

## Questionnaire

Replies by Richard Hill, Association for Proper Internet Governance (civil society), [rhill@alum.mit.edu](mailto:rhill@alum.mit.edu)

1. Please share your experience in exercising, or seeking to exercise, your right to participate in public affairs in one or several of the following global governance groupings/spaces: G7, G20, G77/G24, NAM, BRICS, WEF and BG in terms of:
  - a. Access;
  - b. Inclusivity; and
  - c. Influencing the decision-making process.

*As a civil society activist, I have not participated in any of these groups.*

2. What were the main structural and/or practical obstacles you or your colleagues encountered when participating, or seeking to participate, prior to, during and after decision-making (for instance in terms of shaping the agenda of decision-making processes, participation at an early stage when all options are still open, accreditation, physical and/or online access to forums, issuance of visas, availability of funds, access to information relevant to decision-making processes, etc.)?

*As far as I know, these groups are not really open to meaningful participation by civil society.*

3. Which improvements do you see as key to secure genuine and meaningful participation in decision-making processes of the aforementioned groupings/spaces, including by the underrepresented parts of society as mentioned above, victims of discrimination and marginalization because of their sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as social movements?

*In my view, all intergovernmental bodies should be fully open to participation by civil society as observers with speaking rights, all input and output documents should be public, and civil society should be able to submit written inputs as well as to speak as observer. WEF is different: it is comprised of corporations and it should clearly be understood to be a private sector group, just like the International Chamber of Commerce.*

4. What has been your experience exercising, or seeking to exercise, your rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association in the holding of meetings of one or several of the aforementioned groupings/spaces and in the margins thereof?

*As a civil society activist, I have not participated in any of the aforementioned groups.*

5. Have you or your colleagues been the subject of reprisal because of your participation, or attempt to participate, in a meeting or activity of one or several of the aforementioned groupings/spaces? If so, please provide information on the type of reprisal, the perpetrator(s), whether you reported the case to the organizers and the relevant authorities, and which action they took to address the situation and prevent reoccurrences (if any).

*As a civil society activist, I have not participated in any of the aforementioned groups.*

6. In your view, what is the overall impact of the economic and financial policies of the aforementioned groupings/spaces on a democratic and equitable international order?

*The aforementioned groups that are dominated by developed countries, in particular G7 and G20, have consistently promoted a version of globalization and liberalization that is in fact a pro-corporate mercantilist agenda. To the extent that their proposals have been implemented, the results have been unfavourable, resulting in increasing income inequality both within and across countries, and abuses of dominant power by large transnational corporations.*

*The G77 has usually advocated against such proposals but, in my experience, has lacked the consistency, coherence, and leadership to prevail.*

7. More broadly, in what way(s) do you see a lack of genuine and meaningful participation and lack of influencing of decision-making process by the public in global governance grouping/spaces in general hampering the realization of a democratic and equitable international order?

*My main area of interest is Internet governance. In that area, a so-called multi-stakeholder model has been used as a technique to favour the interests of the United States and its dominant corporations. This has hampered the realization of a democratic and equitable international order. A detailed analysis, with recommendations for rectifying the situation, can be found at:*

<http://www.apig.ch/Gaps%20r9%20clean.pdf>