

IGF 2020 Taking Stock and Suggesting Improvements for IGF 2021

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Stakeholder group: Civil Society

Region: Wester European and Others Group (WEOG)

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Input:

We believe that IGF 2020 has been a great success. Some of the points related to the organization aspects we would like to highlight as more positive are as follows:

- The previous preparation of the contents of the sessions has been thorough and very professional, giving room for all stakeholders to participate. We have been mainly involved in the sessions related to NRIs. We want to highlight the excellent work done by Anja Gengo to organize the NRIs collaborative sessions and the NRIs main session.
- The web site to access a detailed program of sessions that gave the possibility of setting up a custom calendar was really helpful. This should be maintained for future editions of the IGF.
- The dissemination of the sessions over the Internet and the previous preparation with the speakers has worked very well and has been perfectly organized.

We want to send our most effusive congratulations to everyone who has participated in the organization of IGF 2020 for the great work done.

In relation to the organization of IGF 2021 we have some suggestions for possible consideration.

- **A hybrid face-to-face and online format should be maintained.** The online access format to the sessions confers very important advantages to the event, making possible a higher participation, so, in the future, after the pandemic, it should evolve towards a hybrid model that allows online and face-to-face participation.
- **Session recording.** The sessions were recorded on YouTube which is very useful, since there was a high number of sessions and several of them took place at the same time. However, we saw that links to recorded sessions have not been included in an

updated version of the sessions program to allow easy access. Perhaps the inclusion of this feature could be considered for the next edition.

- **Event duration.** The three-week duration of the event may be a little long. Perhaps it could be considered a reduction of the duration for the IGF 2021.
- **Participation of parliamentarians and governments.** We believe that the participation of governments and parliamentarians is a crucial aspect for the success of IGF, so it should be promoted, and specially that from the host country that would allow, more easily, a face-to-face format. The possibility to organize side events should be also considered.