Progress Report
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"Internet Governance Forum"
Project to support the Internet Governance Forum

Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2018
Progress Report

I. Introduction

This annual report provides a consolidated summary of key activities undertaken over the course of the 2018 cycle of the Internet Governance Forum. It is structured around four expected accomplishments listed in the IGF Project Document[1] which guided the work of the IGF Secretariat in 2018:

   A. Creation of an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue related to the key elements of Internet governance;
   B. Enhanced collaboration among key organizations dealing with different Internet governance issues in support of the Information Society and development goals;
   C. Exchange of information to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet;
   D. Strengthened capacity of developing country stakeholders to participate effectively in Internet governance arrangements.

The 13th annual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was hosted by the Government of France in Paris, from 12 to 14 November 2018 at the headquarters of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The meeting marked the third gathering of the global multistakeholder IGF community since the renewal of the IGF's mandate for ten years by the UN General Assembly[2]. The preparatory process for the IGF 2018 annual meeting included two rounds of face-to-face Open Consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) meetings – in March 2018 at the premises of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva, and in July 2018, at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). In addition, sixteen online MAG meetings[3] were convened.

With emphasis on improving working modalities, the IGF's preparatory and intersessional activities this past year have been guided by its extended ten-year mandate, calling for the IGF to 'continue to show progress on working modalities and the participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries' and by the recommendations of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Working Group on Improvements to the IGF[4] and the IGF Retreat Proceedings convened by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)[5].

Throughout the year, the IGF strove to build capacity across various communities and develop a more inclusive and relevant programme. It focused on strengthening existing networks of engagement as well as interacting with new stakeholders. In addition, the IGF actively participated in various international, regional and national events to promote its core values, namely, multistakeholder engagement; a people-focused approach to Internet policy; and open, inclusive and transparent dialogue in the service of advancing a robust, safe and accessible Internet for all. Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, the IGF has been at the forefront of highlighting the critical intersection of Internet technologies and the SDGs.

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[1] The IGF Project Document (2017-2025) available at:
http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/4099/516
[2] http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/125
[3] Online MAG meeting summaries from the 2018 preparatory process can be accessed at:
https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-meeting-summaries
[4] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/4586/1454
[5] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-retreat-documents

2018 was an exceptional year for the Forum in terms of its visibility on the world stage. For the first time, the IGF was personally presided over at the highest institutional and host country levels. Speaking in the IGF's traditional opening ceremony, both UN Secretary-General António Guterres and President of the French Republic Emmanuel Macron directly addressed the work and future of the Forum[6]. Also for the first time, the IGF was not convened as a standalone event, but as part of a series of events strategically organized by the Government of France for its "Paris Digital Week", which included the inaugural segment of the Paris Peace Forum and the Govtech Summit.

This confluence of factors resulted in a larger platform for the IGF and its participants, as well as stronger mainstream media coverage.

Finally, tangible outcome documents were produced from the meeting, in the form of thematic, key messages, called "IGF Messages"[7], which drew from the individual reports of the programme's more than 170 sessions.

Advancements made by the IGF have been recognized by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in its resolution E/2018/31[8], adopted on 7 August 2018, in which Member States *welcomed the continuous progress made with regard to the intersessional work of the Internet Governance Forum in the different modalities of connecting and enabling the next billion online, dynamic coalitions and best practice forums, as well as the contributions being made by both national and regional Internet governance forums;* and the General Assembly (GA) in its resolution A/RES/73/218 of 8 January 2019 that recognized *" the importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, including discussion of public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance,"* In recognising the need for further improvement, GA resolution A/RES/73/218 also stressed *the need for the enhanced participation of Governments and stakeholders from all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in all meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in the preparatory meetings.*

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[6] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2018-speeches
[7] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2018-key-messages
[8] http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/RES/2018/28

II.   Activities undertaken in 2018

A.

> **Expected accomplishment 1**
>
> *Creation of an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue related to the key elements of Internet governance*

A.1.   IGF 2018 preparatory process

Renewal of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and process improvements
The 2018 MAG[9] was announced on 27 February 2018. A total of 55 members, 28 among them new, were appointed. Members are from all stakeholder groups and regions, representing governments, civil society, the private sector and the technical community. All serve in accordance with the MAG terms of reference[10] and in their personal capacities, but are expected to have close linkages with their respective stakeholder groups. Representatives of previous host countries and relevant international and intergovernmental organizations are also invited to attend the MAG meetings.

The UN Secretary-General reappointed, for the third time, Ms. Lynn St. Amour of the United States as the Chair of the MAG for 2018.

As with every year, the process for renewing the MAG was carried out through bottom-up, open community consultations. In order to achieve a timelier and more effective renewal, and based on feedback from various stakeholders (including from the IGF Retreat in 2016), steps were taken to improve the process in 2018:
- On the public list of current members, the terms served, stakeholder and regional affiliations for each member were published.
- The MAG 'Call for nominations' was announced earlier than in previous years.
- A guidance note[11] was published with the Call. This included information on vacant seats; the desirable composition of the MAG (in relation to gender parity, stakeholder and regional balance); a historical overview of countries represented (noting those that were un- or under-represented); and, a summary of the number of terms served by each member, along with their stakeholder and regional affiliations.

Planning Meetings and Overall Process Improvements
The programme planning was carried out through eighteen meetings of the MAG, two of these face-to-face and the rest online[12]. In addition, more than forty online public meetings were held to support the IGF's intersessional work, as well as twenty-five for the preparatory process of National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs).

A number of improvements were introduced for achieving greater inclusivity and streamlining the

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[9] The press release and list of 2018 MAG members is available at:
https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-2018-members
[10] http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-terms-reference#overlay-context=content/mag-nominations-2016
[11] MAG 2018 Renewal Guidance available at: http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-2018-renewal-0
[12] Summary Reports with references to transcripts and webcasts of all meetings available at:
https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-meeting-summaries

overall process. These related primarily to the:
- Launch of the first-ever public 'Call for Issues', which brought to light the most salient digital policy issues and led to the development of a more focused programme.
- Restructuring of the programme around eight principal themes.
- Reform of reporting procedures by all session organizers.
- Production of tangible outcomes, i.e. the 'IGF Messages'.
- Advancements to online participation by introducing a unique speaking queue which treats online and onsite meeting participants equally.
- Full integration of IGF intersessional work in the annual programme.
- Strengthening of the IGF's collaborative work with the NRIs.

These improvements are further explained below.

IGF Open Consultations and MAG Meetings
The first IGF 2018 Open Consultations and face-to-face MAG meeting took place in March at the ITU in Geneva, with the second held in July at UNOG. For both meetings, online participation was made available (live transcription, WebEx, webcast) for those who were unable to join in person. Meetings were moderated by the MAG Chair, Ms. Lynn St. Amour, while the IGF Secretariat was represented by Mr. Chengetai Masango. Mr. Armin Plum and Mr. Wai Min Kwok participated on behalf of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in the first and second meetings, respectively.

The core objective of these meetings was to plan the annual IGF, in particular its programme, and discuss the IGF's community-led intersessional work.

Through one day-long Open Consultations segment, the community reflected on the results of the IGF 2017 Taking Stock process and advised on improvements for 2018. Among the key points raised were:
- It was felt that the IGF had proven its relevance with the 2017 meeting, by including a number of current and emerging issues and by ensuring the presence of governmental and intergovernmental policymakers, who were key for cross-sectoral exchange.
- Several observations were made that the programme was rich, diverse and had improved in terms of inclusiveness, but could benefit from a simpler structure and stronger focus.
- A number of contributors had raised in one way or another the need for clearer, more tangible outputs emerging from the meeting, along the lines of or developing on the 'Geneva Messages' pilot.
- Improvements made to the IGF annual meeting programme, through integration of its intersessional work and the NRIs, were acknowledged.
- The community advocated for clearer links to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- MAG working groups on a multiyear strategic programme for the IGF, IGF improvements and fundraising were welcome developments.

The consultations featured updates from a number of organizations, among which: UNESCO; the European Commission; ITU; the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GCE); the Internet Society (ISOC); the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN); the Association for Progressive Communications (APC); IGF Support Association (IGFSA); DiploFoundation and Geneva Internet Platform (GIP); the World Economic Forum (WEF); and the UN Secretary-

General's High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation (HLPDC). Updates on the status of the IGF Trust Fund were also given.

For both meetings, the consultations were followed by two days of MAG face-to-face discussions. The MAG's deliberations were expressed in line with agreed objectives for streamlining and improving the annual meeting programme. The following key decisions were taken:

- As the thematic coherence of the programme was an imperative for the MAG, some best practices among NRIs were explored, including the method of using 'topical baskets' to shape the programme. It was decided a multi-step approach would be applied, beginning with the public Call for Issues, whose purpose was to identify thematic priorities across regional and stakeholder groups, prior to the workshop proposal process.
- The programme would be structured around eight key themes ('topical baskets'): Cybersecurity, Trust & Privacy; Digital Inclusion & Accessibility; Emerging Technologies; Evolution of Internet Governance; Human Rights, Gender & Youth; Development, Innovation & Economic Issues; Media & Content; and Technical & Operational Topics.
- It was agreed that the 2018 Best Practice Forums (BPFs) would focus on topics of interest expressed in part through the Call for Issues, resulting in BPFs on: Cybersecurity; Gender and Access; Local Content; and Internet of Things (Iot), Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (AI). In addition, the initiative on policy options for 'Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s)' (CENB) received support for continuing its work through a fourth phase.
- The IGF's intersessional work would be fully integrated in the annual programme.
- Following the community's suggestion and the MAG's prior agreement to reducing the number of parallel tracks and redundant sessions, and taking into account a three-day meeting schedule, the MAG approved 71 workshop proposals.
- Main/thematic sessions on each of the eight themes were capped at 80 minutes. Six were facilitated by the MAG, while two were facilitated by the Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) and the national, regional and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs) in collaboration with the MAG.
- Four Working Groups led by the MAG and open to all were re-chartered on: a Multi-year Strategic Work Programme (WG-MWP); IGF Improvements (WG-IMP); Outreach and Engagement (WG-OE); Workshop Review and Evaluation Process (WG-WREP); and Fundraising (WG-FUN).
- The overarching theme of the 13th IGF annual meeting, arrived at in consultation with the host country, was 'The Internet of Trust'.

The Secretariat facilitated the inclusion in the programme of 30 Open Forums, traditional sessions organized by governments or international organizations. Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) were also approved to organize 11 sessions, bringing multistakeholder expert views on diverse topics; and more than 30 NRIs collaborated on five individual sessions.

The 'Call for Issues' resulted in 365 regionally and stakeholder-balanced submissions. Out of eight themes from which submitters were asked to choose, 'Cybersecurity, Trust & Privacy' emerged as the most popular. 349 proposals were made during the annual Call for Workshops, which showed good gender balance in 2018, as workshop organizers and speakers were quite nearly evenly split among women and men.

Further planning and intersessional work
The planning process continued over the course of MAG virtual meetings, which were regularly joined by the representatives of the IGF 2018 host country. MAG co-facilitators for BPFs, CENB IV,

DCs, and thematic main sessions provided written updates on their work prior to each call.

More than forty online public meetings were held to advance intersessional activities (BPFs, CENB, DCs), culminating in their integration into the 2018 programme.

DCs produced papers on the SDGs[13] for IGF community review before and during the 13th IGF. This joint substantive work also produced a multi-issue and engaging main session on the SDGs, following up successful DC main sessions held since 2015. The session in 2018 was organized together with business community members of the MAG under one of the eight programme themes, Development, Innovation & Economic Issues.

National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) integration in the IGF 2018
More than 100 NRIs worked together with MAG members to prepare a lively IGF 2018 thematic main session, under the theme, Evolution of Internet Governance, with a special focus on the multistakeholder approach.

During the 2018 preparatory process, BPFs and CENB IV significantly referenced NRIs as important resources for national and local-level perspectives on their areas of research.

DCs and the NRIs also worked throughout the year on developing a bottom-up agenda for their coordination sessions, traditionally hosted at the IGF annual meetings.

A.2.   The 13th annual IGF meeting

The 13th annual IGF meeting was held from 12 to 14 of November 2018 in Paris, France, under the overarching title, 'The Internet of Trust'.

A diversity of well-timed topics were covered under the programme's eight broad themes, including but not limited to: trust and accountability in cybersecurity; Internet ethics; challenges related to future of work and global labour; personal data protection; net neutrality; Artificial Intelligence; blockchain technologies and cryptocurrencies; applications of big data; Internet and the SDGs; gender and youth participation online; the broadening of stakeholder engagement in Internet governance; digital capacity building; and human rights online. Of note in 2018 was the 'Cybersecurity, Trust & Privacy' theme, with the most programme sessions subscribed and inclusive of issues as varied as cybercrime, cyberdiplomacy and algorithms. The discussions under the theme nevertheless focused heavily on data privacy, as well as legal and regulatory questions in this domain.

Improving Visibility and Tangible Outcomes of the 13th IGF
The 2018 meeting noticeably benefitted from the presence of the UN Secretary-General and President of the Republic of France. Thousands of participants were present onsite during the delivery of their remarks in the IGF's opening ceremony, at the UNESCO Salle, in overflow rooms and through remote participation. More than eighty journalists, from outlets with wide national or international scope and reach, attended the IGF partly as a result.

In line with the collective effort to enhance the outcome-orientation of the IGF, the IGF Secretariat delivered a set of key, thematic 'IGF Messages' emerging from the meeting's expansive

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[13] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/2018-dynamic-coalition-papers-matrix-on-the-sdgs

programme[14], as concrete outcomes of the 2018 meeting.

The messages were developed thanks to a reformed reporting mechanism for all sessions in the meeting. Namely, in order to ensure that essential points or conclusions from the sessions were captured, session organizers and their appointed rapporteurs were guided to complete a three-stage reporting template. The first 'pre-reports' with basic sessions details were to be filled in advance of the meeting; these were then updated with comments made during the sessions themselves, as 'short reports' to be submitted within 12 hours of the session. Rapporteurs were invited to expand on their information, should they wish to, in the 'long reports' format within two weeks of the meeting. All reports across the three stages were made immediately public. On the basis of these, the IGF Secretariat and UNDESA colleagues drafted the IGF Messages that were released online at the time of the meeting. These provided succinct and readable takeaways on the programme's eight major themes.

To promote extensive stakeholder inclusion, the customary transcripts[15] and webcasts[16] from all of the sessions were made available instantly.

All sessions were also livestreamed, with archived videos accessible minutes after sessions were held. IGF social media channels, such as Twitter[17] and Facebook[18], were also particularly active during the busy week and facilitated additional platforms for dialogue. Official UN press releases[19] were produced same-day and posted on a number of UN news and media platforms.

In order to help orient first-time participants to the IGF as well as to foster their integration into the IGF community, a set of continuous activities throughout the 2018 programme was developed under the Newcomers Track[20] by the MAG and Secretariat. Communication with new IGF participants will be continued through a dedicated IGF newcomers mailing list[21].

As an ongoing initiative of the MAG Working Group on New Session Formats (WG-NSF), and with support from the Secretariat, 23 lightning sessions were selected for open-air talks after being successfully introduced as new session formats in 2016. The 20-minute talks allowed presenters to have up-close and informal engagement with participants. In general, these formats have helped to boost the IGF's reputation as a dynamic, evolving meeting.

Organizations from five different continents joined the IGF Village[22], with 56 booths exhibiting the work of Internet governance-related organizations. The Village featured strong representation from all stakeholder groups, and as ever, provided excellent networking opportunities for the Forum's participants and positive visibility for the IGF.

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[14] IGF 2018 Messages available at: https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2018-key-messages
[15] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/igf-2018-transcripts
[16] https://www.youtube.com/user/igf/videos
[17] https://twitter.com/intgovforum
[18] https://www.facebook.com/IntGovForum
[19] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2018-un-press-releases
[20] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-newcomers-track
[21] Mailing list: igfnewcomers@intgovforum.org
[22] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2018-village

A.6. Ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)[23]

Throughout 2018, the IGF Secretariat continued to work with all stakeholders to implement the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF. These recommendations have been actively followed since their adoption by the UN General Assembly in December 2012, in all five key areas outlined by the Working Group, namely: increasing and improving both the tangible outcomes and the overall visibility of the IGF; the working modalities of the IGF, including open consultations, the MAG and the Secretariat; the funding of the IGF; broadening participation and capacity-building; and linking the IGF to other Internet governance-related entities.

In addition, the Secretariat aims to ensure that the IGF facilitates implementation of all the agreed World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) action lines, with focus on, C1: The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development; C4: Capacity building; and C11: International and regional cooperation.

A.7. Remote/online participation

The work of the IGF is highly dependent on effective online participation tools.

Remote/online participation was an integral part of the 2018 annual meeting, preparatory process and intersessional activities. Both physical open consultations and MAG meetings and the annual meeting were web-streamed and live transcriptions were provided via the IGF website. A remote participation platform (WebEx) was available for online participants to actively contribute to the discussions, through text questions or comments, or audio/video interventions. A significant improvement was made in terms of providing live transcription for virtual meetings of MAG and Dynamic Coalitions.

WebEx was also used to enable the participation of all stakeholders in BPF, DC and NRIs coordination meetings. More specifically, the Secretariat made its WebEx account available to NRIs for their independent use.

Remote/online participation details were published on the IGF website before each meeting. Remote participation manuals and instructions[24] were prepared and shared with online participants, moderators and hubs before the 13th IGF. Online training sessions were held for IGF 2018 session rapporteurs to familiarize them with the WebEx platform. Onsite trainings were also provided for remote/online participation assistants.

Both new and experienced stakeholders around the world were reached out to by the Secretariat and encouraged to set up remote hubs for the 2018 meeting. 35 hubs were launched, with approximately 2,000 stakeholders actively participating online. As the 2018 meeting took place in Europe, online participation provided an important bridge to different continents. The largest proportions of online participants connected from the African and Asia-Pacific regions. There was more than one hub in Argentina, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, India, Nigeria and Yemen.

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[23] http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/a67d65_en.pdf

[24] Remote participation manuals and guidelines are available at http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/igf-2014/remote-participation-2014

The Secretariat provides online participation support to the IGF community throughout the year, by sharing WebEx services and moderating meetings at the request of NRIs.

In total, the IGF Secretariat convened more than 100 virtual meetings in 2018.

B.

> *Expected accomplishment 2*
>
> *Enhanced collaboration among key organizations dealing with different Internet governance issues in support of development goals*

B.1.   Participation in the IGF 2018 meeting

The official statistics[25] regarding the IGF 2018 participation were published on the IGF website shortly after the annual meeting ended.

During the course of three days, more than 3,000 delegates participated in 171 sessions both onsite and remotely. Paris welcomed participants from 143 countries. 62% of these were attending the IGF for the first time; 43% were women.

Approximately 1400 people participated remotely. 101 different countries were represented online, with the majority coming from France, the United States, Brazil, Nigeria, United Kingdom, India, Iran, Bangladesh, and Germany.

Onsite participation by stakeholder group was as follows:

Breakdown of Onsite Participants by Stakeholder Group

Civil Society	45%
Governments	16%
IGOs	7%
Private Sector	20%
Technical Community	11%
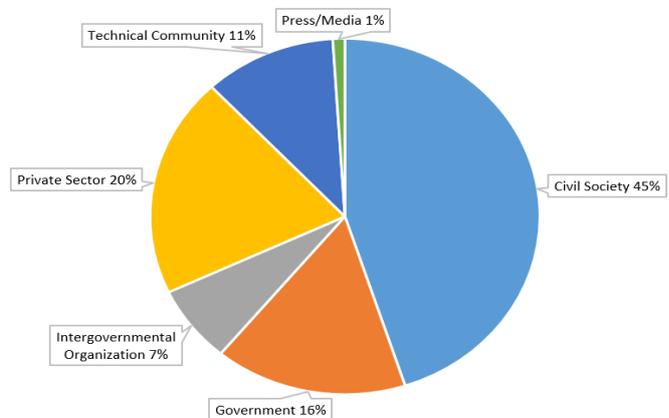
IGF continued to be seen as a valuable opportunity for bilateral talks between key digital policymakers, with the 2018 IGF providing space for more than 100 such bilateral meetings

Social media activity is estimated to have reached more than 10,000,000 people, with around 52% of the activity attributed to women, and 90% of activity recorded as having 'positive sentiment'.

As several high level political events were organized in parallel with the IGF, the total participation of governments was affected negatively. However, in terms of UN high-level political participation, the IGF is on an upswing. In addition to the Secretary-General, the Under-Secretary-General of DESA, Mr. Liu Zhenmin, and UN Assistant-Secretary-General Fabrizio Hochschild, also attended

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[25] http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2018-attendance-programme-statistics

the meeting, delivering opening and closing speeches and raising the IGF's visibility, within the UN community and beyond.

B.2.   National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives

NRIs have been emerging spontaneously since the IGF was first convened in 2006. They are independent in their work, and are organized in accordance with the core IGF principles of being multistakeholder, bottom-up, inclusive, open, transparent and non-commercial. The NRI network faced rapid growth in the past four years. By the 2018 IGF annual meeting, 111 NRIs were recognized by the IGF Secretariat: 80 national, 17 regional and sub-regional and 14 youth IGFs.

Since the 2017 annual meeting of the IGF, when there were 97 recognized NRIs, 9 more countries have established IGF processes, increasing the number of national IGFs to 80, and 5 communities established Youth IGFs, increasing the total number to 14. The total number of regional NRIs did not change during this time.

The NRIs are active and immensely useful contributors to the IGF community's intersessional activities. Through the IGF processes and annual meetings on the national and regional levels, the IGF is able to effectively capture local perspectives and with joint efforts bring them to the global level. Throughout 2018, 76 NRIs meetings were organized across the world.

The linkages between the NRIs and the global IGF deepen due to collective work on the NRIs joint activities, as well as the increased visibility of the IGF Secretariat's dedicated support to individual NRIs processes.

Of the 111 NRIs, 48 were physically present at the Paris IGF and 36 actively participated at the NRIs main session on the evolution of Internet governance, joined by the Stefan Schweinfest of UN DESA, with a focus of capacity development and the multistakeholder approach. 32 different NRIs were involved in preparing 5 NRIs collaborative sessions during the IGF 2018 which focused on access, cybersecurity, digital economy, emerging technologies and fake news.

B.3.   Participation in various Internet governance-related events and processes

The IGF Secretariat continued to engage and collaborate with other Internet governance-related entities.

The 2018 meeting represented an opportunity for participants to give input to the Secretary-General's HLPDC and interact with the panel's members through an open forum session in the programme. Announced on 12 July this year, the purpose of the Panel is to advance dialogue on international cooperation, identify good examples and propose modalities for working across sectors, disciplines and borders to address current and future challenges in the digital age. The IGF hosted the Secretariat of the HLPDC during its second MAG face-to-face meeting, to present key objectives of the Panel and discuss how collaboration with the IGF can be established.

The IGF provided a further venue for new Internet governance-related initiatives, with the launch by the President of France of the 'Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace'. The Call proposes a framework for regulating the Internet and fighting back against cyber attacks, hate speech and other cyber threats.

Within its growing number of productive bilateral relationships, the IGF Secretariat holds a seat on the Steering Committee of the WEF Internet for All initiative and actively participates in the initiative's work, along with a number of other stakeholders. Via its BPF on Gender & Access, the IGF is also a partner in the ITU-UN Women EQUALS project. More recently, the Secretariat has been invited as a key contributor to the work of the organization Missions Publiques.

In addition, the IGF in 2018 attended a significant number of NRI meetings, onsite and online. These served as an excellent opportunity to become familiar with and aware of local issues, but also to engage more with the multistakeholder community gathered around these initiatives. The Secretariat also attended the 2018 online and onsite meetings of the HLPDC, and has briefed its participants. By attending onsite or online ICANN meetings, the Secretariat has increased its reach to various stakeholders.

Moreover, the Secretariat has been a regular participant of UN System meetings, notably the ITU's annual WSIS Forum and meetings organized by UNCTAD.

C.

> *Expected accomplishment 3*
>
> *Exchange of information to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet*

C.1.   Communication among multistakeholder communities through online collaboration

Exchange of information among the IGF community and with new stakeholders is essential for the work of the IGF. The MAG works primarily through online meetings, while the IGF's intersessional work depends on online community input.

The IGF website is among the most valuable tools for stakeholders to find and share information. In 2018, the IGF Secretariat restructured the content available online, making it easier to navigate. Development is ongoing of an online collaborative tool for translating the content of the IGF website into the six official languages of the United Nations. The recent upgrade of the website enabled a system of embedded and integrated data relating to all sessions held in the annual meeting.

The schedule for the annual meeting is central to the IGF, as it presents a high volume of information across several days. In order to help IGF participants navigate the programme and personalize their participation, the Secretariat developed an online, interactive scheduling system embedded in the IGF website. This allowed for sessions to be classified and viewable according to time, day, meeting room, session type and theme, and for users to select sessions of interest and save them in their personal schedules. Users also had the ability to create profiles, listing their interests and expertise.

The IGF Secretariat took serious note of the accessibility of its online tools. It consulted extensively with the IGF DC on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD) to exchange views on how best to meet the requirements of persons with disabilities and will continue to do so before the 14th IGF.

At the end of 2018, the IGF website had more than 8,500 registered users, compared with 6,000 during the same period last year. The IGF website recorded visits by 692,091 unique users, while in

2017 the figure was 551,762. More than 221,578 sessions were opened during 2018, relative to 166,406 in 2017. As regards language, about 62% of opened sessions were initiated from English-language configured devices.

During the 2018 IGF cycle, an interactive online platform for document review was improved so as to be able to accommodate more pages and comments.

The growth of social media activity in the IGF community has been a significant achievement in recent years and the IGF Secretariat, together with the MAG and all stakeholders, is working to continue to broaden the reach of the IGF online through various social channels.

C.2.   MAG Chair's Blog and Document Repository

In 2018, space on the IGF website was dedicated to the MAG Chair's blog, for direct communication from the Chair to the wider IGF community.

The IGF continued to add materials to the IGF website, including, but not limited to: various contributions received from stakeholders and syntheses of such contributions, summary reports of open consultations and MAG meetings (including the virtual meetings), background papers submitted by workshop organizers, transcripts of the open consultations and MAG meetings, inter-sessional documentation as well as transcripts and reports of the various sessions held during the annual IGF 2018 meeting. All these were accessible and mobile friendly.

C.3.   IGF Inter-Sessional Outputs/Outcomes and other IGF Publications

As outlined in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, the publication of the IGF's proceedings is part of the Forum's mandate. In fulfilling this part of the mandate, the IGF Secretariat produced and published the IGF 2017 proceedings publication, which included all transcripts and reports of sessions held during the 2017 annual meeting.[26]

The IGF 2018 Chair's Summary[27] was also prepared during the annual meeting by the IGF Secretariat and submitted for approval to the Host Country Co-Chair of the meeting. The structure of the summary was overhauled, so as to give priority to key substantive features of the meeting and major outcomes, with links to its procedural aspects. The Summary is widely distributed across various networks in the IGF ecosystem.

The fourth phase of CENB[28] emphasized local and regional specificities to enable access and also investigated how ensuring meaningful access can support the SDGs. CENB IV's analytical output document focused on four SDGs: Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all; Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth; Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation; and Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

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[26] IGF 2017 Proceedings available at: http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-annual-meetings-proceedings
[27] The IGF 2018 Chair's Summary is available at:
https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/6212/1417
[28] CENB IV Final Output Document Available at: http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/cenb-%E2%80%93-phase-iv-0

BPFs[29] continued to offer unique platforms to investigate topical Internet policy challenges by collecting community input and experiences in a flexible and bottom-up manner.

The BPF on Cybersecurity produced a final output document, that represents the multistakeholder community's analytical views of culture, norms and values in cybersecurity[30]. The BPF on Local Content ran several rounds of open community public consultations to gather views on the local development of content and a local content value chain[31]. The Gender & Access BPF consulted with the wider IGF community through several public online meetings, surveys and calls for contributions on impact of supplementary models of connectivity in enabling meaningful Internet access for women and gender non-binary persons[32]. Finally, the BPF on IoT, Big Data and AI launched public consultations to gather multistakeholder inputs and examples on how cooperation can help provide guidance for and/or outline "principles" for stimulating the further development and application of IoT, Big Data, AI in an ethical and sustainable way[33].

The more than 150 thematic workshops and other sessions that took place throughout the week of the annual meeting have also produced output reports[34] (curated together with session transcripts and videos) which are available to all on the IGF website and now serve as resources and inputs into other relevant processes.

C.4.   Dynamic Coalitions

DCs held their collective monthly planning meetings to prepare their main session, in collaboration with the MAG, for the 13th annual IGF meeting. The session focused on the SDGs. DCs have each produced one-page papers expanding on the relationship between their work and the related Goals[35].

In 2018, 18 DCs were recognized by the IGF Secretariat, including new initiatives on Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Domain Name System issues, and Schools on Internet Governance. Many existing DCs are expanding their reach to different communities, while the IGF Secretariat has received requests for two new DCs in 2019.

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[29] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/best-practice-forums-4
[30] BPF Cybersecurity Final Outcome Document available at: https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-cybersecurity-1
[31] BPF Local Content Final Outcome Document available at: https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-local-content-0
[32] BPF Gender and Access Final Output Document available at: https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-gender-and-access
[33] BPF IoT, Big Data and AI Final Output Document available at: https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-internet-of-things-iot-big-data-and-artificial-intelligence-ai
[34] IGF 2018 Session Reports available at: http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/igf-2018-reports
[35] DCs papers available at: https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/2018-dynamic-coalition-papers-matrix-on-the-sdgs

D.

> *Expected accomplishment 4*
>
> *Strengthened capacity of developing country stakeholders to participate effectively in Internet governance arrangements*

D.1. Participation of developing countries in the IGF process

The IGF has placed special emphasis on engagement with developing countries. The Secretariat works closely with the network of NRIs to support their own processes and within those, raise the qualitative application of core IGF principles.

For this purpose, several missions were conducted by the IGF Secretariat in the reporting period:
- In May 2018, the Secretariat joined the preparatory process and annual meeting of the second national IGF of Afghanistan. By respecting this IGF's autonomy and working modalities, the Secretariat's representatives worked with the multistakeholder organizing team of the Afghanistan IGF on advancing the multistakeholder model and on bringing international perspectives to national discussions on various topics.
- Another mission with similar objective, was carried out during the 2018 annual meeting of the European regional IGF (EuroDIG). The Secretariat representative joined the Chair of the MAG on this mission, to meet the network of the European NRIs and explore synergies, as well as to liaise with the European and other international high-level attendees on their support toward the IGF and potential ways for improvements.
- The Secretariat conducted a mission to the annual Asia Pacific regional IGF hosted by the Government of Vanuatu. This was strategically important as, for the first time, a regional Internet governance discussion took place in a remote location where the unique perspectives from SIDS were represented. The IGF benefited from these, by learning about practical application of newly emerging technologies on societies living on small islands, but also about the general needs and requirements of the Pacific region.

The Secretariat has received a number of invitations from NRIs to attend their annual meetings. However, due to financial constraints, it has participated online rather than onsite. All 2018 NRI meetings were carefully followed, in order to understand local perspectives and learn more about their processes. The Secretariat and MAG Chair actively participated in and contributed to more than fifteen NRI meetings, by addressing the communities during opening ceremonies or specific, special sessions.

The Secretariat has also provided online trainings/lectures for schools on Internet governance, where invited. During the reporting period, the Schools on Internet Governance of Armenia, as well as the IGF for South Eastern Europe (SEEDIG) Youth School were supported.

Given the under-resourced status of some NRIs, the IGF Secretariat has provided direct assistance in helping them develop online platforms and mailing lists. The following were supported in this regard: Namibia IGF, Mauritius IGF, East Africa Youth IGF, Malawi IGF, Zambia IGF, Togo IGF, Republic of Congo IGF, Albania Youth IGF.

Concerning its intersessional work and annual meeting, the Secretariat, together with the MAG and the broader IGF community, have continued their efforts to increase participation in IGF meetings (including the preparatory processes) and to attract and encourage more participants from developing countries. As the intersessional work streams continue to grow, the total number of participants in online planning meetings, as well as subscriptions to various mailing lists and on the IGF website, have shown remarkable growth.

As in previous years, financial support was provided to MAG members from least developed countries, developing countries and transitional economies to enable them to participate in MAG meetings and the 13th annual meeting. In 2018, 70 travels for MAG members and former IGF host country representatives from developing countries were supported through the IGF Trust Fund, in line with eligibility criteria.[36]

D.2.   Internships and fellowships at the IGF Secretariat

The IGF continues to build capacity through in-office training on Internet governance matters. It has especially supported youth from developing countries in this regard.

During the reporting period, two interns joined the IGF Secretariat: one from China for a six-month duration, and one from Brazil for a two-month duration. Both are women. The interns have had the opportunity to work directly on Internet governance issues and benefit from unparalleled, up-close expertise engaging with the IGF community.

III.   Conclusions

The annual meeting of the IGF was held from 12 to 14 November 2018. Convened for the thirteenth time since its establishment, the IGF once again brought together representatives from governments, the technical community, business and civil society to discuss amplifying digital cooperation. Under the overarching theme 'The Internet of Trust', the Forum provided a substantive multistakeholder platform for engaged and informed discussions about policy issues pertaining to the Internet. The process showcased the intersections between the ICTs, human rights and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

This year was especially important for the IGF, with the highest level UN and host country representatives presiding over the meeting for the first time. Both UN Secretary-General António Guterres and French President Emmanuel Macron addressed the IGF during the traditional opening ceremony, with thousands of participants present.

Under the guidance of the 2018 MAG, the community worked intensively on developing a globally comprehensive agenda. For this purpose, many improvements to the process were made. Among these, an open Call for Issues was launched to help orienting the IGF programme agenda toward most relevant Internet governance pertaining matters. The annual meeting was restructured to offer a more streamlined agenda, while many technical conditions for online participation were improved, aiming at providing equal treatment for those attending online and onsite.

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[36] http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/igf-meeting/416-eligibility-criteria-for-funding-a-meeting-pariticipant/file

The multistakeholder community proved to be again very active, by contribution to the IGF's intersessional work, primarily the best practice forums and the Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s). This open community-led work, facilitated by the MAG and the IGF Secretariat, resulted in tangible output documents that in an analytical manner outlined key issues and provided recommendations for all four best practice forums, focused on cybersecurity, gender and access, local content and IoT, Big Data and AI. The CENB specifically elaborated on the impact that connectivity and meaningful access have on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The community of DCs, driven by experts, researchers and activists in their respective Internet governance fields, worked throughout the year, producing extensive reports in some cases, and in others, advising governments and participating in various international fora. They contributed to the IGF annual meeting, specifically, with analytical position papers and a thematic main session on the SDGs.

The growing network of 111 NRIs collaborated with the IGF throughout the year, in addition to implementing successful IGF processes for their respective communities. By receiving inputs from more than 75 IGF processes the NRIs have implemented during the year, the IGF process was enriched with inputs from many local perspectives.

During the 13th annual IGF meeting, more than 3,000 delegates from 143 countries actively participated in more than 170 sessions, both online and onsite. With the increased quality of outcome documents from community-led intersessional work, as well as continuously strong interest in holding sessions in the meeting, the IGF has once again received positive indications that it continues to fulfil its core objectives and expected accomplishments, as set out in the IGF Project Document.

In addition to its growing community, the IGF strives to improve its working modalities and strengthen collaborations with other organizations.

For these reasons, several working groups were established, through which the MAG works with the wider IGF community on developing the IGF's multiyear strategic plan, improving the overall process as well as the fundraising.

As per the IGF Project Document, the IGF will continue to communicate, interact and collaborate with other Internet governance-related entities to further global policy dialogue. The Forum also stays committed to working on fulfilling the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF, as well as on facilitating the WSIS action lines.

Capacity building remains high on the agenda, and the IGF is dedicated to increasing capacity across all communities through its work, with special attention to engaging the communities from least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, and small island developing states. One of the most effective mechanisms for achieving this objective is collaboration with NRIs. In addition, the IGF recognizes the valuable contributions by schools on Internet Governance in this area.

The 14th annual meeting of the IGF will be hosted by the Government of Germany in Berlin from 25 to 29 November. As in the past, the IGF will aim to innovate its processes while maintaining its commitment to providing an open, inclusive, transparent and non-commercial space for global Internet governance discussions.