Internet Governance & Womens Rights Session

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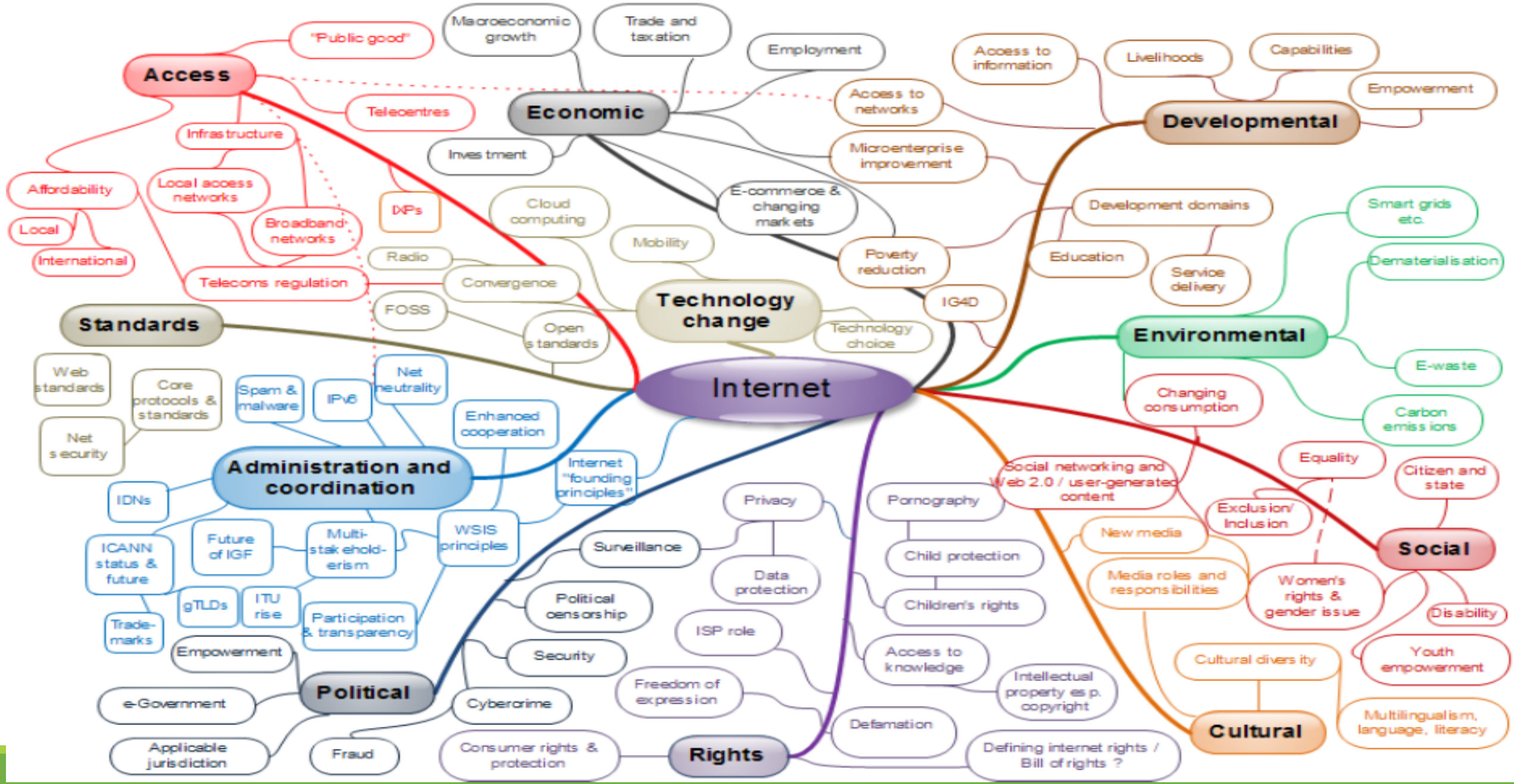
Internet
Access
"Public good"
Affordability
Local
International
Infrastructure
Local access networks
Broadband networks
Telecoms regulation
Telecentres
IXPs
Economic
Macroeconomic growth
Trade and taxation
Employment
Investment
Cloud computing
E-commerce & changing markets
Microenterprise improvement
Access to networks
Poverty reduction
IG4D
Technology change
Mobility
Radio
Convergence
FOSS
Open standards
Technology choice
Developmental
Access to information
Livelihoods
Capabilities
Empowerment
Development domains
Education
Service delivery
Environmental
Smart grids etc.
Dematerialisation
E-waste
Carbon emissions
Changing consumption
Social
Equality
Citizen and state
Social networking and Web 2.0 / user-generated content
Exclusion/ Inclusion
New media
Media roles and responsibilities
Women's rights & gender issue
Disability
Youth empowerment
Cultural
Cultural diversity
Multilingualism, language, literacy
Rights
Pornography
Child protection
Children's rights
Access to knowledge
Intellectual property esp. copyright
Defamation
Defining internet rights / Bill of rights ?
Privacy
Data protection
Surveillance
Political censorship
ISP role
Freedom of expression
Security
Cybercrime
Consumer rights & protection
Fraud
Political
e-Government
Applicable jurisdiction
Empowerment
Standards
Web standards
Core protocols & standards
Net security
Net neutrality
Spam & malware
IPv6
Administration and coordination
IDNs
ICANN status & future
Future of IGF
Multi-stakeholderism
gTLDs
ITU rise
Trade-marks
Participation & transparency
Enhanced cooperation
Internet "founding principles"
WSIS principles

Women are not a homogenous group

1. Age
2. Race
3. Class
4. Identity – LGBTI/Ideology
5. Educational levels

Reality check

- ***Access.*** Women in the developing world (specifically, in urban poor communities of Africa, Latin America and Asia) are 50% less likely to have Internet access than men. Cost is one of the significant factors contributing to the lack of access for women. The cost of the internet is a higher financial burden for women given pay disparities around the world.

- ***Education.*** According to the World Wide Web Foundation, women are 1.6 times more likely than men to report lack of skills as a barrier to being on the Internet. Education is a strong determinant of Web literacy and internet use. Consider that urban poor women with at least some secondary education are six times more likely to be online than their peers without secondary education.

- ***Harassment.*** Women in particular are targets of cyber-harassment and violence across a range of online platforms, and this leads to mistrust and retreat from the Web. With this in mind, it's not surprising that women are 52% less likely than men to express controversial views online.

Existing Laws and Regulatory Frameworks

- Sexual offences and anti-pornography laws
- ‘feminist’ internet is about an internet that enables more women and queer persons to enjoy universal, acceptable, affordable, unconditional, open, meaningful and equal access.
- mechanisms that address inequalities that exist in the web’s architecture (ICT policy & access issues)

Analysing Women's Use of the Internet in Africa

Trends in usage

- Global increase in the number of frontline women in the internet ecosystem
- Internet is not devoid of sexism and patriarchal attitudes
- Censorship & safe spaces
- National ICT Policy Revision/Implementation

Recommendations: Practice

- Internet Governance Forum (equal partnership between sectors
- Civil Society Internet Rights Watch/Forum
- Private Sector, moving from profits to…rights, accountability,
- Online Regulatory Policy (consultative process)
- Regulatory Institutions- one stop facility? Clarity of roles/mandates.