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Stakeholder group: Civil society
Region: WEOG / Eastern Europe
Organization: Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD)
Whether you are submitting in your individual capacity? No, on behalf of the GFMD secretariat

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-community-public-consultation-taking-stock-of-the-2018-work-programme-and-13th-igf-and>

All IGF stakeholders are invited to submit inputs to the IGF Secretariat related to the following questions. All inputs will be posted on the IGF website. Please be as concrete as possible. Please also state your name, stakeholder group, region, organization, and whether you are submitting in your individual capacity.

A) Taking Stock of 2018 programming, outputs, preparatory process, community intersessional activities and the 13th annual IGF: What worked well? What worked not so well?

The IGF this year was, overall, well organised. For instance, registration was easy and quick, and UNESCO staff were very accommodating throughout the planning process. I also appreciated how warm Radhika was and how easy it was to work with her on the CENB process.

What we found problematic, however, was that little weight seemed to be given to the call for issues, which could have resulted in a less condensed programme that is more akin to the way that EuroDIG is organised. Moreover, there were too many sessions happening at the same time, many of which were related to the same issues. This stems, in part, from the lack of an official 4-day event and the exclusion of an official Day 0, which also made the IGF one of the most hectic. It left little time for people to connect, and was often overwhelming at times given that many individuals, due to distance, time commitments, etc., are only available during the IGF each year.

Overall, though, our biggest criticism has to do with how little journalists and news media are included in the overall IGF process. There is hardly an aspect of journalism and the news media sector that is not touched by Internet policy, and how the Internet and ICTs are governed, develop, and evolve. Yet, journalists organisations, news media, journalism support, and media development organisations are consistently missing from these important conversations despite their increasing relevance. Given this reality, we released a statement that calls on the global Internet governance community to recognise the need for broader inclusion of journalists and the news media community within the IGF and wider Internet governance ecosystem. We also called on journalism organisations, news media, and journalism support and media development organisations to be more engaged in Internet governance bodies and processes,

as we recognise that it requires mutual work within our respective communities to increase engagement. You can see the full statement here: <https://gfmf.info/gfmf-calls-for-broader-inclusion-of-journalists-in-internet-governance/>

B) What suggestions for improvements could be made for 2019? (Please focus on programming, the outputs preparatory processes, community intersessional activities and improvements for the 14th annual meeting and beyond.)

Having the larger IGF community and its stakeholder groups have a more significant say in who is chosen for the MAG would be a great step, as well as ensuring that journalism and media development is represented each year on the MAG.

C) How could the IGF respond to the recommendations made by the UN Secretary-General during his speech at the IGF 2018 Opening Ceremony?

N/A

D) How could the IGF respond to President Macron's "call for action" made during his speech at the IGF 2018 Opening Ceremony?

N/A

E) What other organizations/disciplines should the IGF be collaborating with and how/to what purpose?

As mentioned, journalism support and media development networks.

F) The Secretary-General set up a High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation (HLPDC) to "identify good examples and propose modalities for working cooperatively across sectors, disciplines and borders to address challenges in the digital age"

1. How can the IGF contribute to the work of the HLPDC to help foster these aims?

The IGF should be seen as central to the HLPDC process and overall recommendations/actions/plans going forward since it is an official UN event.

2. Do you have any specific inputs for the HLPDC in relation to the IGF?

We already contributed to a joint civil society submission coordinated by Sheetal Kumar (Global Partners Digital).

All inputs should be sent to [takingstock \[at\] intgovforum \[dot\] org](mailto:takingstock@intgovforum.org) by 15 January 2019. Submissions will be made public on the IGF website as received.