

# m17m (multistakeholderism<sup>1</sup> ) Practicum<sup>2</sup>

Practicum: **noun**: a period of practical experience undertaken as part of an academic course

## Purpose:

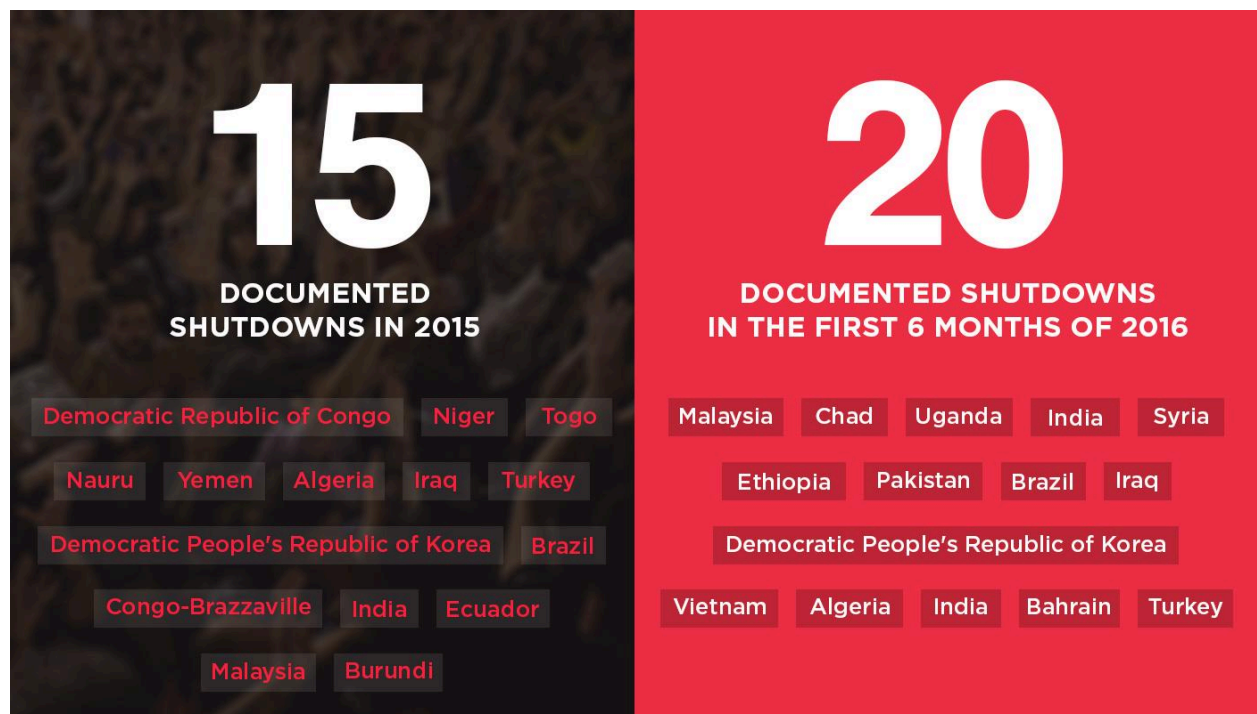
Give participants a chance to experience multistakeholder decision making in realistic simulated environment using available methods and processes, while discussing a current issue of importance to Internet governance.

## Issue: Internet Shutdown

Task: Develop an African multistakeholder declaration on internet shutdowns

The current working definition of an internet shutdown is: “An intentional disruption of internet or electronic communications, rendering them inaccessible or effectively unusable, for a specific population or within a location, often to exert control over the flow of information.”

From <http://cipesa.org/2016/06/pushing-back-against-internet-shutdowns/>



<sup>1</sup> This is a numeronym. There are 17 letters between the first and last m.

<sup>2</sup> This document can be found [here](#). It may be updated during the course of the program with additional information.

from : <https://www.accessnow.org/keepiton/#problem>. Since then several more shutdowns have been recorded in Africa, including in Gabon. If you are in a government role that has had a shutdown, please consider playing the role as supportive of the shutdown. I.e. please argue why it was the right thing to do - this will help the learning exercise.

It is permissible to use any of the African shutdowns, or any shutdowns that may have been averted, as case studies for your analysis and discussions.

The goal is to produce a consensus statement. The outcome statement for this practicum may include, but is not restricted to, paragraphs on the following elements:

- When, if ever, is it appropriate for a country to order an Internet shutdown?
- Can an Internet shutdown breach human rights? If so, which and on what basis?
- Can an Internet shutdown be understood as a proportional response to human rights violations? In what way?
- What responsibilities does a government have toward other internet stakeholders who are not involved in the reason for the Internet shutdown?
- Should there be an international response, formal or otherwise, to a country shutting down the Internet?
- What should be the technical community response to the increasing rate of Internet shutdowns?
- Should business be compensated for financial loss during a shutdown? Whos should cover such loss? Should the insurance industry be regulated to cover Internet shutdown.
- If there is a risk to life because of an Internet shutdown, e.g. impeding online surgery or other critical societal functions, who bears the responsibility and liability?

## Stakeholder Groups:

The participants will be work with stakeholder groups. These are the four stakeholder groups as defined in the Tunis Agenda.

- Business: red dot  
[Initial Statement](#)
- Civil society: green dot  
[Initial Statement](#)
- Governments: orange dot  
[Initial Statement](#)
- Technical community: yellow dot  
[Initial Statement](#)

- Other: blue dot
  - Media

Each of the Stakeholder groups will work as a team. Each should choose one or two rapporteurs to serve as the contact points for the group with other groups and the practicum coordinators on document preparation.

The numbers of stakeholders per SG will be approximately equal to 10.

## Participant Roles

Each of the participants is assigned one of the standard Tunis Agenda stakeholder types<sup>3</sup> at random. Some few participants will be assigned roles outside the standard stakeholder groups, e.g. a media or youth representatives. Participants will be free to trade identities among themselves until the first class of the exercise.

Participants are asked to further refine their own identity including defining skill area, such a lawyer, policy specialist, or advocate within their stakeholder group. Those who draw a country identity should define whether they are a regulator, from a ministry, or parliamentarians. In choosing an identity participants can use their own identity or pick a new one. The coordinators and chairs will be available to help in picking or refining an identity. Any backstory a participant wishes to create for their character, is up to them. Just make it reasonable and ask for help from any of the faculty as needed in developing your character.

Whatever role the participants are assigned and whatever identity and backstory they develop,, the only requirement is that they do their best to represent the interests of their stakeholder types, based on the background materials and research they do, as they understand them. While engaged in the practicum, participants are asked to try and live your role.

This is an exercise. Participants should stretch their imaginations, and have fun with it.

## Faculty Role Assignment

Chair of Conference (CS): Anriette Esterhuysen, APC  
Co-chair Conference (Bus): tbd  
Co-Chair Conference (Gov): tbd  
Co-Chair Conference (Tech): Mwendwa Kivuva, AfriNIC

Co-chairs: Purple dot

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<sup>3</sup> Civil Society, Business Community, National governments, Technical Community. Academia can be included within any of the four TA stakeholder types.

The Chair and co-chairs will also act as advisors to the project and can help facilitate the self organization of participants.

Other faculty will be available for consultation as needed.

Co-Ordinators:

- Avri Doria
- Chenai Chair - Subject Expert
- Shawna Finnegan - Logistics/Admin

Co-ordinators: Black dot

## Methods

- Lunch & dinner: “stakeholder categories” tables will be set aside for project work along stakeholder groups or alliances as they wish.
- Participants to meet as necessary during off meeting times.
- Chairs, faculty, and resources available to assist and advise but not direct the process. Chairs have some discretion to steer.
- Each group can self organize to do its own work as it sees fit.

## Schedule - Session Descriptions

- Day 0 - Monday evening: introduction: setting the scene, assignment of roles. Presentation by Avri about the role play and presentation of the issue.
- Day 1 - Tuesday: Class on the practicum, practice and issues. Independent discussion by the Stakeholder groups in which the first SG statements on the issue will be developed. Also the groups should decide on their working methods. Co-ordinators will set up drive SG working documents.
- Day 2 - Wednesday: First Plenary when all SG present their first position to the rest of practicum. After this session the contributions of all the SG will be gathered into a common document that the rapporteurs will be responsible for editing.
- Day 3 - Thursday: Stakeholder Work Sessions and inter stakeholder discussions as needed.
- Day 4 - Friday: final Plenary - attempt to find general consensus. Coordinator will take responsibility for the aggregate document and the chairs will attempt to help the participants come to consensus on statements.

- Day 5 - Saturday: Debrief, discussion of outcome and process. Decision on whether the statement is one that the group wants to see published in any way.

## References

<http://cipesa.org/>

Esp [http://cipesa.org/?wpfb\\_dl=225](http://cipesa.org/?wpfb_dl=225) State of Internet Freedom in Africa 2016

<http://cipesa.org/2016/06/pushing-back-against-internet-shutdowns/>

<https://www.accessnow.org/keepiton/#problem> <https://www.accessnow.org/keepiton/#resources>

[Other references](#)

## Latest version

Any printout of this practicum will only be a snapshot.

Latest version is can always be found [here](#).