtable. And it is being hosted by the Working Group on Internet Governance Processes, which is hosted by the APrIGF. And this working group was set up in 2025 as a way for the APrIGF community to be able to discuss and input into specifically the WSIS+20 process, the review that was happening last year. And subsequently, we agreed as a working group that it was important for us to have this multistakeholder space at the regional level to be able to share information, to be able to collect input, and to be able to take our regional perspectives to different internet governance processes, whether it is the IGF, the digital compact, and the process resulting out of that and any other process that impacts our priorities in the region.

And this working group has born out of that as this session. I will briefly introduce myself and our wonderful speakers for today and then we will get started. My name is Pavitra Ramanujam, I work with the Association for Progressive Communications. We are a civil society organization and network that works at the intersection of technology and human rights. We are joined today at this roundtable by a panel of experts. To my right is Jennifer Chung, who is the Chair of the IGF MAG. We also have with us Amrita Choudhury, the Chair of the APrIGF Multistakeholder Steering Group. We have with us Mr. Subhash Dhakal, Joint Secretary of the Government of Nepal Information Technology and Digital Governance Office. And then finally, we have with us Mr. Izumi Aizu, whose Principal Researcher of the Institute of HyperNetwork Society.

Before we start with the roundtable, there is a question that we would like to post to all of you here in the audience as well as online, which we would like to ask you to answer through a Mentimeter. I'm not sure if you are able to share the QR Code. Fantastic.

The question that we have for you today. Is in your understanding, what is the role of the Internet Governance Forum in ensuring internet resilience in times of crisis? And this

really is going to be the theme of our discussion here today. There's two main issues we would like to discuss. The first one really is the permanent mandate of the IGF which was confirmed as part of the WSIS+20 review process last year. And second, contextualizing that permanent mandate in the current context currently her in Nepal where we have seen there's been significant losses as a result of a natural disaster last month which is also resulted in the cutting off of connectivity in many parts. So we really want to be able to take this opportunity both to discuss the opportunities that are available through this permanent mandate of the IGF.

And to focus on this issue of internet resilience in times of crisis not just here in Nepal but in other parts of the region that we have seen in recent years. Feel free to respond to the this question and I'll come back to you after we hear from the panel. And Jennifer, maybe I can turn to you first as the Chair for the MAG this year and overseeing the first year of this permanent mandate of the IGF. Can you tell us from your experience what has shifted in terms of goals and have priorities of the IGF with the understanding we have this sustainable long-term future for this platform. And really what can we look forward to in terms of being able to build sustained conversations on some of the issues that with a priority for us here in this region?

>> JENNIFER CHUNG: Thank you very much, Pavitra. First of all, I think it is so important to stress the permanency of the IGF mandate was only able to be brought about because of the strength and the resilience of the global multistakeholder IGF community. It's important to recognize at the end of last year the world came together and reformed the multistakeholder way of the governance. And people talk about the internet governance now and everything is enabled by the internet and everything we care about the enabled by the internet that's allowing the other emerging technologies to be on top of it and looking at the data and looking at all the resilience projects that I think we'll hear from other speakers and that the first thing second.

The second thing is of course the permanency gives us the institutional stability. It's been 20 years, it's a long time coming.

But across the 20 years, there was a 5-year review and 10-year review. And there was a question in everyone's mind, are we done here? Do we still need this platform and this space where we have multistakeholders coming together on equal footing talking about public policy that governs the internet and all

this? The answer was a resounding yes. And that reaffirmed that stability, that institutional stability that allows me to come to my second point where the changes we can now look at a multiyear planning. We can look at strategic long-term, mid-term and short-term looking at the horizon how internet governance and digital governances likes for us all. This stability allows not only the global agenda and the regional and sub regional and local agenda.

We are here right now in Kathmandu, Nepal. There's so many things in community, this country, this city can teach us, especially talking about in terms of crisis in terms of resilience. And finally, it brings me to one point that's very important. There has been a lot of discussion, criticism, and people say, why do we come to IGFs? Why do we come to local IGFs? Regional IGFs? We come together and talk and go away and nothing getting done, nothing getting happened. Or people say if you are here and there's no negotiated outcome that's the actual impact? I posit this to you.

The beauty of the IGF and this in the space here as well in the APrIGF in your local NRIs and your local and national meetings, the local impact is felt the most here. If you are able to sit at the table with governments can public sector and civil community and youth, all of the industry that really work on these really important and sometimes very contentious matters and being able to talk freely and being able to talk on equal footing is important where you don't immediately take antagonist stances so you can look at shaping the policy

The-point the 20 years of IGF output and going forward we need to be even more intentional where we want to target these output output. The output is not just a meeting report at the end of the year. The output is the entire calendar year we call it the IGF policy cycle. And APrIGF Nepal IGF, youth IGF and Nepal IGF and all this rich output form this tapestry where we need to intentionally put it intellect what with the digital process going on right now.

Right now on people peace of mind, the global dialogue on AI? How does this feed into this? These are ways the mandate made it clearer and easier for communities to come together and really effect change.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you so much for sharing, Jennifer. And maybe this is a good segue to you, Amrita. In the context of what Jennifer said we could do about this permanent mandate how do you see the role of the APrIGF? How

can we leverage this opportunity to in many ways center priority priorities that are sometimes unique to the region and often times we find are not necessarily spotlighted on the global stage.

>> AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you for this. And I will take a few points which Jennifer mentioned. For example, we had the global IGF discusses many things. Asia-Pacific is very different. We constitute more than half the world. So we have our own different challenges, opportunities, et cetera. Taking the example of Nepal, for example. If we have some discussions on resilience, things discussed over the last few days and Nepal track in the youth tracks on resilience, how the best practices challenges some good practices. Access items and recommendations. If those can be taken and fed into the global IGF, that helps. Similarly, the best practices are things which are discussed at the global IGF and the APrIGF can play a role and conduit to spread through the communities and work with the national and youth initiatives from this region to percolate it down and bring in information. And I think with the permanent mandate, my hope is there would be more work happening within the whole year, even with the regional IGF and national IGFs and there was also discussions of implementing the WSIS action lines, et cetera.

So ideally, the NRIs, as we call them, can play a good role in their own respective countries, region, to work on that. So that would be a wish list how we can participate.

Similarly, we have our synthesis document which comes in. The idea is that while synthesis document needs into the global IGF we also wanted to be percolating down and as general for was mentioning we can build a repository of this information. So whoever wants it policy, people who are discussing on policies and best practices or really in industry can come and look at those. Because these are rich resources, which the community has built. So these are ways in which we can work about. Of course, we can do more. Taking up some issues and this is some feedback, which we were getting perhaps we identify one or two issues. We have those discussed even in a local hubs and we had 11 such hubs this time. And build more consensus or even work on those issues a bit more. And I'll stop at that.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you so much. And this idea that we might need to actually focus on certain issues I think has been brought to light more specifically in the context of Nepal. And the crisis that Nepal has faced recently. But we

know is not unique to Nepal. And I don't think that natural disasters or crisis like this is a unique to our region but we know that often we do face disproportionate impacts in our region where we are not maybe as well-equipped to deal with them as we shall be. And there's a lot of work to do in this regard, including with respect to internet connectivity.

So I want to take this opportunity to come to you, Subhash. I know you are in the thick of things with dealing with the response to the crisis here in Nepal. I would like to ask you if you could share with us some context on the current situation here and in relation to connectivity in the disaster faced areas in particular. And if you could tell us some of the challenges you face here in Nepal, which could help ground or discussion how we can address it as a community.

>> SUBHASH DHAKAL: Thank you. So this is a scenario that we face is very different this year because we need to define the natural disaster differently now. So some natural disaster is predictable. You can plan for it. And some natural disaster liked in, we face recently, I think it's beyond our imagination and preparation. But in terms of connectivity, having some connection, let me divide it in the content part and having a connectivity as a forum or internet connectivity we need to look at, one, more important thing we are more focusing on the internet infrastructures. What we found importantly is more important is electricity and the internet infrastructure. This is the problem that we face in the last decade earthquake and 2015 earthquake and this also.

One of the fixes we did after the disaster is all the videos or some microwave APs or wireless APs we found in that regions we try to restore the electricity first with solar and that things, although we are moving with the fiber-based systems for the connectivity and the backups also. If we look at the backhauls last time, the microwave backhaul work a lot with the connectivity. We are forgetting the microwave as the backhaul in what the time of crisis it worked a lot. So that's one thing.

Another thing is wireless AP they started the private IP they use with the AP and the stronger connectivity. And unfortunately, the affected areas are the rural areas and the remote areas in some part of these areas we are still not able to restore the connectivity. And the suburban areas and we have now restored the connectivity, or even a couple days, three days after the disaster also. So this shows that we need multiple

infrastructures ready for the crisis. And one more important, I also realize that we did a mistake, because we were talking at the community networks, and some 10 years, 15 years ago and now we talk about the community networks due to the affordability of the internet and all those things.

If we had the community networks, even with the connectivity at that time, that could have been a useful tool for us to connect the communities in that case, which I think we need to go back and work on that also. It's still the, even for the capacity part, even for the cost of the connectivity, countries like Nepal need those type of initiatives. And regarding after if there's a basic connectivity, then let's go on the meaningful connectivity and the impact globally.

And one of the challenge we face is, in time of crisis, is that the content, the misguiding content. Misinformation. That's where I think what we should not form from this idea is the multistakeholderrism or distributed efforts of the internet governance. We all are accountable for acting on this type of crisis. As citizens should be accountable in that case. So we should understand our accountability in that case.

I think we need a very good thing even in case of the relief. For our case, we detected it hourly and then we restore the single point of mechanism and everything. But it's still our community helped us a lot for finding out those issues and it's still I think in terms of crisis, in terms of the content regulations or content like appropriateness, I think we should work together and be there together. So I think these are some of the experience we have faced.

And regarding this IGF mandates, I want to add more things out of this agenda. Jennifer tells us what would the policy impact reflect of this IGF is the major questions we are facing from the WSIS 2005. And still I feel like there's impact. And it's not like the IGF will write up the something and there's a census report and the government says okay, nice is not thinks report I'll put it in the policy it's not like that. The government also participate in this forum. And business participates in the forum. And listen to this this is of the others and concern of the other, especially in civil society. Like in other forums, like in business is on one side and government is in one side and business is one side and citizens -- civil societies are on the other side.

And here as Amrita said, every stakeholder is facing the things. And one stakeholder learns from the other stakeholder and even the government learn and it will be reflected on our policymaking. We have realized in most of the cases where the policies regarding the internet, we have a use discussions in Nepal. If they are not align to the global compliance, those regulations those are like policies are not sustainable in Nepal also. That's why I think there is an impact of these forums, to learn yourself and reflect it in the policies. So you contribute there.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thanks. I'll come back to you and the points you are raising, particularly about what these forums can do. And in fact, actually to hear from you a little bit as it directly impacts the work of government. I would love to come back to you on that. I want to come to you, Izumi, to round out the panel here because you're in a position to support relief in other time of crisis, especially with internet connectivity. So it would be great to hear from you. Really on, one, how can we prepare better?

I know Subhash shared a multiprong approach we need, but if you have best practices you would like to share with us and hopefully please to be able to keep it short so we can open it to the audience. Over to you, Izumi.

>> IZUMI AIZU: Thank you very much. I was given 3 minutes. And I tend to speak too much so instead I put them all in a video, 3 minutes. Hope the sound will come out. I didn't have much time to rehearse but let me try.

As expected. Sound, I need to fix it. Just one second. Output. Sound. Usually things don't work when it works and playing.

One more try if not, yes, I will follow you. Let's try, if not, yes. Although I spent a few time minutes to put the sound here. No. Sorry. It's already consuming my first one minute, I will --

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: We can come back to you so you can take a minute and not be stressed by trying to do this.

(video)
>> There are collapse. In that case we save the houses.

>> Most mobile communication.

>> There was a burden.

>> Are there coordination between different volunteer groups?

>> Not did have in that.

>> How are you?

>> I'm beautiful.

>> Okay?

>> Namaste and welcome. Happy to see you all. Today we provide (muffled) we have some local items for the community people. I am a nurse and I'm working here. After the flood, I'm working in different flood area like. And I coordinate with other organizations and UN government. I and a find is goal and need assessment, I call it data from community area. After that, finalize the what we need most needed. After that, coordinate other people and provide the relief efforts to the victims.

>> It's a field hospital in the battlefield like.

>> Physical things that we saw and things I have seen. It's like an iceberg, we see just the tip. And we look and there's a lot more to it. For a few months, we find the people with the health conditions and mental health conditions and PTSD and bring them here.

>> IZUMI AIZU: Thank you. I'll add my comments in the second round of thoughts.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you so much for sharing that. And obviously, not very easy images to see. But maybe we can turn to you now. And Rani, if you can bring back the results of the Mentimeter and for us to have a discussion on what we can do as the internet governance community very practically in terms of being able to prepare for crisis like this in the future in the region. Or even other ways that connectivity is lost, for instance, during conflict. And as Subhash said, there's a number of different things that can be done in preparation. And of course, there are some things that you cannot prepare for.

But if you are having like sustained preparation, then you are better placed to react to these situations when it happens. I don't know if we are able to see the results of the Mentimeter. I saw a couple things that came up quite prominently was coordination and facilitation, which many of you think is the role of the IGF. I want to open it to you to those who shared coordination and facilitation. If you can share what you mean by that and whether you think the APrIGF or IGF can do in order to coordinate efforts or facilitate discussions around this. The person in the back. I don't know if there's anyone able to hand over mics.

The person in the back row raised their hand.

>> Hi and Namaste. I am from a 2025 Fellow. I really appreciate the work that's been done and also thank you for choosing Nepal as the venue. As communities here, we are still trying to recover from whatever we have gone through. And these events have been helpful. And I think coming up next while we are still on the topic of what we need to do, I think these things should happen. And I really appreciate the hybrid nature. And I am able to be on and offsite to able to contribute in a meaningful manner too. Online you might have seen me, and here I am today. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

(applause)

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you so much. I see that someone has their hand up online. Please feel free to unmute yourself and share your reflections. Thank you so much for getting the Mentimeter up.

>> Thank you. To answer your question very specifically why IGF. And I was one of the probably one of the persons who mentioned facilitator. Are you able to hear me? Are you guys able to hear me?

Hello?

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Please go ahead. We can hear you.

>> You can hear me. Great. To answer your question specifically why I thought IGF could be a facilitator because the amount of influence that you guys exert. And I'm new to this, like I said earlier in the morning in the open house. I think IGF can use all of the credibility, the momentum that you

guys having able to generate over the past so many years be able to partner with the governments in times of crisis because I've been hearing about resilience. IGF I think has one of the greatest platforms. And right now, I see on my screen people from the government participating. And I do remember somebody also mentioning this is the platform where all of you guys come together. In terms of exerting that influence.

IGF very simply put can use the platform, the momentum the people you have the body of knowledge that you have to be able to push some of these discussions, discourses and facilitate them to transpire into policies where governments understand the pain of the people. The business set up. Where all three entities, government, business, and consumer, like you and I come together to be able to ensure there is free and secure access to the internet. That's in my opinion. Thank you.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: (muted)

>> Sorry to interrupt, but we can want hear you.

>> There's absolutely no sound.
(no audio for Zoom)

>> I belong to that victim area. And the governments work is commendable. We've been experiencing this type of floods and other natural disaster, let's say, very frequently. And the work the government has done this year is so commendable. And as there are many stakeholders in this room, I think everybody needs to know the work the government has done. And personally, I work in civil society so, of course, I have been there as a volunteer also. Not only as victim but as a volunteer and as another type of stakeholder, let's say.

And coordination the friendliness, the word is not so right, but the friendliness and the coordination of the government has been so good. It was really good. And also getting back to meaningful connectivity. It was really great and everybody should acknowledge the work of the government of Nepal. Thank you.
(applause)

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you so much for sharing that. Is there anyone else? There are three hands. The person in the first row here and the person there and then to you, sir. Maybe -- yeah.

>> Hi everyone, I'm a 2026 Fellow. My question would be not a question, actually, I want to ask to the government of Nepal. After this flood and stuff that's happened, so living in the present day, I think internet has become a basic necessity to every one of us. But even in some part of Nepal and also in Kathmandu as well in the city as well for some people, internet is like a luxury because the tax and the money we pay for the internet is luxury for some people living in rural areas or some part of Nepal that are living in minimal wages.

So what is government say for this? After the crisis almost -- most of the peoples everything has been swept away the minimum income also decreased so internet is a luxury for them as well. During the time of crisis and also like the internet crisis which has been increased so what does the government say for this? That's my question.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you for raising that valid point of the cost of internet, especially in times like this. And maybe we can take the other two comments and then we'll come back to the panel. And here and the gentleman in the third row.

>> Hello, Good afternoon, my question is a simple. APrIGF has developed a policy and everything but not law enforcement. And how can it influence in our law and enforcement? Who are the underserved community? We have a community we have a policy we have the power but we have not enforced any other power or delegated to work in the permanent state.

So different policy, different mechanism. So how to combine the integration for under served community for governance and the rights of the internet and not shutdown the lack of internet

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: That you think, and the person there I think there was a hand. Please, yeah.

>> Hi everyone, from Nepal, I'm a participant of this programme. And I am really happy this programme held in Kathmandu. So I think it is the first programme which I have attended from international programme I attended in Nepal. So I am really happy. So getting back to the flood incident, it was like a horror movie for me. It was like a horror movie. We didn't think the water can destroy.

And a government has done a lot of things good. And some people are there saying they haven't done this, haven't done that. And there was many negative comments too, this was really

bad for us. They haven't seen good side but they were playing the bad side.

I'm thankful for this programme. And there are so many things that we need to improve in Nepal too. We have policy but it is never implemented. Not never implemented but there are too many policy issues which can be implemented but there's a lag in implementation. I think that's a really improved by the side of Nepal government. So this much, thank you so much.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you. We have time for a few more questions. Maybe also to hear from others on what can we do as a community to prepare? What do you think is necessary when we talk about coordination and what are the practicalities in being able to coordinate responses that we should be considering? Please go ahead and then to the person at the back.

>> Thank you, I'm from Maldives and a comment. And thank you. In the last few days, I have been to a lot of session and you may have seen me running in and out.

I think maybe one I think I noticed it's really important the government, civil society, private sector as well to be on the same table.

At the same time, I understand that it might be different for internet providers to be different from one country to another. And yet, I think it would be really helpful and meaningful as well to have discussions with them as well. When we have these discussions next time maybe might be different but to have their perspective to those that discussions that we have had during the last two or three days, how this agenda can be included in this and the information and the sessions we did today as well. One thing I think might be useful to have them as well in the same room. And have the discussions together. Thank you so much.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you so much. Yes, please.

>> Hi, I am in (off microphone) we are working with India collaboration and with collaboration with KU and talented people out there. We have finalized a technical group on how we can use Generative AI and Artificial Intelligence and different devices equipped with different capabilities and sensors and like drones and robots, how we can use that on the action and response and assist on response planning and how they can be autonomously operated in the disaster zone for rescue and we can

also use for simulation of mapping leaks on high effected zones for flash flood as well.

So we have technical group ready but we need to get some help from government as well. We have put out proposals in the government as well. And for example, just like our friends in Bangladesh uses Starlink for quick connectivity in case of cyclone, we should have -- or we could have used that concept in Nepal as well. And probably the need of policy change over there. And we are in the KU and my company are working extensively to build a practical solution out of it. So thank you. We are open for the discussions.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you so much for offering that. We have probably time only for like two more hands. I know you had your hand up already and I'll give it to you and to you. And one person online.

>> Hi everyone, I am a Nepal 2026 Fellow. So I am working in digital transformation and digital literacy. And I always think it's a good I think it's a good idea to prepare for becoming resilient.

If we want to be resilient there's always a space where we can prepare ourself for hard times. So whenever crisis comes in then only we think about, okay, there's a misinformation. There's a lack of digital literal people. And people cannot get out if the information is correct or incorrect.

If there are accessible to the devices. But I want to urge that everyone of us, the government, the private sector, the government the civil societies or whoever can should work on preparing the communities for such kind of crisis. And digital literacy is one of the ways that can help a lot of communities that are under served or whoever the general public to navigate a lot of things during the time of crisis. And I also want to recommend that such kind of platforms like IGF should advocate for the digital literacy among the community. And also the governments should also focus their plans and policies and budget towards implementing the digital literacy in the communities of their countries.

And especially for Nepal, since we have our representative from government, I would like to request that Nepali government focusing on increasing the digital literacy among the Nepali people. Thank you.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you so much for that important point. And that person and then to the person online and then we have to wrap. I'm very sorry.

>> I'm in Nepal. And as we are talking about digital internet, we all know that preparedness the key thing we can do. But as you all know, most of the infrastructure building companies are private. So Nepal companies and the government agency but most of the countries are private companies build it. And we know they are working for a profit. And they will not implement those standards to make internet because it might happen sometimes -- it does not happen most to time.

So we must be able to pressurize government to build those standards that are mandatory. And why would government do that? The democracies, the government try to interest people to get votes. They will try to do things like they day we build infrastructure.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Sorry to cut you off because we have to also go to one more person online. But thank you so much for raising that.

>> I'll wrap up. I think we should try to make people aware of how they can pressure government and how they can pace the disaster.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you so much for raising that. And I don't know, Edmon, if we can go to the person online before final remarks from the panel.

>> Thank you so much. I'm from Bangladesh and ambassador of IGF Youth Coordinator and for the IGF community. And I contributed the word solidarity to the word cloud. Infrastructure isn't enough and it takes human trust and mutual aid and cross border community to keep people connected when networks collapse. And building on the speaker's vital point of networks and digital literacy what's why the youth and grassroots community step in.
We are not just end users but local first responders, builders and maintenance to keep decentralized networks run on the ground when centralized systems fail.

So the speaker rightly noted that resilience needs a stakeholder group. And Miss Jennifer made a vital point by highlighting diverse sectors and the direct role of that. So watching the video of the local zone and the hospital made this

reality crystal clear that connectivity during crisis is about emergency medical care, vital communication, and human survival. Thank you.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you. That's a good comprehensive point to end up. And thank you so much. I'm sorry we don't have time to hear from all of you but I want the panel to the opportunity to wrap up and Subhash I'll come to you. You said yourself there were things you would have liked for the government to have done whether for instance to be prepared blue multiple kinds of infrastructure including community networks and be better prepared to deal with disinformation. And we heard from many people in the room there is expertise in the internet governance community to handle this, whether it is this sort of infrastructure and mapping or community networks or digital literacy to deal with disinformation.

How do you see the government going forward being able to leverage the expertise that is there in the regional community to better prepare for the future in Nepal?

>> SUBHASH DHAKAL: As working in the government and also part of looking at the communities, I know there's expertise that we can leverage in the context of Nepal in the regional expertise. In fact, in the last crisis also disaster also used the expertise for the communities to restore this. Even the business communities also help us. So I think we have initiated some collaboration efforts and then those things. If you need we said like community networks and other things as I said earlier we are forgetting that. And the government we have guidelines for the community networks. And now we can approach to the communities, we can approach to our experts and then to establish those things in our remote rural parts.

That also answers the question why the cost is high in the internet. It's not possible to deliver high quality internet to everybody at the low cost. We need to have alternatives so that's where we can collaborate. And we can identify the sector as you said the digital literacy. I say not only the digital literacy we need even the digital literacy with media and information literacy. So they are rightly guided.

In those areas, we are very open and we are in fact working with these experts and these NGOs and INGOs in the countries. If you have a more expertise you can come to us. We could have a collaboration programme. With your answer, I want to take a

couple -- one more minute on what the internet cost is issue right now is. It's a global nation. This is a good thing about the cost the reason the cost high is a bad thing and the region it's a good thing for us to know all of us.

So in 2018, there was a some internet price hike issue. And while settling that issue of the stakeholders they propose one of the solutions that let's price the internet price one is internet software cost and one is internet maintenance cost. I opposed that. Internet connectivity is the service. You cannot go to the restaurant and say this is the cost of your food and this is the cost of what is in your dish. So it should be one cost. I was in the ministry for 6 months, and I couldn't assist for that. But after that, there was a regulation that we can split it into the two prices.

And that gives us the service provider not to pay the telecom service or something. And the Supreme Court said, okay, it's not like that it's a single service. And that is the effect that is making the cost hike. This is the thing I want to repeat here in the end of time is agendas for the IGF can work.

Another point in 15 seconds. So we have an internet in crisis. And we are facing a crisis in internet also. In both of the things, I think IGF could work on the culture of server accountability framework.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you for raising two very valid points, one to work with the community and giving a mandate to IGF to setting standards for some of these things. And Izumi, if I can come to you. I know you already are working with communities in developing preparedness. So maybe you can share with us a little bit about what that looks like. And what lessons can be learned from that.

>> IZUMI AIZU: Thank you very much. And thank you so much that you put me on this panel. And it could be a last addition because I'm a participant and not speaker. And I prepared a slide but it doesn't go well. And the first slide says what can we do at the age of continuous crisis? That's our theme. And by hearing all you guys talk, I came to another famous phrase. My Fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. You remember this? You don't like the President of the U.S. but that said many, many, many years ago by JFK.

And although the government of Nepal is similarly changing and it's our job together. And that's my first reactions to the comment. In terms of the connectivity, I had a conversation yesterday with NERN guys. How many know NERN? Nepal Education Research Network. I had a presentation and they went in any slide and went on the 13th of September they went to Rasbah [sounds like] with the equipment donated by a U.S. vendor with NGOs and put the equipment to the devastated area with the help of the Nepali government to get through all the equipment quickly. And to help others. That's multistakeholder.

And there's certain areas while the mobile lines as you show came back in three day or four. That's great. And certain certain area there's an open activity at all. You should have to see all the planes not the lines or dots. That's the second thing. The third one I showed you epinurse. These are the workers on the ground but not doing the immediate medical services to the patients you see. And that short lady got trained very well and she's a local lady. She lost her land and house. She's a victim. But she can't stop working there and overseeing three or four different areas within that area collecting the data of the pregnant women, persons with disabilities, stuff like that. Almost daily basis. And making analyzing.

And they discussed the need more digital technologies to -- so I'm trying to find how to utilize my four days or five in Kathmandu. And I made a reservation on August 25 to come here. And that happened on the next day. So I changed my agenda. And anyway. So thank you. And I can come back. So my final word is let's learn together. Here. But also let's work together. If you are available after this, I am available, come to me. We will have some wrap up meeting tomorrow. And I can -- if you come, I will give you more details. And talking is one thing and learning is another and doing is something. These are all important. Thank you.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you. Thank you. I know this is just the starting point of this conversation. And actually that's a good place to bring it to you, Amrita. We heard a lot of ideas and also maybe requests from people in this room and online. So what can we do at the regional level? Both to sort of give them a space and also maybe to connect them to governments like the ones in Nepal so that we can actually have something fruitful that comes out of the expertise that we have.

>> AMRITA CHOUDHURY: Thank you for this. I think the thing which we can do is APrIGF can be a platform where everyone can come and share their views. I would join the mailing list and share your thoughts and join the MSG we have. And you can help shape the conversations and for example we never had a working group and last year we had a working group to work on the WSIS+20 process which we continued this year holding this discussion.

Based on the interest, we could have specific groups to work together, prepare a paper and share it. I think sharing best practices and information is important. So we can help to bridge that also help share those with the global IGFs and other places and I see 5 minutes.

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you. Thanks so much. And then finally, Jennifer, I'll come back to you and the start of this conversation, which is the IGF and in which we all look to. If you could tell us a little bit, because I know there are actually some processes within the IGF that we could probably contribute to, if maybe if you could speak to that a little bit. And let us know as a community here what our outlet is in terms of being able to channel some of these ideas to the global conversations.

>> JENNIFER CHUNG: Thank you so much, Pavitra. How to encapsulate that within a few minutes? Let me be concise. The first thing is you are doing the right step by being in the room and online. Participation there's no barrier to be able to participate in any of part of the 2026 forum work. I think I heard from a few people say please have is ISP, Internet Service Provider, come and the private sector come and invite more partnerships with governments. And I say to you, the IGF is now a permanent forum under the United Nations.

It consists of all of us. And how we are able to channel that is to be able to, first, recognize there's a opportunity. So that's the first thing. We know there's the opportunity. There are different tracks of work that's working on different things. There's policy networks that are trying to look at actual concrete practical outputs. I think that is really important for us from the abstract ideas to actual practical outputs where we can actually action.

And finally tying from the global to regional to subregional to level. You will always see the most impact at the local but the coordination as we see in the word cloud above

my head that coordination is so important to be done beforehand so we can act fast on the ground. Global is never as agile as -- we will never be the first digital responders but being prepared at that level with the framework will allow us act fast on the ground in Nepal and Kathmandu. And I hope you all look at the of course the IGF website.

That's a little bit of a plug there. To see all of the different work that is the being done there. That's a whole spectrum and I don't have enough time to say all of it but please do join in

>> PAVITRA RAMANUJAM: Thank you so much, Jennifer. That does bring us to the end of the session. I know we were actually just starting to get into some of the ideas. So I feel quite bad that we don't have more time to hear from all of you. But I do want to take this opportunity to reiterate what Amrita and Jennifer said. This community is only as strong as all of us who participate in it. And please do join the APrIGF MSG and join the working group and share your contribution and hopefully this is our first conversation and we can actually carry on discussing this both through the working group but also other forums and in terms of actually being better prepared and as a community and as a region to deal with crisis or conflict moving forward. But for now, thank you all so, so much for joining us and a huge thanks to the panel for your insightful thoughts. With that, we will wrap. Thank you.

(applause)

>> Thank you, speakers and moderator, for the wonderful session and interaction from participants. And next up, we have town hall in the hall. And please join us for town hall session in this hall, which will begin in another 5 minutes. Please be back by the time so that we can begin our town hall timely. Thank you.

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