

IGF Secretariat

Contacting us

Phone: 01865 332211

Fax: 01865 332288

Email: nominet@nominet.org.uk

Write to: Nominet UK, Minerva House,
Edmund Halley Road, Oxford OX4 4DQ

Web: www.nominet.org.uk

15 July 2009

**Nominet commer
Internet Governa**

Dear Markus,

Nominet is the Internet registry for .uk domain names. We operate at the heart of e-commerce in the UK, running one of the world's largest registries and managing over seven million domain names. We have actively participated in the IGF from its conception and Emily Taylor, Nominet's Director of Legal and Policy, is an appointed member of the Multi-Stakeholder Advisory Group.

During the IGF meetings in Athens, Rio de Janeiro and Hyderabad, Nominet has been involved in organising a number of workshops, and we have contributed to panel and workshop discussions.

We strongly believe that, to get the best value from the IGF, there needs to be considerable preparation, both in identifying issues and messages for the forum and in taking messages back to our own community. For this reason, Nominet has put great emphasis on the creation of a UK-IGF, modelled on the IGF itself as a multi-stakeholder cooperation, to help improve national participation and engagement with the IGF process. This has helped identify speakers and other participants who can talk with authority from a wider perspective.

We are pleased that members of the UK Parliament have seen the value of the opportunity and that they have been actively involved in the global debate. This engagement has brought to the IGF a good understanding of issues of direct concern to the citizen.

The IGF discussions are able to take place because there is no pressure to make decisions or resolutions and this encourages an open exchange of ideas. It also provides an environment where participants can learn from each other and draw on a wide pool of good practice to help inform their own decisions. For these reasons we fully and strongly support the continuation of the IGF.

Through the process of open consultation and the yearly international meetings, the IGF has embodied the WSIS principles by ensuring that all stakeholders have the opportunity to discuss issues concerned with access, capacity building, diversity, security and openness. We believe that one of the major outcomes from the WSIS discussions was to embody multi-stakeholder cooperation as a fundamental approach to addressing issues associated with the Internet. Open meetings foster the creation of multi-stakeholder partnerships so that dialogue can take place effectively on a global level. This encourages the sharing of best practice between international and regional, individuals and organisations: you are not told, "this is how you must do it", but rather, "this is how I did it".

We believe that the IGF is successfully addressing the mandate set out for it in the Tunis agenda by

providing an open and inclusive process for discussing public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance and in improving our understanding of these issues. The process has encouraged the creation of the multi-stakeholder partnerships needed to respond to the new challenges and new opportunities provided by the Internet. The IGF has operated in an inclusive way that has enabled governments, the private sector, civil society and international organisations to come together to discuss issues surrounding Internet governance in a transparent, informed and respectful manner. We should continue to bring in to the IGF the people who can contribute to improving our understanding.

The IGF has had a significant impact on Nominet and many of our stakeholders in the UK. Since participating in the IGF, Nominet has launched the Best Practice Challenge, an annual competition which recognises and rewards organisations and individuals who have worked in order to make the Internet a more secure, diverse, accessible and open experience for all. The Internet has brought much of good to the world and we believe that it is important to celebrate some of the successes that contribute to these achievements.

Child protection is now firmly on the international agenda and part of a global debate. Through the sharing of best practice, all countries have been able to draw on the experiences of others to inform their own decisions and to develop partnerships and cooperative working to address child abuse in their own online environments. We believe that the IGF should continue this work and give it higher prominence.

We believe that the IGF should not be seen simply as an annual four-day meeting standing in isolation. If we are to get full value from the IGF, we need to be actively involved in preparing for the event and in building the IGF processes into our own thinking: the creation of the UK-IGF has helped us draw increased benefit from the IGF. We are pleased that other countries have also adopted constructive engagement in the IGF.

While we believe that the IGF has been immensely successful in what it has achieved so far, we would like to present some recommendations on how the current working methods and processes could be improved:

- The IGF should continue as non-decision making forum which encourages information exchange in a transparent manner;
- We would like improvements to be made to the process for remote participation to enable more people to contribute;
- We are pleased to see the addition of the pages on the website for regional IGFs to promote their work and we would like the IGF to encourage more participation in this area;
- We would like to see improved participation from organisations that are active in shaping the future of the Internet. In particular, more active involvement from leading industry players and from those working in development or in improving access and protection of the vulnerable would be useful;
- We would like to see increased parliamentary engagement in the IGF. It is important that legislators benefit from the understanding that the IGF process can bring;
- We would also like to see increased visibility for examples of good practice and believe that the IGF could develop a repository of examples of good practice that could be drawn on internationally;
- We suggest that the process for reporting back from sessions could be improved so that information is shared in a timely manner.

The IGF secretariat should be commended for its commitment and hard work in ensuring that the IGF delivers what it has promised. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their support and dedication. Nominet hopes to see the continuation of the IGF far beyond 2010 and is ready to continue its support for the IGF process.

Yours sincerely,