IT for Change at UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF) held in Vilnius, Lithuania, from 14th to 17th September, 2010

Beyond the organisation of the pre-event on Internet Governance and Human Rights and the convening of the workshop about 'Transnational (or trans-border) enforcement of a new information order - Issues of rights and democracy', this note sums up IT for Change's presence at the 2010 IGF.

IT for Change contributed to the panel of a workshop on "Public sector information online: democratic, social and economic potentials" where we spoke about community based initiatives in India which use public sector information for co-creating data/ information which is used for claiming rights and entitlement and also for micro-planning, with the overall impact of deepening democracy at the local level. Transcript of the workshop proceedings is available at http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/component/content/article/102-transcripts2010/724-120

IT for Change made important intervention in the plenary session on 'IG for Development' proposing that the two key development issues vis a vis global IG are network neutrality and democratic participation in all IG processes, with special focus on developing countries and those representing marginalised sections (full transcript of the plenary is at http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/component/content/article/102-transcripts2010/665-ig4d). In the plenary on "Taking stock of Internet governance and the way forward", IT for Change's representative asserted that (1) open models of participation should not be at the expense of, and devalue, representative models, that include representation of marginalised sections by various concerned civil society groups, and (2) there has been little if any progress in the last five years on global IG, despite many pressing issues having come up. (Transcript at http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/component/content/article/102-transcripts2010/687-taking-stock)

IT for Change also actively participated in the meeting on Internet Rights and Principles whereby it was asserted that developing rights instruments is basically a political process and it should include engagements with groups that are working with communities on various development and rights based activities.

IT for Change was also active in discussions and lobbying with various civil society groups and government representatives regarding important global IG policy and institutional issues that are currently hot, like the renewal of the IGF and likely improvements, including through a working group of the UN's Commission on Science and Technology for Development, and the World Summit on the Information Society mandated process of 'enhanced cooperation'.