

## **IGF 2016**

**6 – 9 December 2016, Jalisco, Mexico**

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### **- Summary Report -**

#### **IGF 2016 Newcomers Track Mentors Session**

**5 December 2016, 12:00 – 13:30 p.m., Workshop Room 6**

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**Co-moderators:** Ms. Bianca Ho, IGF MAG Member and Ms. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat

#### **Opening key speakers:**

- Mr. Markus Kummer, IGfSA, ICANN
- Ms. Marilyn Cade, IGF MAG
- Ms. Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat
- Mr. Wim Degezelle IGF Secretariat
- Ms. Anri Van Der Spy, IGF Secretariat

#### **A. Introduction and Newcomers Track objectives**

The co-moderators explained that the IGF 2016 Newcomers Track aims to help participants attending the IGF annual meeting for the first time, to understanding the IGF processes and to foster the integration of all new-coming stakeholders into the IGF community. In line with this, the Track's structural programme of five continues daily sessions was presented, as it follows below:

- 6 December, 13:30 -14:15 p.m. at the Workshop Room 4. IGF Newcomers track Knowledge Cafe Session: Private sector and Technical Community at the IGF: What is the role of these stakeholder groups within the IGF and ways for your engagement?
- 7 December, 13:30 - 14:15 p.m. at the Workshop Room 4. IGF Newcomers track Knowledge Cafe Session: The role of Governments and IGOs at the IGF and ways for engagement. Speak to: Council of Europe and European Commission
- 8 December, 13:30 -14:15 p.m. at the Workshop Room 4. IGF Newcomers Track Knowledge Cafe Session: The role of the civil society at the IGF, working modalities and ways for engagement

- 9 December, 13:30 -14:15 p.m. at the Workshop Room 4. IGF Newcomers Track: Let the IGF learn from you! Tell the IGF what would you improve and find out how to engage with the IGF 2017 intersessional work.

It was explained that the main goal of these Knowledge Cafes Session was to showcase that each stakeholder group has its own role within the multistakeholder configuration, where the quality of the entire process depends on joint collaboration of everyone.

## **B. Summary of key points raised**

An overview of the history of the IGF was presented, reflecting the WSIS processes and convening of the IGF, in line with referencing to the Tunis Agenda from where the IGF stems its mandate.

The IGF structure was explained, along with elaborating the role of the IGF Secretariat, the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) as well as the role of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).

After this segment, speakers explained the notions of the IGF community intersessional work, and its structural segments, referencing to the Best Practice Forums (BPF), other substantive projects such as the Connecting the Next Billion (CNB), Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) and the National, Regional and Youth IGFs (NRIs).

Speakers explained the need and the ways for community's engagement through the regular open meetings and calls for inputs and contributions.

After the overview of the IGF history and essence of the community intersessional work was presented, participants were encouraged to comment and ask relevant questions. Below sections summarized received inputs from the participants:

- Questions related to the MAG members were raised. Mainly, it was asked if the MAG members represent their countries and organizations they are coming from. Speakers referenced to the MAG ToRs and explained that each member serve in its individual capacity, where the overall number of MAG members aims for regional, stakeholder and gender diversity and equal representations.
- Some participants asked for ways of engagement with the national and regional IGFs. Speakers explained that there are many ways, but the first step would be to visit the IGF website, and contact the IGF Secretariat to be put in communication with the NRIs coordinators and team members.
- Some participants shared their experiences as newcomers to the IGF and other international organizations from the field, with encouraging first time coming participants to network and ask everything it is of their interest. Young people were in particular advised to stay involved, as the community needs fresh perspectives.
- Participants asked for additional explanation on how the topics are chosen for Best Practice Forums. It was explained that they have been selected in a bottom up process, based on received inputs from the community, and finalized and approved by the MAG.

- Many participants noted that this session was a good way for the first time coming participants to understand the process. Some complimented that the openness and welcoming atmosphere for this session was particularly positive aspect.