

## **Taking stock of the 2017 IGF and suggestions for 2018**

### **A Best Practice Forum and Dynamic Coalitions' perspective**

This contribution to the IGF 2017 stock-taking process is written in a personal capacity and from the perspective of someone who was involved in the organization of the Best Practice Forum (BPF) on Cyber-Security as well as the main session of the Dynamic Coalitions (DCs). Both tracks had a first stock-taking session during the 2017 IGF and the DCs followed-up on it with a dedicated call on 5 February.

There are some commonalities emerging from both processes:

In particular it was noted that there was a lack of interaction between all intersessional activities and they all seemed to follow their own agenda, work-plan, timeline and methodology. While it was understood that they all have their own dynamics, it was felt nevertheless that it would be conducive to a better coherence of the annual IGF meeting if there were a better flow of information between all these activities. They can all learn from each other and their respective approaches. In addition, the National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs) lend themselves as a great channel for outreach and, in return, they connect the exchange at the global level with on the ground examples and expertise.

Among other things, it was suggested that it would be helpful to have

- calls between all BPFs, but also between BPFs and DCs as well as NRIs in order to enable synergies and cross-fertilization between the different tracks;
- synchronized timelines for all intersessional activities, such as common deadlines for submitting papers and list of speakers for individual session.

Some useful suggestions for improving the process were made in 2015 by the consultants who had supported the BPFs<sup>1</sup>. The document addresses many of the above points and also contains suggestions with regard to outreach and dissemination of the output.

From the BPF perspective it was felt that in 2017 the work had suffered mainly due to the late hiring of consultants. This had a negative impact on the preparation of the report, but also on coordination between them. It was hoped that decisions on the 2018 themes for BPFs would be taken as early as possible and consultants would be hired soon thereafter to provide the necessary Secretariat support to the BPF work.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/igf-meeting/igf-2016/takingstock/694-contribution-from-igf-best-practice-forums-bpfs-consultants/file>