

IGF Stock Taking Contribution

9th February

Joash Ntenga Moitui

Centre for Human Rights and Policy Studies

I note with great appreciation the commitment by the IGF secretariat and the entire IGF community to ensure a seamless and engaging 2017 IGF. Against this backdrop, I submit the following contribution to the IGF Stock Taking Process, focused on shaping the outcomes of the IGF processes funding of IGF, and broadening participation and linkage of IGF and internet governance-related entities.

1. Shaping the outcomes of IGF meetings

While maintaining the IGF as a non-binding, non-decision-making and non duplicative forum, it is important to improve the quality and format of IGF outcomes to enhance the impact of the IGF on global Internet governance and policy. For this purpose, it is necessary that IGF outcomes clearly reflect the full diversity of opinions on key policy issues of the multi-stakeholder IGF community. In addition, more tangible and visible IGF outcomes combined with enhanced communication tools and strategy would also improve outreach.

2. Broadening Participation and Capacity building

Although participation in the IGF has increased with time, it should be further broadened, both at the annual meeting and in its preparatory phase, to involve new stakeholders, in particular from developing countries and especially LDCs, and persons with disabilities and other underrepresented groups. Broadening participation enhances the IGF's openness and inclusiveness and fosters effective multi-stakeholder policy dialogue and productive capacity-building. For this purpose, questions related to existing obstacles that limit greater involvement should be addressed. It is important to acknowledge that remote participation is now an integral part of the IGF and that adequate resources should be made available to develop this activity further. Each year the IGF partners with IGF community organizations to facilitate the travel and participation of IGF stakeholders from developing countries at IGF meetings. More fellowship and sponsorships programs offered to young people interested in Internet governance related issues need to be available.

3. Funding of IGF

Currently, the IGF relies on voluntary funding, including host-country and other in-kind contributions. While maintaining the present funding model, it is important to increase voluntary funding to enhance the long-term predictability and stability of funding contributions and create continuity of funds for the IGF activities. It is useful to explore additional ways to encourage voluntary contributions, in particular to support participation from developing countries and

especially LDCs. Stable, predictable, and voluntary funding should also cover remote participation management and technical expenses. The Secretariat and the host country should work together to ensure the availability of adequate technical and human resources, including a remote moderator.

4. Linking IGF to Internet-governance related activities

It is important for the IGF to continue and improve its interaction and communication with other Internet governance-related entities in order to further global policy dialogue. This goal can be achieved by developing a defined outreach and communication strategy.