

## **Contribution of the Government of the United States of America**

### ***IGF Community Public Consultation: Call for Inputs – Taking stock of the 2017 work programme and 12th IGF and suggestions for 2018 and 13th IGF***

**February 2018**

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The U.S. Government appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Community Public Consultation.

The United States thanks Government of Switzerland, the Canton and the City of Geneva for hosting the 12<sup>th</sup> IGF. We also thank the IGF Secretariat and the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) for their tireless efforts in planning the IGF event and developing its program, as well as MAG Chair Lynn St. Amour for her guidance and leadership throughout the preparatory process.

The annual IGF is the premier global forum for multistakeholder dialogue on cross-cutting Internet governance and policy issues. In this unique environment, free from the pressures of formal negotiations and decision-making, stakeholders from all sectors are able to share ideas and exchange best practices, and to build global, collaborative relationships to address areas of mutual interest.

The value of the multistakeholder discussions that take place during the IGF depends in part upon the diversity of perspectives included. We note that there is a lesser degree of participation by some stakeholder groups at the IGF relative to others. The United States encourages the MAG to consider, in particular, how to encourage greater and more diverse participation from the private sector, as well as government officials from developing countries.

While we appreciate that, as at the date of writing, there is no host country agreement in place for the IGF in 2018, we nonetheless encourage the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the IGF Secretariat to announce the membership of the new MAG and MAG meeting dates as soon as possible. Going forward, we suggest that the announcement of the new MAG and host country occur during the closing session of the IGF event, if not earlier. Providing this information on a timely basis will greatly assist the IGF community in their intercessional work and planning efforts.

Finally, we appreciate the innovation this year of producing syntheses of key points from the main sessions. The “Geneva Messages” respond nicely to the recommendation of the Working Group on IGF Improvements to produce more tangible outputs. More can be done, however, to disseminate the intercessional work of the IGF community and to share insights from the workshop and open forum sessions. We thus encourage the MAG to continue to explore ways to capture, package, and promote the outputs of the IGF.

The United States looks forward to continued, active participation in the IGF and its intercessional processes.