

IGF Remote Participation Working Group contribution for Open Consultations and / or Synthesis Paper.

The IGF Secretariat, together with the Remote Participation Working Group (RPWG) and Dimdim (www.dimdim.com) provided stakeholders who could not physically attend the 2008 IGF with a platform to foster participation during the last IGF in Hyderabad.

As a result, more than 500 individual participants remotely joined the IGF sessions. These attendees participated in panel discussions through live chat, audio and video streaming during the four-day event. In addition, nine regional hubs (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Serbia, India, Pakistan and three in Spain) registered for the IGF, holding parallel sessions to view, participate and discuss the proceedings in Hyderabad through the Remote Participation platform. At the same time that they “attended” the sessions in Hyderabad remotely, they met in their own regional groups to apply the discussions directly to their own regional issues and situations.

In order to improve RP solutions for the next IGF in Egypt, the continued cooperation of the IGF Secretariat and community is indispensable. This initiative will extend the debates of the IGF in a critical moment of re-evaluation, a crossroads where enhanced inclusion will reinforce an interactive exchange and solutions within the community, which prove the importance and effectiveness of the IGF process. A formal preparatory process, including an open communications channel between the IGF Secretariat, the host country and the RPWG will allow a stronger foundation for RP at the IGF 2009.