IGF regionals and nationals input to the 8th IGF Bali

Report prepared by Sylvia Cadena on behalf of the coordination group facilitated by Ricardo Pedraza (MAG member) and composed of the moderators for the roundtables and the surveys data collection: Ellen Strickland (InternetNZ - NetHui), Marilyn Cade (IGF USA) and Sylvia Cadena (APNIC / APrIGF).

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Structure of the sessions

During the 8th IGF in Bali, the IGF regional and national initiatives had 3 sessions allocated:

- Session 1: 21 Oct / PreIGF / 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm Nusa Dua Hall 1
- Session 2: 23 Oct / IGF Day 2 / 11:00 to 12:30 pm Room 10 / Kintamani 6
- Session 3: 24 Oct / IGF Day 3 / 4:30 to 6:00 pm Room 10 / Kintamani 6

Remote participation was available during the IGF week.

Roundtable	Transcript was not provided that day.	Video is not available on IGF You Tube channel.
Interregional Dialogue	http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/igf- 2013-transcripts/1521-inter-regional- dialogue-day-2	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=doB kjoHl2A0
Interregional Dialogue	http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/igf- 2013-transcripts/1457-inter-regional- dialogue-day-4	http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIY BxMkleks

The main objective for these 3 sessions was to **go beyond reporting**, to promote **participation**, **discussion** and **engagement**.

Prior to the IGF, the regional and national initiative participated in a collective exercise to gather data about the events, to understand better the operational and content related issues around these events. Organizers of the events where encouraged to shared their event reports on the *igfregionals* mailing list, to avoid the use of the limited time available during the IGF to go on basic reporting. The organizers were more interested in discussing the similarities and differences among their initiatives, the challenges they face and share lessons learned.

Session 1 – Roundtable IGF regional and national initiatives

Room: Room Nusa Dua Hall 1

Number of participants: 72 participants

The original plan for the roundtable was to have the following agenda. However, that was not possible because the session started almost 20 minutes later as the plenary room originally allocated for this was being dismantled for the next day. The room that was allocated to the group was much smaller, and there was not enough space for the planned working groups. The original plan was:

- Sylvia's introduction about the surveys
- 3 slots of time to discuss around following topics: 1) Organizational structure, 2) Methodology around program and participation and 3) Funding for IGF regional and national initiatives.
- Then divide the group in 2 Working Groups for planning the interregional dialogue sessions, first one to be facilitated by Marilyn and the second one, to be facilitated by Ricardo. This discussion was supposed to be guided by questions that emerged from the survey results (IGF Interregional Dialogue Sessions –input for sessions 2 and 3).
- Future plans and moving forward.

Instead, Ellen improvised to cover the topics with the whole group, in less time.

Session facilitated by Ellen Strickland. The session was really well attended, as more than 80 people participated. When Ellen asked to the group to raise their hands if they were part of organizing a regional or national IGF initiative, almost everyone in the room raised their hands.

Ellen introduced to the group the basic principles for the work ahead during the week. The plan was to use the first session to plan the agenda for sessions 2 and 3, using a bottom-up approach.

The coordination group encouraged attendees to actively participate to help develop the final agendas for the sessions 2 and 3 to bring the perspectives from the regional and national IGFs to the main event.

The session started with a presentation of the survey data collected, to shared the draft results and offer a preliminary analysis. The presentation was done by Sylvia Cadena, and is attached to this report for future use. Considering it was the first time something like this was organized, the survey received a very good response (around 50% of the known initiatives completed the surveys). The surveys are available at:

 IGF regional and national initiatives – preIGF roundtable input https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1MiTyVqXFFLEeaERTctqrIFGIYUT4PIx1 f_4cyl7WUf0/viewform
 IGF Interregional Dialogue Sessions –input for sessions 2 and 3 https://docs.google.com/forms/d/16ZreFz81jSs-2ePykJWdQeg5ZBpV_8XM_Ti4sOAAjwc/viewform

A range of operational issues were shared including: stakeholder involvement in the development of initiatives, including questions about the role of governments specifically; funding challenges; the relationship between regional and national initiatives; and methodologies for program creation and implementation.

When asked about the key challenges their organizations have been facing the participants highlighted:

- Funding for several IGF regional and national African IGFs
- Ensuring women participation in IGF India
- Producing relevant and tangible outcomes for Caribbean IGF. i.e. IXPs
- Changing talking to doing for Nigerian IGF
- Moving from ad-hoc to a very formalized organization for Asia IGF
- Developing an education experience in terms of Internet Governance for Arab IGF

The lessons shared reinforced the nature of initiatives as locally driven and owned, and that we as coordinators and organizers have much to learn from each other, but also that there is no one way to organize an IGF initiative.

There was then a sign up for the sessions on Wednesday and Thursday and discussion about the focus those sessions.

- Session 2, facilitated by Marilyn Cade (Wednesday) was going to focus on sharing the substantive issues and topics from their initiatives, highlighting the importance of bottom-up input on issues from the initiatives to the IGF.
- Session 3, facilitated by Ricardo Pedraza (Thursday) focused on substantive issues and topics from their initiatives, highlighting the relationship between the international IGF and regional and national initiatives, how topics from the global IGF shape and flow into initiatives, as well as between.

At the end of session, Ellen asked for a sign up for initiative speakers to contribute specifically at each focus sessions, which are relevant to their own initiatives, to highlight the importance and raise awareness of the initiatives. Only one response was received, perhaps as we had to leave the room so quickly.

Ellen requested attendees to report, using the *igfregionals* mailing list, about any interventions, comments, etc made in any of the sessions where regional and national initiatives were mentioned in Bali, to be shared on the mailing list. No

summaries where shared on the list or with any one from the coordination team.

Session 2 – Interregional dialogue facilitated by Marilyn Cade

Room: Kintamani 10

Number of participants: 12 participants

The session was an open discussion, guided by 3 questions:

- 1) What are the main challenges impacting the organization and implementation of the IGF initiative you are involved
- 2) What are the issues that your initiative sees reflected into the global IGF? What are the consistencies between the issues you're dealing with and the global IGF?
- 3) The third, what's unique in the issues/topics about your initiative that you don't see happening at the IGF or anywhere else, is there something unique about your initiative?

Challenges:

- Select the "right" location to facilitate people to travel and good technical infrastructure for remote participation can be challenging
- Event duration (too long less participants, too short difficult to address all the topics)
- Work with a different host every year (different country, different culture and different stakeholder group)
- Select the "right" facilitation methodologies that allow for active engagement and participation of a large group of multi-stakeholders
- Strategies to bring new faces to the event
- Engagement with youth groups
- Technical restrictions to secure remote participation due to funding constraints
- Structure, from ad-hoc to committees and more formal mechanisms to select themes for the agenda as well as operational issues
- Strategies to guarantee equal representation from different regions/subregions
- Strategies to secure equal participation from all stakeholders, specially from government and private sector (as they seem to be the sectors where most IGF initiatives struggle to secure their participation) without being subjected to government controlled agendas
- Ways to identify government officials that are able to share their views and opinions and follow-up on outputs and recommendations
- Ways to identify private sector representatives, as it seem they are not really interested in discussing governance issues
- Decide if topics for discussion will be aligned or not with the global IGF
- Awareness about Internet Governance varies / outreach
- Funding, institutionalization of funds, funding administration, entrepreneurial spirit

- Decide focus and scope between nationals and regionals can be a challenge for resources, time, people, issues, etc. as the same people is interested in both, plus the global IGF
- Management of volunteers
- A lot of work
- Regional contexts, political challenges, difficulties to openly discuss

Issues discussed

- Mainstreaming for people with disabilities
- Access
- Inclusion
- Openness
- Privacy
- Diversity
- Improving infrastructure
- Rights and principles
- Freedom of expression
- Capacity building
- Social media networks role
- Identity and trust
- Cyber security
- Youth role as innovators
- Coordination of legal frameworks
- Discussions about fraud, risk and abuse at gTLDs level.

Unique characteristics:

- Persian IGF organized taking language as the common aspect for a regional IGF (covering the Persian speaking people in different countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other regions, Kurdistan).
- EuroDIG First ones to offer live captioning and remote participation, flash sessions and youth engagement. Messages (recommendations at the end)
- German IGF no parallel sessions, youth day on Monday
- Portuguese IGF orientation / empowering sessions. Use of sign language.
 Messages / recommendations at the end of the event are shared as an output of the event.
- UK IGF interactive discussion on child protection in the UK, PM participation.
- Arab IGF / DNS + IDN discussions, content generation
- Spanish IGF: started as bimonthly meetings for one topic that had their positive and negatives. Remote participation via twitter. Hashtags for each session. A lot of preparatory work is done with participants (provide background documents, policy questions). All the pre-debate allows for consensus to be reached / published allowing the time to be focused on the issues that need more discussion.

- IGF USA: started with several half-day events through out the year. Video stories of the event besides video recordings of the sessions is different approach to build the event documentation (Imagining the Internet). Use of scenarios to articulate the discussion (for example ICT, IG & disasters).
 Organization structure without hierarchies where people adhere to principles and then work out how to do the work.
- APrIGF: facilitate discussions at a regional level, which is challenging considering the size/diversity of the region. Youth forum that runs every year.
- Australian IGF: Ambassadors program, provide space to discuss specifics of national business dynamics not relevant for regional/global contexts.

Session 3 – Interregional dialogue facilitated by Ricardo Pedraza and Sofie Maddens

Room: Kintamani 6

Number of participants: 25 participants

The second inter regional Roundtable on regional and national initiatives was facilitated by Sofie Maddens (ISOC) and Ricardo Pedraza-Barrios (MAG member).

The discussion was guided by two questions:

- 1) What are the key takeaways from the global IGF and how can these experiences fit in with national and regional IGFs?
- 2) Should such a discussion be integrated into next year's IGF and how? Actions to prepare?

Main takeaways

- Global issues can feed into regional agendas but need for flexibility and awareness of regional issues –customize.
- Discuss/develop a local set of principles on IG.
- Organizational IGF structure: Multistakeholder steering group and process
 need for an open, inclusive and multi-stakeholder process throughout
 the preparatory process and within the forum itself.
- Independent initiative: it must not be captured by any organization or stakeholder group -e.g. multi-stakeholder funding is better.
- Discussions should also focus on impact as well as principles -e.g. multistakeholderism.
- Accessibility for physical impaired people was good and should be taken into account on organizational aspects.
- Methodology around program and participation:
- Roundtables format is more engaging.
- Avoid duplication in agenda -e.g parallel sessions sometimes take away key participants.
- Expand participation e.g. teachers

- Engage business community more.
- Some issues inevitably dominate agenda
- Allow for cross-over between communities in discussions

The representative from UNDESA expressed during his participation on the third session his high satisfaction with the dialogue he witnessed among the organizers of the IGF regional and national initiatives. He encourage the participants to continue their engagement and commitment with the IGF and offered his support so the dialogue has a better visibility in the next IGF.

Next interregional dialogue actions/suggestions

- Participants voiced their support for the continuation of the discussion into the next IGF
- Interregional dialogue should become one of the Global IGF main session.
- National and regional IGF initiatives are part of the glue that helps keep Internet together.
- Develop a template on how to start and run a national IGF.
- Address capacity building track on Internet Governance issues.
- Keep dialogue alive through the igfregionals mailing list.
- Ensure that there is no overlap with other sessions in the next IGF where coordinators would need to be so as to allow for participation from all groups and regions.
- Address main lessons on funding challenges.
- Exchange options on how to extent the number of national and regional participants.

At the end of all sessions, facilitators invited the participants to join the *igfregionals* mailing list as well as to participate in the open microphone sessions, identifying them selves as organizers of regional and/or national initiatives, to bring the input from the sessions to the plenary.

IGF regionals and nationals at the Opening Session

The IGF secretariat invited the *igfregionals* mailing list to nominate someone to speak on behalf of the IGF regionals and nationals initiatives at the Opening Session. Christine Arida, from the Arab IGF spoke about the preparatory work conducted and the dialogue that took place during the week.



Christine Arida's speech at IGF 2013 Bali Statement on National and Regional IGFs at the Opening Session

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and gentlemen,

It's an honor to speak today, at the opening of the 8th annual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum. Allow me to begin by thanking our kind host, the government of Indonesia, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology, for hosting this event in beautiful Bali.

I appreciate the opportunity to reflect, as the secretariat of the Arab IGF, on national and regional IGF initiatives. I would like to start by acknowledging the work done this year, by the coordination group of the National and Regional Track, in bringing together organizers of the various initiatives to exchange their views and experiences and in compiling and analyzing gathered inputs. It's indeed a pleasure to see this track extend to include three dedicated roundtables for Inter-regional dialogue, which I'm sure will allow for a deeper and more focused discussion.

The emergence of IGF initiatives at national and regional levels is one tangible momentum triggered by the global IGF. Over years of IGF, this momentum has been growing, in terms of numbers, diversity and maturity. To-date, there's a total of 9 regional, 19 national and a couple of youth focused initiatives, all listed on the IGF website; and as recent as yesterday, we've also witnessed the

launch of the Persian IGF.

Allow me today, ladies and gentlemen, to briefly reflect on the relations between the global IGF and the local ones.

To begin with, it's important to note that National and Regional IGFs are organic bottom-up initiatives, that are generally different and unique in their core setup and functioning. Some are viewed as capacity building and knowledge exchange events, others frame themselves as events that coordinate national or regional views in preparations for the annual IGF. However all of them, emphasize the same core values associated with the IGF process, namely the principles of open, inclusive, non-commercial and multi-stakeholder participation.

There's no doubt that the IGF has been playing a pivotal role in inspiring national and regional IGFs. This is particularly visible in younger initiatives, that seem to follow the same overall structure of the IGF. They also organize their agenda around the main global themes, while reflecting priorities of their local region. In some cases, this extends beyond the agenda, to include mechanisms and processes of the global IGF. The Arab IGF, for example, has modeled its process after the global IGF, including having a MAG-like body that works through open consultations. On the other hand, new ideas and innovative structures, introduced at national and regional IGFs, may also inspire the setup of the global forum. I recall here the idea of introducing flash sessions, which started at EuroDIG.

Still, there seems to be an increased need to strengthen the link between the IGF and local initiatives. This is needed to ensure greater cross-fertilization of policy agendas, which in a way mirrors the dynamics of the Internet itself. Moreover, unique topics discussed at national or regional IGFs may be of particular interest to highlight the dynamics of policy discussions on the global versus the more local levels.

Therefore, as national and regional initiatives mature, voices increasingly call for having more meaningful connections to the IGF. In fact, improvements to the IGF, have clearly called upon enhancing linkages with national and regional initiatives, and providing adequate channels and opportunities for them to feed into the global agenda. Having said that, it's really encouraging to see preparations for this year's IGF take further steps in the right direction. Data has been collected and analyzed through tailored surveys, more agenda time has been dedicated for inter-regional dialogue, and views from National and Regional initiatives will feed back into focus sessions and the main agenda.

To move forward, it will be interesting to study and analyze, the impact of national and regional IGFs both locally and globally. It is worth assessing how and to which extent they can bring new participants into the Internet governance discussion. One has to note that, national and regional initiatives are generally

pioneered by individuals who are already active in the global arena. It is also worth exploring whether practices and values that travel through the IGF networks have a real impact on local policymaking activities.

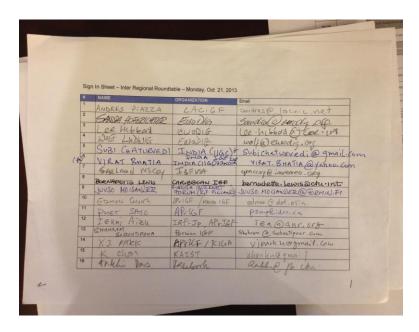
Finally, to maximize the impact of national and regional initiatives, we need to address commonly faced challenges. For instance, a common challenge identified by the inter-regional dialogue, is the need to develop sustainable funding models, to support multi-stakeholder policy deliberations, both nationally and regionally. One important question in that respect, is how to maintain balance between an open and free policy dialogue, while ensuring sustainable funds and continuous political support. Other challenges include: linking national IGFs to the regional ones, also outreaching to new participants particularly to under-represented stakeholder groups.

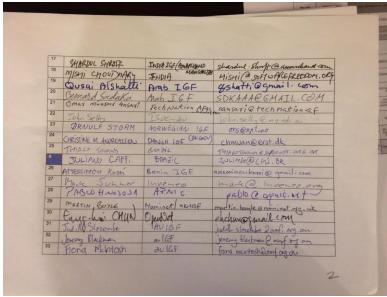
At the end, ladies and gentlemen, let me stress again the fact that national and regional IGFs are rather young processes. Allow me also to re-iterate the need for collecting more analytical data, with the ultimate objective of: exchanging information, identifying common views and highlighting unique issues for each process. This will serve a better understanding and addressing of the challenges ahead, fostering further participation and engagement. It will also provide guidance and serve as a blueprint for those launching their own local IGF initiatives, and will serve the overall purpose of strengthening the impact of the multi-stakeholder model.

With that I conclude my remarks. I thank you very much for your time and attention.

List of participants

Session 1





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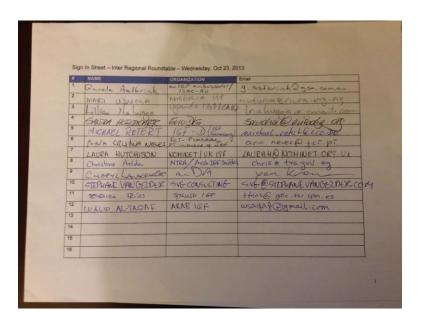
Sign In Sheet - Inter Regional Roundtable - Monday, Oct. 21, 2013

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- Session 2



- Session 3

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Conclusions

- 1. There is a huge interest from the national and regional IGF initiatives to continue developing the interaction with the global IGF.
- 2. There is unique opportunity with the data collected from the national/regional IGFs to deep an understanding on its dynamics, challenges and future plans.
- 3. Enlarge the WG on the igfregional track to include notetakers in order to

facilitate the report elaboration for IGF 2014.