

Comments by Egypt on the Continuation of the IGF

The IGF has proved to be a perfect forum for discussions and exchange of information and experience and thus provides a great opportunity for capacity building pertaining to Internet governance. It's flexibility in terms of topics and formats of discussion helps promoting it as a platform where participants can converse freely, highlight common points of agreement and identify points which need further discussion. It also helps members of the different stakeholder groups to build common understanding of problems and explore ways forward.

The IGF has had a positive impact on national awareness raising not only with respect to Internet governance themes but also, and even more importantly, in terms of promoting and linking policy dialogues on national and regional levels to the global dialogue.

The open consultations provide an excellent opportunity for exchange of ideas. Tools and mechanisms such as real time caption and remote participation have a great effect on broadening participation of stakeholders.

The IGF MAG with its multi-stakeholder composition has proved to be an innovative vehicle to integrate and converge views of the different stakeholder groups. The rotation scheme serves the purpose of injecting new ideas. An overall balance should continue to be maintained with special focus on ensuring that stakeholders from developing countries are well represented. MAG members have shown great dedication and commitment under the wise leadership of Mr. Nitin Desai.

The IGF secretariat managed by Mr. Markus Kummer has worked professionally and effectively in preparing for the past meetings of the IGF. It has done a great job in summarizing contributions, ensuring inter-sessional communication and providing a timely dissemination of information.

Egypt believes that the IGF should continue beyond its 5-year mandate, maintaining its multi-stakeholder approach to public policy discussions and capacity building and acting as a venue for policy coherence and inter-professional dialogue.

Egypt also believes that the IGF is appropriately addressing its mandate as set out by the Tunis Agenda and that its functioning is in consistent accordance with the principles of the WSIS.

Egypt further believes, the evaluation of the IGF process should not be measured only against its mandate. It should also examine the impact this process has produced in the broad area of Internet public policy making. It should consider the greater level of inclusion this process has created through broader and diversified participation both across the different regions as well as across the various stakeholder groups.

The IGF should remain as a space for exchanging ideas and deepening dialogue among stakeholders, and should continue to play an important role in defining and shaping decisions made by other relevant bodies.