



Progress Report
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“Internet Governance Forum”
Project to support the Internet Governance Forum

Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2019
Annual Progress Report

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Introduction

This annual report provides a consolidated summary of key activities undertaken over the course of the 2019 cycle of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). It is structured around four expected accomplishments listed in the [IGF Project Document](#)¹ which guided the work of the IGF Secretariat:

- 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 14th annual IGF meeting was hosted by the Government of Germany in Berlin, from 25 to 29 November 2019, including the pre-event day. Under the overarching theme “One World. One Net. One Vision.”, this meeting marked the fourth gathering of the global multistakeholder IGF community since the renewal of the IGF’s mandate for 10 years by the [UN General Assembly \(Resolution A/RES/70/125\)](#)². The preparatory process for the IGF 2019 annual meeting included three face-to-face Open Consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) meetings – in January 2019 at United Nations Office at Geneva, Switzerland (UNOG); in April 2019 at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in Geneva, Switzerland and in June 2019 at the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy in Berlin, Germany. In addition, nineteen online MAG³ meetings 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*⁴, by the recommendations of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Working Group on Improvements to the IGF⁵, the IGF Retreat Proceedings convened by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

¹ IGF Project Document (2017-2025): http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/4099/516

² <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/125>

³ Online MAG meeting summaries from the 2019 preparatory process can be accessed at: <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-meeting-summaries>

⁴ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/125>

⁵ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/4586/1454

(UN DESA)⁶ and the Call for Action⁷ by the UN Secretary-General delivered during the 13th IGF in Paris, France.

Under the overarching theme, “One World. One Net. One Vision.”, the 14th annual IGF meeting provided a platform for advancing critical Internet policy discussions through several annual workstreams and more than 200 different sessions, focused on three key themes: Data Governance; Digital Inclusion; and Security, Safety, Stability and Resilience.

2019 IGF stood out in terms of a wider political visibility of the forum. Speeches of UN Secretary-General António Guterres⁸ and German Chancellor Angela Merkel⁹ in the IGF’s traditional opening ceremony, directly addressed the importance of digital technologies and need for all stakeholders to cooperate on digital public policy matters. The high-level tracks organized by the host government directly increased the participation of the high-level stakeholders, including heads of states and governments, leaders of large private and tech companies, non-profit organizations, research and academic institutions. Strategic efforts have been invested to broadly engage members of parliaments, as well as participants coming from the global south countries, particularly least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states.

Finally, tangible outcome documents were produced from the meeting, in the form of thematic, key messages, called “[Berlin IGF Messages](#)”¹⁰, which drew from the individual reports of the program’s more than 200 sessions.

Advancements made by the IGF have been recognized by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in its [Resolution E/RES/2019/24](#)¹¹, adopted on 23 July 2019, in which the member states recognized the *importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters* and welcomed the continuous progress made with regard to the intersessional work of the Internet Governance Forum in different modalities such as dynamic coalitions and best practice forums, as well as the contributions being made by national, regional and youth Internet governance forums; and the General Assembly (GA) in its draft resolution proposal [A/RES/74/197 of 19 December 2019](#)¹² 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 recognizing the need for further improvement, GA resolution A/RES/74/197 also acknowledged the need for the extension of the IGF’s mandate beyond 2025 and stressed the need for the

⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-retreat-documents>

⁷ Secretary-General’s address to IGF 2018: <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2018-address-to-the-internet-governance-forum-by-un-sg-ant%C3%B3nio-guterres>

⁸ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/un-secretary-general-remarks-to-the-igf-2019>

⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/german-chancellors-remarks-to-the-igf-2019>

¹⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/berlin-igf-messages>

¹¹ https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ecosoc_res_2019d24_en.pdf

¹² <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/197>

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 meeting.

Activities undertaken in 2019

The consolidated summary of activities undertaken in preparation for the 14th annual IGF meeting in Berlin are consolidated below. The structure is developed around the four expected accomplishments listed in the IGF Project Document¹³:

- 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.*

A. Expected Accomplishment 1

Creating of an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue related to the key elements of Internet governance

A.1 IGF 2019 Preparatory Process

Renewal of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG)

The [2019 MAG](#)¹⁴ was announced on 19 November 2018. A total of 52 members¹⁵, 16 among them new, were appointed. Members come from all stakeholder groups and regions, representing governments, civil society, private sector and technical community. The composition has achieved gender parity with equal numbers of male and female members appointed. All members of the MAG serve in accordance with the [MAG Terms of Reference](#)¹⁶ and in a personal capacity, but are expected to have close linkage with their respective stakeholder groups. Representatives of previous host countries and relevant

¹³ http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/4099/516

¹⁴ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/pi2247.doc.htm>

¹⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-2019-members>

¹⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-terms-of-reference>

international and intergovernmental organizations were also invited to attend the MAG meetings.

The United Nations Secretary-General [reappointed](#)¹⁷ Ms. Lynn St. Amour of the United States as the Chair of the MAG for 2019.

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 continue improving the process in 2019:

- 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](#)¹⁸ 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

During the previous IGF cycle, several objectives for improving the overall process for the 2019 year were met. This relates to advancing the working modalities, particularly in regard to the work of the intersessional activities and the IGF annual meeting, as well as related to strengthening the stakeholder engagement and raising inclusiveness and visibility of the IGF.

The programme planning was carried out through twenty-two meetings of the MAG, three of these face-to-face and the nineteen online¹⁹. In addition, more than a hundred open online meetings were held to support the MAG working groups, IGF’s intersessional work and National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs).

Several improvements were introduced for achieving greater inclusivity and streamlining the overall process. These related primarily to the:

- Improvement of the overall programme structure by following a more concise and focused approach on three thematic tracks and introducing introductory and concluding thematic tracks;
- Advancing a reformed reporting submission outlook by digitalizing the process;
- Producing tangible outcomes and creating a unique repository for these, including outcomes produced by the IGF, its Host Country, as well as by the participants;

¹⁷ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sga1840.doc.htm>

¹⁸ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-renewal-2019-general-guidance>

¹⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-meeting-summaries>

- Advancing the digital ‘floor request’ systems in all rooms with online instructions and QR codes on-site;
- Full integration of IGF intercessional work in the annual programme;
- Introducing a dedicated legislator track for members of parliaments; high-level engagement and inclusion of SMEs;
- Strengthening the IGF’s collaborative work with the NRIs;
- Introducing new technological methods for supporting the facilitation of work with session organizers;
- Advanced communication and outreach strategy.

These improvements are explained further below.

IGF Open Consultations and MAG Meetings

The first IGF 2019 Open Consultations and face-to-face MAG meeting took place in January at the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG), with the second held also in Geneva in April at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and third hosted in Berlin at the premises of the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy. For three meetings, online participation, live streaming and transcription were made available for those that 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. On behalf of UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Mr. Wai Min Kwok participated in the first MAG meeting, while Mr. Deniz Susar participated in the second and third meeting, accompanied by Mr. Armin Plum during the second meeting. The German government was represented by Ms. Daniela Brönstrup from the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy as the IGF Host Country Co-Chair.

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 2018 Taking Stock process and advised on improvement for 2019. Among the key points raised were:

- Broad support to re-introduce the Day 0 pre-events was received.
- It was said that the workshop proposal and selection process was well-organized and well managed, despite the shorter preparatory phase.
- The overall content of the 2018 meeting was praised, in particular, the timely emphasis on an ‘Internet of trust’ overarching theme, with diversified programme content.
- Many said the Paris IGF accurately projected the vibrancy and trend in the growth of the IGF community, with diverse stakeholders present in the meeting, including many newcomers. However, it was said that the presence of governments and the private sector was still regrettably low or lower than hoped.
- The political spotlight placed on the IGF in 2018 was seen as a positive opportunity.

The consultations featured updates from a number of organization, among which were: EU Commission; European Broadcasting Union (EBU); Geneva Internet Platform (GIP)/Diplo

Foundation; Council of Europe (CoE); Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN); Government of Canada; Global Commission on the Security of Cyberspace (GCSC); Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD); International Chamber of Commerce - Business Action to Support the Information Society (ICC-BASIS); International Telecommunication Union (ITU); Organization of American States (OAS); Internet Society (ISOC); UN Children's Fund (UNICEF); UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); World Association of Newspapers and News Publishers (WAN-IFRA); World Economic Forum (WEF); World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

For all three 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:

- Through a bottom-up, open Call for Issues, 350 inputs received navigated MAG's work that finally decided to focus and streamline the overall programme around the three themes: (1) Data Governance (2) Digital Inclusion, and (3) Security, Safety, Stability and Resilience. Each of three thematic tracks was supported by a group of MAG members that developed corresponding thematic narratives.
- It was agreed that the 2019 Best Practice Forums (BPFs), would focus on 'Cybersecurity', 'IoT, Big Data and AI', and 'Local Content', and 'Gender & Access'.
- Through an extended Call for Workshop and MAG Evaluation timeline, out of more than 300 workshop proposals, approximately 20 workshops per theme were approved²⁰.
- Nine main sessions were approved, focused on: Digital Cooperation, Human Rights, Terrorist and Violent Extremist Content, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Sustainable Development Internet of Things (IoT), Emerging technologies, Digital Flow and Trust; Innovative tools for digital policy-making; and a main session dedicated to legislators.
- [MAG working groups](#) continued a documented work on workshop process improvements, fundraising, multiyear strategic improvements; engagement and outreach and session reporting²¹.

The Secretariat facilitated the inclusion in the program of 36 Open Forums, traditional sessions organized by government or international organizations. Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) were also approved to organize 14 sessions, bringing multistakeholder expert views on diverse topics. The programme was also enriched with the work of more than 30 NRIs that organized six collaborative thematic sessions.

Intersessional work and collaboration with National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives

Four IGF Best Practice Forums (BPFs) worked in the leadup to the Berlin on:

- BPF on Cybersecurity, *that looked at the implementation of cybersecurity agreements;*

²⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-workshop-selection-results>

²¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-working-groups>

- BPF on Internet of Things, Big Data and Artificial Intelligence, *that focused on addressing societal challenges by using IoT, Big Data and AI;*
- BPF on Local Content and, *that mapped ways to promote and preserve linguistic diversity, cultural heritage and local content in contexts of political upheaval;*
- BPF Gender and access *focused on women and gender-diverse people's participation in the digital economy.*

All four BPF sessions that took place in Berlin, exchanged views on policy challenges and best practices with relevant experts and stakeholder representatives. Insights and community feedback from the Berlin sessions also fed into the final reports published as the output of the IGF 2019 BPF work²².

IGF Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) continued their work as independent, multistakeholder expert discussion groups on a variety of topics, respecting common standards of transparency and inclusiveness (open archives, open membership, open mailing lists). The DC network specifically collaborated throughout the year to map their joint efforts to achieve the SDGs and have it discussed during their dedicated main session.

More than a hundred and twenty (120) [national, regional and youth IGF initiatives \(NRIs\)](#) identified through a bottom-up process their collective thematic focus on emerging technologies and prepared a dedicated session for the 14th IGF.

Both DCs and NRIs networks developed their bottom-up agendas related to their work plan and future process improvements on which they focused agendas for their traditional coordination sessions hosted in Berlin.

A.2 The 14th annual IGF meeting

The 14th annual IGF meeting was held from 25 to 30 November 2019 in Berlin, Germany, under the overarching title, 'One World. One Net. One Vision'. The 14th IGF provided a substantive multistakeholder platform for engaged and informed discussions about policy issues pertaining to the Internet, and how the Internet can support and fulfil the nexus of respecting human rights and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

A diversity of timely topics was covered under the programme's three broad themes, including but not limited to: (1) Digital Inclusion; (2) Data Governance; (3) Security, Safety, Stability and Resilience. Each of the three thematic tracks featured an introductory and concluding breakout session, facilitated by MAG members, that guided participants through expected discussions and ways to navigate the programme as well as the key concluding highlights.

²² <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/best-practice-forums-bpfs>

The three main themes identified by IGF participants as the highest priorities for 2019 complement the overarching theme of IGF 2019: *One World. One Net. One Vision*:

- *Data governance* addresses the challenges of strengthening the protection of people's fundamental rights and freedoms while working to ensure there is one interconnected and global Internet.
- Digital exclusion results entrench social and economic divides and exclusion based on gender, race, identity and income. *Digital inclusion* is to one network, one world and one vision, what social inclusion and human rights are to sustainable development and security.
- *Security, safety, stability and resilience* are paramount for the Internet to achieve its potential as a channel of free speech and an engine for economic growth.

To provide a high-level overview for decision-makers of the most current thinking on key Internet governance issues, discussions from the over 200 sessions held during IGF 2019 have been distilled into [Berlin IGF Messages](#)²³ on the three main themes, explained further below.

In addition to 37 thematic pre-events, Opening and Closing Sessions, the IGF 2019 programme featured nine main thematic sessions; 64 workshops; 36 open forums; 4 individual best practice forum (BPF) sessions; 14 individual dynamic coalition (DC) sessions; 6 individual national, regional, and youth (NRIs) collaborative sessions; 16 sessions classified as "other"; 6 introductory & concluding sessions; as well as a dedicated track for legislators. The reduced number of sessions in the programme compared to previous years is the result of the MAG's new 'programme shaping approach', which aimed at having more concrete, focused discussions, and fewer parallel or duplicate sessions, with a clear thematic orientation to the three key themes: (1) Data Governance; (2) Digital Inclusion; and (3) Security, Safety, Stability & Resilience.

The 14th IGF meeting was outcome-oriented. Tangible outputs and outcomes were produced by the IGF, its Host Country and participants²⁴. Besides the mentioned Berlin IGF Messages, the Host Country has also invested specific efforts in engaging a number of high-level participants in a dedicated track of round-table discussions focused on three main themes of the IGF, as well as on the importance of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) for Internet governance ecosystem. In addition, several months of intensive work on reaching out to parliaments from all parts of the world to engage them in the 14th IGF through a dedicated legislator's programme track that includes a legislator's main session, resulted in parliamentarians from 56 different countries agreeing on several important messages. Participants have also produced session reports within 12 hours of their session conclusion, while many stakeholders used the 14th IGF as a platform to launch several important processes and outcomes.²⁵ All these outcomes are explained further below.

²³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/berlin-igf-messages>

²⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-outputs>

²⁵ <https://yigf.de/news/youth-igf-summit-messages-of-berlin/>

Logistical innovations of the meeting had a strong environment-protection focus. For example, the organizers successfully cooperated with participants to have the meeting ‘paperless’, with all meeting information being available in a digital form using digital applications the Host developed. Organizers of the IGF Village were given dedicated online spaces to display their materials with QR codes that would lead participants directly to those online locations. Reusable water bottles and water refilling stations were also provided for participants to reduce waste from the event and a sustainability area was installed to inform participants.

In addition, the Government of Germany ensured that all meeting rooms and other venue facilities were fully accessible, provided child care services and assistance for people that need help were offered.

Improving visibility and tangible outcomes of the 14th IGF

The 14th IGF undoubtedly received strong visibility due to participation of the United Nations Secretary-General and the German Chancellor.

The IGF Host Country has oriented specific efforts toward engaging high-level stakeholders as participants from all sectors and disciplines. A large number of heads of states and governments, as well as leaders of intergovernmental and international organizations, civil society organizations, technical communities, academic institutions and private sector companies attended the 14th IGF in Berlin. The Host Country took an innovative approach to structuring the high-level participation. Namely, the German government focused the round-table discussions of the high-level participants on addressing three main themes of the IGF 2019 and synthesizing shared views in a [Day Zero Chairman’s Summary](#)²⁶ that, among other matters, brings understanding of participants on digitalization matters; free flow of data; human rights and security online; as well as views related to access and sustainable development issues. Additional Host’s efforts were oriented toward participants discussing the role of the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), with a general Day Zero consensus being wrapped in a form of an outcome document ([Elements of SME-Charter](#)²⁷), underlining the need for supporting the SMEs.

Intensive outreach efforts conducted toward parliaments to increase their participation, resulted in 165 legislators attending the 14th IGF meeting. 30 parliamentarians were approved to receive financial support from the Host Country. Through a dedicated programme track for legislators, members of parliaments from 56 countries, engaged in discussing the Internet governance matters throughout the meeting and their dedicated main session. Discussions resulted in a tangible outcome document composed of several messages for national parliaments on improving the state of Internet governance and digital cooperation ([Jimmy Schulz Call](#)²⁸).

²⁶ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/9212/1800

²⁷ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/9212/1801

²⁸ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/7505/1807

As mentioned, for the 2019 IGF meeting, tangible outputs of all sessions, nested under three main themes, were developed in the form of [‘Berlin IGF Messages’](#)²⁹ which feed into the IGF 2019 [Chair’s Summary](#)³⁰. Also, for the first time, thematic discussions are consolidated into a unique [IGF 2019 Booklet of Themes and Messages](#)³¹, available at the IGF website. The messages were developed on the basis of [session reports](#) received up to 12 hours after the session ends. An advanced reporting process was completely digitalized during the preparatory work for the 14th IGF, so the session organizers could submit reports through session webpage interfaces at the IGF website.

Many stakeholders that participate at the IGF 2019 annual meeting in Berlin, significantly contributed to raising IGF’s visibility and focusing the meeting on producing tangible [outputs and outcomes](#). Besides the mentioned reporting process from all sessions, some have launched important processes for the global Internet governance ecosystem, such as the launch of the [‘Contract for the Web’](#)³²; or [Youth Summit Messages](#)³³ on Internet governance priorities from more than 100 young people from 30 countries and many others, viewable in the [IGF 2019 Output repository webpage](#)³⁴.

To promote extensive stakeholder inclusion, the customary transcripts³⁵ and webcasts³⁶ from all the sessions were made available instantly. All sessions were also live-streamed, with archived videos accessible minutes after sessions were held. IGF social media channels, such as Twitter³⁷ and Facebook³⁸, were also particularly active during the busy week and facilitated additional platforms for dialogue. Official UN press releases³⁹ were produced same-day and posted on several UN news and media platforms.

[Video daily highlights](#) and [visual daily briefs](#) of the meeting dynamics were produced on each meeting day and instantly made publicly available at the IGF website and widely disseminated through social networks⁴⁰.

To facilitate the outreach efforts, the IGF Secretariat has created a dedicated [press-repository](#)⁴¹ section on its website, where IGF 2019 relevant information for the press and media were gathered. The host country invested extraordinary efforts to attract the media attention, including

²⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/berlin-igf-messages>

³⁰ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/9299/1809

³¹ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/9615/1963

³² <https://contractfortheweb.org/>

³³ <https://yigf.de/news/youth-igf-summit-messages-of-berlin/>

³⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-review-of-outputs>

³⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/igf-2019-transcripts>

³⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/user/igf>

³⁷ <https://twitter.com/intgovforum>

³⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/IntGovForum>

³⁹ <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/personnel-appointments/2019-11-25/ms-anriette-esterhuysen-of-the-republic-of-south-africa-chair-of-the-internet-governance-forum%E2%80%99s-multistakeholder-advisory-group>

⁴⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-review-of-outputs>

⁴¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/press>

the displaying of IGF 2019 large billboards in areas in the city of Berlin. As a result, the 14th IGF received broad media/press⁴² coverage.

The MAG Working Group on Outreach and Engagement ([WG-OE](#)) also took efforts to promote the IGF 2019 process and annual meeting, broadly. The IGF, in cooperation with the UN Department of Global Communications (DGC), produced several official [UN press releases](#) for broad dissemination. These efforts help the IGF to impact beyond the annual meeting to those hoping to learn more about digital policy issues, particularly in developing countries.

Organizations from five different continents joined the [IGF Village](#)⁴³ with 50 booths to share their work missions with the Forum's participants. The Village included representatives from all key stakeholder groups: governments and intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society, and the technical community.

During all three Open Consultations and MAG meetings, as well as during the annual IGF meeting, the UN DESA has regularly provided updates⁴⁴ on the financial state of the IGF Trust Fund to current donors and everyone else interested. A specific fund-raising drive session was hosted together with the MAG Chair at the 14th IGF in Berlin, to motivate other stakeholders to support the process.

A.3 Ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

The IGF continued to work on implementing the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF. These are 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 Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and the IGF Secretariat; the funding of the IGF; broadening participation and capacity-building, and linking the IGF to other Internet governance-related entities*⁴⁵.

Created as one of the major outcomes of the WSIS process, all of the work of the IGF Secretariat aims to ensure that the IGF facilitates implementation of all the agreed action lines, including, but not limited to; 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.

⁴² <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-press-information>

⁴³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-village>

⁴⁴ IGF Trust Fund presentations: <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/funding>

⁴⁵ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/4586/588

A.4 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 2019 annual meeting, preparatory process, and intersessional activities. Both physical open consultations and MAG meetings, as well as the annual meeting, were web-streamed and live transcriptions were provided via the IGF website. A remote participation platform (Zoom) was available for online participants to actively contribute to the discussions, through text questions or comments, or audio/video interventions.

WebEx and Zoom accounts the IGF has access to, were 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.

Online training sessions were held for IGF 2019 session rapporteurs to familiarize them with the Zoom platform. Onsite training was also provided for remote/online participation assistants.

As a result, approximately 3,000 people⁴⁶ participated online in the sessions, with 55 remote hubs⁴⁷ organized around the world. These included all regions: 54% from Africa, 14% from the Asia-Pacific region, 7% from Eastern Europe, 6% from Latin America and the Caribbean (GRULAC) and 19% from the group of the Western European and Other countries (WEOG), with an active online presence, video-sharing, and live-comments. There was more than one hub in Nigeria, Ghana, Chad, Benin, Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, India, Russia, Canada and Germany.

Remote/online participation details were published on the IGF website before each meeting. Prior to the meeting and updated manual and instruction were sent to the online participation session moderators and hub organizers. Also, successful training was organized for remote participation moderators and hub organizers to familiarize them with Zoom and WebEx.

⁴⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/igf-2019-online-attendees>

⁴⁷ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/igf-2019-remote-hubs>

B. Expected Accomplishment 2

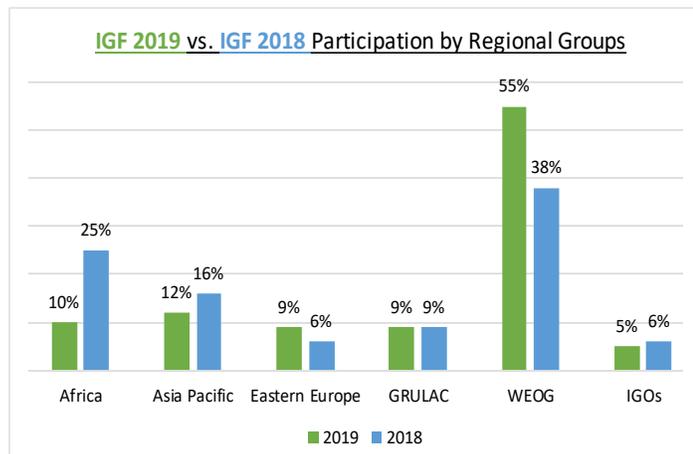
Enhanced collaboration among key organizations dealing with different Internet governance issues in support of development goals

B.1 Participation in the IGF 2019 Meeting

The [official statistics](#)⁴⁸ regarding the IGF 2019 participation were published on the IGF website shortly after the annual meeting ended. A total of 3,679 stakeholders participated in the 14th IGF from 161 different countries.

Comparative views of onsite participation statistics for the last two IGF meetings in Paris and Berlin are presented on the graphs showing an increase in participation by stakeholder and regional groups. The Host

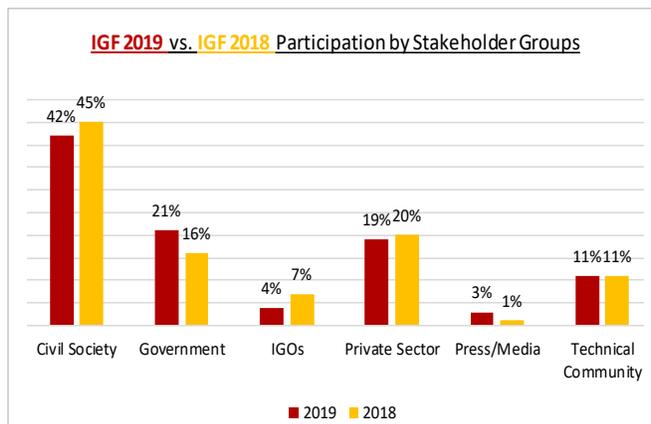
Country’s intensive outreach activities triggered a very high interest from domestic participants, which visibly resulted in an overall increase of the stakeholders coming from Western Europe. Given the fact that the overall participation from the African countries decreased, the IGF 2020 process will focus specific outreach to this region within its overall outreach strategy.



In addition, the IGF 2019 marked a similar gender balance of onsite participants as last year, with having 56% male, 42% female and 2% of participants identified as other. 53% of all participants did not attend any of the past IGF meetings.

Host Country has oriented specific efforts toward engaging high-level multistakeholder participants and those coming from the global south. Intensive outreach efforts were conducted toward parliaments around the world to increase the participation of legislators. Out of 165 parliamentarians from 56 countries that took active involvement in the IGF 2019, thirty (30) were approved for financial support.

⁴⁸ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-participation-and-programme-statistics>



In addition, the Government of Germany financially supported 76 stakeholders from developing countries, historically unrepresented at the IGF, following the open call for travel support⁴⁹. The Host Country specifically supported the in-country outreach activities also through large billboards displayed in bigger public areas of the city of Berlin. All these efforts have resulted in the so-far highest number of participants⁵⁰ at the IGF annual meeting.

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 five years. By the 2019 IGF annual meeting, 122 NRIs were recognized by the IGF Secretariat: 86 national, 18 regional and sub-regional and 18 youth IGFs.

Since the 2018 annual meeting of the IGF, 6 more countries have established IGF processes, increasing the number of national IGFs to 86, and 4 communities established Youth IGFs, increasing the total number to 18.

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 2019, 70 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.

Out of the 122 NRIs, 56 were physically present at the Berlin IGF and around 40 actively participated at the NRIs main session on the Emerging Technologies and their interfaces with inclusion, security and human rights. Approximately 40 different NRIs were involved in preparing 6 NRIs collaborative sessions during the IGF 2019 which focused on all three thematic themes.

⁴⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/supporting-participation-at-the-igf-2019-annual-meeting>

⁵⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-participation-and-programme-statistics>

B.3 IGF contributions to intergovernmental processes

Throughout the year, the IGF continuously strove to build an inclusive and comprehensive programme of relevance to all. Engagement in relevant processes led by the intergovernmental organizations is of critical importance to the IGF for actively participating in shaping digital public policy

One of these processes the IGF collaborated with is the [Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation \(HLPDC\)](#) that in its final report suggested as one of possible global digital cooperation mechanisms an advanced model of the IGF (“IGF Plus”). IGF Secretariat hosted online consultations in the lead-up to Berlin to collect feedback from Internet governance stakeholders on Internet-governance-related recommendations in the report of the HLPDC report⁵¹, which then informed discussions in Berlin on the report’s recommendations during a dedicated main session. The majority of received responses supported needed improvements to the IGF, described under the “IGF Plus” model in the report.

The IGF 2019 intersessional work also made significant progress on its broad impact and contributed to the intergovernmental processes. Particularly, the BPF on Cybersecurity took [active participation](#) during the [UN Open-Ended Working Group on Developments \(OEWG\)](#) in the field of Information and Telecommunications in the context of International Security in December at the UN headquarters in New York, where the lead coordinator [contributed](#) to the discussion with this BPF’s output documents. Several participants at the OEWG consultation acknowledged the IGF and BPF Cybersecurity as one of the places well suited for exchange of views on cybersecurity matters by various processes and stakeholders.

The IGF also feed into the 2019 editions of the UN annual multistakeholder [Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the Sustainable Development Goals \(STI Forum\)](#). The IGF 2019 Host Country – government of Germany, together with the UN DESA and MAG Chair participated in the forum and hosted a dedicated session for participating member states focusing on the IGF 2019 preparatory process, reasons and ways to take active participation.

The IGF continued to engage in the [ITU’s World Summit on the Information Society \(WSIS\)](#), by participating in its sessions, as well as by hosting a MAG meeting during the WSIS forum to enjoy benefits of Forum’s broad participation.

IGF also took active participation in the [European Commission’s High-Level Group on Internet governance \(HLIG\)](#), along with a number of member states and representatives of larger international organizations, research and academic institutions. The IGF 2019 Host Country was supported by the MAG Chair and IGF Secretariat in providing briefing on the status of the preparatory process during the face-to-face meeting of HLIG in The Hague.

⁵¹ Feedbacks about HLPDC report: <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/report-of-the-un-secretary-general%E2%80%99s-%E2%80%8Ehigh-level-panel-on-digital-cooperation>

The IGF Secretariat regularly participates in the annual sessions of the [United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development \(CSTD\)](#). In 2019 the IGF Secretariat, in addition to submitting a written input on its work, took active participation on the CSTD's panel on follow-up to WSIS outcomes.

Finally, the IGF Secretariat, as regular participant of the [eCommerce Week of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#), participated in the 2019 eCommerce Week engaging in discussions on matters related to digitalization for development.

B.4 Participation in various Internet governance-related events and processes

In addition to contributing to various intergovernmental processes, the IGF, as a multistakeholder process, also actively participated in various international, regional and national events to promote its core values, namely the 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. This is also one of the ways to develop capacity on Internet governance across various groups.

In order to bring the 14th IGF process closer to global community, a specific communication and outreach strategy was developed that resulted in raising visibility of the IGF through major gatherings of stakeholders, such as number of national and regional IGF initiatives where the IGF Secretariat and/or the MAG Chair participate remotely and in in-person.

Over the course of 2019 preparatory process, the IGF Secretariat and/or the MAG Chair attended some of the biggest regional IGF processes. Namely, the European IGF – EuroDIG in The Hague, The Netherlands; Russian IGF in Moscow; Asia Pacific IGF in Vladivostok, Russia; West African IGF in Banjul, The Gambia; the Latin American and Caribbean IGF in La Paz, Bolivia; and the South Eastern European IGF in Bucharest, Romania. In addition to this on-site participation that included briefing and engaging participants in the IGF 2019 process, the IGF Secretariat took active online participation in several NRIs.

The IGF Secretariat and/or the MAG Chair also participated in person in some of the largest global events on the Internet and social development, such as the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland; World Internet Conference in Wuzhen, China; Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) 64th meeting in Kobe, Japan.

C. Expected Accomplishment 3

Exchange of information to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet

C.1 Accessible and Inclusive Communication and Collaboration

Exchange of information among the stakeholders engaged in the IGF process is essential for the work of the IGF, given its bottom-up work nature. The MAG works primarily through up to three in-situ meetings and regular bi-monthly 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. During 2019, there were 269,996 visits to the IGF website⁵². This means an increase of almost 22% compared to a previous year, confirming an overall growing multiyear website traffic increase. The IGF website saw growth of close to 35% registered users⁵³, marking the 2019 year with a total of 13,178 registered individual users. Among the newly registered 4,554 new users in 2019, 38% were female, 61% male and 1% identified as other. Stakeholder-wise, newly registered website users came from civil society: 1830 (40%); private sector: 996 (22%); government: 753 (17%); technical community: 691 (15%) and intergovernmental organizations (IGO): 284 (6%). Regionally, the composition is balanced among: Africa: 1808 (40%); WEOG: 963 (21%); Asia Pacific: 877 (19%); GRULAC: 476 (11%); Eastern Europe: 230 (5%); IGO: 200 (4%). Most of the newly registered website users came from Germany, Nigeria, USA, India, Brazil, China, Kenya, Ghana, UK, Uganda, Congo DR and Pakistan. Further, access to the IGF website through mobile devices also showed an increase from 25% to 28% of all visitors⁵⁴.

The year-to-year website visits increased, particularly with a higher percentage from Eastern Europe and Africa. From a geographical point of view, the United States and Germany, as the IGF 2019 Host Country, had 14% of the page visits, with 4% coming from India, the United Kingdom and Switzerland followed with China, Brazil and Nigeria with 3% each.

The growth of social media activity amongst the IGF community also shows an increase, and accelerated during the 14th annual IGF meeting, with an increase of 16% Twitter followers to a total number of 8,862 followers and 8% of Facebook followers leading to a total number of 11,026 followers at the end of 2019. It is estimated that tweets about the 2019 IGF (#IGF2019)

⁵² IGF website and social media statistics and monitoring report:

https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/8318/1895

⁵³ 4,591 new users registered in 2019

⁵⁴ "Visit" refers to connections to the IGF website made from different devices, or from the same device, with a separation of at least 30 minutes.

reached several millions of interested stakeholders in the lead-up to and throughout the week of the annual meeting in Berlin.

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 populated an [online, interactive scheduling system](#). This allowed for sessions to be 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 displaying their Internet governance-related interests and expertise.

The IGF Secretariat continued to work with the Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability on ways to improve the overall accessibility of the website and its features. A number of technical process improvements were made to make the platforms accessible. Namely, the schedule was displayed in a format that is user-friendly toward stakeholders with visual impairment. Also, the IGF Secretariat transitioned to using Zoom platform for the facilitation of online meetings, given its user-friendly setup, compared to other used platforms.

Given an increased effort to produce tangible outputs and outcomes of the meeting, especially the thematic discussion outputs, a dedicated section on the IGF website served as a gathering point for all produced [IGF 2019 meeting outputs on a daily basis](#)⁵⁵ during all five days of the Berlin IGF discussions, including the ones produced by the IGF; Host Country – Government of Germany; meeting participants and DiploFoundation and Geneva Internet Platform. The [final formatting of the IGF 2019 Outputs](#)⁵⁶ was made available at the IGF website shortly after the meeting in Berlin concluded.

C.2 MAG Chair’s Blog and Document Repository

In 2019, 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, intersessional documentation as well as transcripts and reports of the various sessions held during the annual IGF 2019 meeting. All these were accessible and mobile-friendly.

MAG Chair⁵⁷ wrote a message after the first open Consultation and MAG meeting for 2019. In her message MAG chair come across the main points discussed, and decisions made in during the meeting.

⁵⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-outputs-table-view>

⁵⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-outputs>

⁵⁷ MAG Chair Message: <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/mag-chair-s-blog>

An online [repository](#) for media/press relevant documents on the IGF 2019 process was also created, to support the marketing and outreach of the Berlin meeting. Other existing sections of an online document [repository](#) on the IGF website were continued to be populated with relevant information about the meeting, searchable by key term.

In order to foster and prompt the engagement among stakeholders, a [List of Resources Persons](#) was put at the community's disposal to create profiles with interests and biographies. The [list](#), searchable by regional and stakeholder groups, was also placed at the disposal of the IGF 2019 session organizers that search for experts on a particular topic from a particular region or sector.

C.3 IGF 2019 Outputs

As outlined in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, the publication of the [IGF's proceedings](#)⁵⁸ are part of the Forum's mandate. In fulfilling this part of the mandate, the IGF Secretariat produced and published the [IGF 2018 proceedings](#), which included all transcripts and reports of sessions held during the 13th IGF annual meeting⁵⁹.

The [IGF 2019 Chair's Summary](#)⁶⁰ 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, 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.

To provide a high-level overview for decision-makers of the most current thinking on key Internet governance issues, discussions from the over 200 sessions held during IGF 2019 have been distilled into [Berlin IGF Messages](#) on the three main themes of data governance, digital inclusion, and security, safety, stability and resilience. These were made available at the IGF website on each meeting day, reflecting daily discussions and final consolidated version was announced on the last day. Post-meeting, participants were given time to digest the messages and advise on substantial improvements, before the final version of messages was formatted in a form of an [IGF 2019 Booklet of Themes and Messages](#). This reporting-out process of developing a concrete thematic output of more than 200 sessions, was done on the basis of input session reports received the session organizers within 12 hours of their session end. Reports were made available at the IGF website, as soon as submitted, curated together with session transcripts and videos.

A year-long preparatory process of the four best practice forums resulted in tangible output documents. The [BPF on Cybersecurity](#)⁶¹ documented its work focused on global implementation

⁵⁸ IGF Proceedings available at: <http://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-annual-meetings-proceedings>

⁵⁹ IGF 2018 Proceedings available at:

https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/6037/1555

⁶⁰ IGF 2019 Chair summary:

https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/9299/1809

⁶¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-cybersecurity>

of cybersecurity agreements with the output document directly contributing to several global processes, such as the [UN Open-Ended Working Group on Developments \(OEWG\)](#) in the field of Information and Telecommunications in the context of International Security. The [Gender and Access BPF](#)⁶²'s final output document outlined the women and gender-diverse people's participation in the digital economy. The [BPF on Local Content](#)⁶³ in its final output document looked at ways to promote and preserve linguistics diversity, cultural heritage and local content in contexts of political upheaval, while the [BPF on Internet of Things, Big Data and Artificial Intelligence](#)⁶⁴ focused on the use of IoT, Big Data and AI to address societal challenges.

As mentioned above, an online overview of all [IGF 2019 Outputs](#), including those coming from the IGF, Host Country, participants and DiploFoundation and Geneva Internet Platform, were redesigned and made available during the meeting⁶⁵. Videos and photos of the meeting were uploaded to the IGF YouTube account and IGF website (YouTube for videos; Flickr and Facebook for photos) and a gathering point for the press coverage⁶⁶ of the 14th IGF meeting was also made visible at the IGF website.

The IGF Host Country invested particular efforts in producing concrete, tangible output documents of the high-level segment and legislators track. These efforts resulted in produced [messages from legislators \(Jimmy Schulz Call\)](#)⁶⁷, as well as the high-level track participants notes on the [small and medium-sized enterprises \(Elements of SME-Charter\)](#)⁶⁸ and [overall consolidation of high-level participants' views on 14th IGF's themes](#)⁶⁹.

C.4 Dynamic Coalitions and National, Regional, Sub-regional and Youth IGFs

Extending and developing on a process which began in 2015 with their first-ever main session at the IGF, 18 Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) coordinated their efforts throughout 2019 leading up to the annual meeting. Through their regular monthly virtual meetings and adoption of common work standards, their activities have become more synchronized, while coalitions continue to work independently as multistakeholder expert discussion groups on a variety of topics. A majority of DCs produced papers on [linkages](#) of their work with the SDGs⁷⁰. This substantive work culminated in a multi-themed and engaging main session, following up coalitions' joint main sessions held since 2015.

Similarly, the 122 national, regional, sub-regional and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs) collaborated throughout the year to host a main session and collaborative sessions, in addition to a multistakeholder collaboration on local levels for the NRIs meetings to take place. Output

⁶² <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-gender-and-access>

⁶³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-on-local-content>

⁶⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-internet-of-things-iot-big-data-and-artificial-intelligence-ai>

⁶⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-outputs>

⁶⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-press-information>

⁶⁷ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/7505/1807

⁶⁸ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/9212/1801

⁶⁹ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/9212/1800

⁷⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dc-coordination-activities>

documents, as well as annual reports of the NRIs annual meetings, are regularly published on the [IGF website](#)⁷¹. A collaborative work of all NRIs focused on preparing their collectively co-organized sessions was facilitated by the IGF Secretariat throughout the year and reports for all hosted online meetings were posted on the IGF website, in addition to other process-related records. Through a bottom-up, consultative process among all NRIs, the main session focused on the role of emerging technologies for people, while six collaborative sessions focused on topics of cybersecurity, access, human rights, data protection, privacy online and harmful content online. A documented year-long process was based on submitted case-study inputs consolidated into output documents and final session reports⁷².

Both the NRIs and DCs hosted their open work meetings in Berlin, with representatives of the IGF Secretariat, DESA and MAG Chair to take stock of the work done so far and suggest ways forward.

In addition to this collaborative process, the exchanges among NRIs and the broader community were facilitated through the NRIs hosting a joint booth at the IGF Village and presenting their work.

D. Expected Accomplishment 4

Strengthen the capacity of developing country stakeholders to participate effectively in Internet governance arrangements

D.1 Participation of Developing Countries in IGF 2019

The IGF sees the participation of developing countries critical for Forum's success. Its mandate calls for strengthening and enhancing of the stakeholder engagement from developing countries and to contribute to building capacity for Internet governance in developing countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise. Also, during the 13th IGF, the United Nations Secretary-General has called for action to increase inclusiveness in the IGF processes. The Secretary-General underlined that the IGF must increase its efforts to draw upon the "weak and missing voices" into the IGFs work. It was also called for a broader multidisciplinary approach, to involve experts not traditionally involved in the IGF processes. The community also echoed for more inclusion and diversity in the IGF's participation spectrum.

With a clear willingness to address the above, the IGF 2019 Host Country contributed 650,000 USD to the IGF's actions on engaging the stakeholders from developing countries into the IGF 2019. Concretely, 76 participants have been financially supported to participate in-person at the Berlin IGF meeting. The application process was facilitated through an [open call](#)⁷³ for travel

⁷¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives>

⁷² <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-nris%C2%A0preparatory-process>

⁷³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/supporting-participation-at-the-igf-2019-annual-meeting>

support. Selection of more than 800 received applications was based on a list of published criteria and selection procedures in the call. Priority was given to participants coming from least developed or landlocked developing countries (LDC/LLDC), small island developing states (SIDS) or transitional economies, that demonstrate an interest in Internet governance-related activities and show a demonstrated commitment to contribute to its community after participating at the IGF 2019 meeting. Preference was given to candidates from underrepresented groups (women, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, older persons, youth).

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 14th annual meeting. In 2019, more than 80 travelers for MAG members and were supported through the IGF Trust Fund, in line with eligibility criteria.⁷⁴

Selected participants came from LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS from all five continents (40% from Africa; 23% from Asia Pacific; 15% from GRULAC, and 2% from Eastern European).

The host government also put efforts to involve law and policymakers from around the world. Out of 165 members of parliaments that participated in the meeting, 30 received financial support. Through a specific track of sessions and meetings, the host country made a remarkable effort to awaken interest and long-term engagement of legislators into the IGF processes.

The Secretariat has received a number of invitations from NRIs to attend their annual meetings. However, due to financial constraints, they could only participate in few of these meetings onsite, such as: European IGF (EuroDIG), Russian IGF, Asia Pacific IGF, West African IGF, Latin American and Caribbean IGF, South Eastern European IGF (SEEDIG). All 2019 NRI meetings were carefully followed, in order to understand local perspectives and learn more about their processes.

D.2 Capacity Development in Internet Governance

Noting different Internet governance priorities and level of resources across countries and regions, and in order to foster the development of the Internet governance ecosystem on local levels, the IGF Secretariat with the support of the IGF donors, allocated nine [financial grants](#)⁷⁵ to the national and regional IGFs whose work scope directly impacts the multistakeholder communities of least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS). Namely, a 10,000 USD grant were allocated to two regional IGFs in Africa and Asia Pacific; while a 3,000 USD grant was given to seven national IGF initiatives: Gambia IGF, Chad IGF, Haiti IGF, Nepal IGF, Zambia IGF, Malawi IGF and

⁷⁴ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/igf-meeting/416-eligibility-criteria-for-funding-a-meeting-participant/file>

⁷⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/capacity-development-in-internet-governance>

Burkina Faso IGF. The purpose of these grants was to support the implementation of the local IGF processes and particularly to support the inclusion of underrepresented stakeholders.

Given that the Asia Pacific region has been historically underserved regarding submission of workshop proposals, compared to other regions, and in order to raise the participation of countries from this region, especially developing countries, the IGF Secretariat carried a capacity development [workshop](#)⁷⁶ on how to submit a good session proposal and participate at the IG during the 64th ICANN meeting in Japan. Also, a capacity development work framework was created during the IGF 2019, that will serve as a base for the 2020 project plans of the IGF.

D.3 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 2019, two interns, one female and one male, from China and one female fellow from Afghanistan joined the IGF Secretariat. The interns and fellow have had the opportunity to work directly on Internet governance issues and benefit from unparalleled, up-close expertise engaging with the IGF community.

Conclusion

The annual meeting was hosted by the Government of Germany from 25 to 30 November 2019 in Berlin. Convened for the fourteenth time since its establishment, the IGF once again brought together representatives from government, technical community, business and civil society to discuss amplifying digital cooperation. Under the overarching theme ‘One World. One Net. One Vision.’, 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 (SDGs).

2019 stood out for the IGF, due to a more focused and cohesive programme structure, broader political visibility, strengthened multistakeholder participation, focused efforts in engaging legislators and stakeholders from the global south countries, as well as due to a more advanced way of producing tangible outputs.

The overall preparatory process for the 14th annual IGF meeting was very dynamic, implemented through three face-to-face meetings of the MAG, nineteen online meetings, as well as over a hundred online meetings of the MAG working groups, as well as the community-led work

⁷⁶ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/3349/1541

through the intersessional activities, including the BPFs and DCs and the collaboration with the NRIs.

Following the community's pulse, expressed in a bottom-up manner, the MAG streamlined the overall programme around the three main themes: Data Governance; Digital Inclusion and Security, Safety, Stability and Resilience.

Four IGF Best Practice Forums (BPFs) worked in the leadup to the Berlin on:

- Implementing cybersecurity agreements (BPF on Cybersecurity)
- Using IoT, Big Data, AI to address societal challenges (BPF on Internet of Things, Big Data and Artificial Intelligence)
- Promoting and preserving linguistic diversity, cultural heritage and local content in contexts of political upheaval (BPF on Local Content)
- Beyond access: Women and gender-diverse people's participation in the digital economy (BPF Gender and access)

BPF sessions on these topics exchanged views on policy challenges and best practices with relevant experts and stakeholder representatives and consolidated overall preparatory work in final output documents, each.

An important objective for the Government of Germany throughout its preparations has been to strengthen the IGF and the relevance of the multistakeholder approach to maintain a truly global, inclusive, open, free and human rights-centered Internet without barriers. Therefore, the German government has financially supported 76 individual stakeholders to participate at the Berlin IGF meeting. Further, to make the IGF more multidisciplinary, as the UN Secretary-General advised during the IGF 2018 in Paris, the Host Country invested specific efforts in engaging the SMEs, legislators and high-level participants.

IGF Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) continued their work as independent, multistakeholder expert discussion groups on a variety of topics, respecting common standards of transparency and inclusiveness (open archives, open membership, open mailing lists).

More than 120 National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) used a bottom-up consultative process to agree on topic, "Emerging Technologies", as a main priority issue for NRI discussion in Berlin. In addition, based on national and regional discussions held in NRIs in the leadup to IGF 2019, NRIs organized six collaborative sessions on topics of mutual interest:

To discuss the long-term sustainability of the DCs and NRIs, each network hosted a separate coordination session.

During the 14th annual IGF meeting, more than 3,679 participants from 111 countries actively participated in 200 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.

IGF 2019 was also logistically an innovative meeting, focusing on protecting the environment by making the meeting ‘paperless’ and using digital applications instead printed-materials, as well as by making available reusable water bottles and water refilling stations to reduce waste. The Host Country ensured that the venue is completely accessible, providing assistance to people with disabilities and others that needed it, as well as a child care service.

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 one of the highest priorities and the IGF will continue investing efforts in 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 a collaboration with NRIs. This year marked the IGF Secretariat supporting nine NRIs with financial grants, thanks to the IGF donors and further possibilities for this useful capacity development mechanism are being explored.

The [15th annual meeting of the IGF](#) will be hosted by the Government of Poland from 2 to 6 November 2020 in Katowice under the overarching theme: Internet United⁷⁷. 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.

⁷⁷ <https://igf2020.pl/>