

## **IGF COMMUNITY PUBLIC CONSULTATION: TAKING STOCK OF THE 2018 WORK PROGRAMME AND 13TH IGF AND SUGGESTIONS FOR 2019 AND 14TH IGF - ICANN CONTRIBUTION**

ICANN is honoured to have the opportunity to contribute to this annual stocktaking exercise.

*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?*

ICANN has, along with others, been positive in their assessment of the landmark IGF in Paris last November. In many ways, this was a ground-breaking meeting. It was the first time the UN Secretary General had physically addressed an IGF and the President of a host country had addressed the Opening Ceremony. It will, though, be remembered for the important address by President Macron. With Calls from both the President and the UN Secretary General for the IGF to evolve into a more policy orientated vehicle (rather than just a discussion forum) and from the former for it to be a direct responsibility of the Secretary General, it is clear that new approaches from all participants may will be needed. The President also used the occasion to launch his (so-called) Paris Call for Trust and Security; initiating a debate that will be continued at the 2019 IGF in Berlin.

For ICANN, the IGF was also positive. We were honoured to have our CEO, Goran Marby, and Board Chairman, Cherine Chalaby invited to take part in the Paris Peace Forum on the Sunday, an event, celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the armistice of the first world war, and for Goran Marby to speak in the IGF High Level Panel on the Monday afternoon at the IGF.

Was also excellent to see the post publication of the Paris Messages, which will be key input to the forthcoming discussion in the MAG on developing a strategy and focussed themes for 2019.

*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.)*

We look forward to the discussion in the MAG on the lessons learned from the 2018 IGF and on a debate as to how new ideas and initiatives could be used for the 2019 IGF. While recognising the unique nature of the Paris meeting, we would hope, in 2019, that there would be a Day 0 for different activities and a normal IGF Programme of four days.

While the Paris IGF did, indeed, witness high level government engagement, especially at the Opening, we did not see any significant increase on governmental attendance overall. We also, with some exceptions, did not see an increase in business representation. For Berlin, therefore, there is significant work to be done, both in the MAG, and in the general Internet Community to reach out and engage with those governments and businesses whom are yet to appreciate the value of this unique fora.

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

We think it is important that the MAG have the opportunity to discuss those elements of the important address of the UN Secretary General, which touched directly on IGF issues, these including how an IGF Meeting can become more results orientated. As such we would hope that serious consideration is given to the Recommendations from the IGF Working Group on a Strategic Multiyear Work Programme.

*D) How could the IGF respond to President Macron’s “call for action” made during his [speech at the IGF 2018 Opening Ceremony](#)?*

The speech by President Macron touched on a range of themes which merit further consideration by the Internet community including the IGF MAG. We are pleased to hear that at the forthcoming MAG meeting there will be an opportunity to discuss the messages from the speech and to consider any actions that may be appropriate.

It will be also worth the MAG discussing those elements of the address which could contribute to overall themes for the Berlin 2019 IGF. Among such we believe the rallying call in the address for a continuation of a single and open Internet should be considered as a significant theme for this year. ICANN, along with other stakeholders considers widescale Internet shutdowns a significant concern.

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

The IGF has always been, and should always be, an open church. Through the open nature of its own processes, and particularly through the NRIs it naturally reaches a diverse and comprehensive range of stakeholders.

We should not, however, be complacent and should do all we can to reach stakeholders who do not, as yet, fully engage; whether they be parts of government, business, the Technical Community or Civil Society.

We would suggest that, in the lead up to the 2019 IGF (in Berlin) that outreach to new audiences be something which the MAG should focus on.

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

The opportunity for the HL Panel Secretariat, and some of Panel members, to discuss issues with the IGF Community in Paris was, we believe, very positive. The latter has considerable experience and knowledge of digital cooperation (after all that is what the IGF is partly about) and thus there is a natural synergy with the HL Panel.

While the HL Panel is having their final physical meeting *ahead* of the IGF MAG Session in Geneva this month, we believe it would be very useful if an element of the Open Consultation in Geneva could be set aside for discussion on what the IGF Community believes should be priorities for the Report for the UN SG that will be drafted.

We would also like the Panel (and are encouraged in this context by the remarks of the UN Secretary General at the Opening of the 2018 IGF in Paris) to reflect on the unique role of the IGF and thus look at ways in which it can be made more sustainable, from a financial viewpoint. We also look forward to reflections from the Panel, on how a broader and higher-level stakeholder representation can be achieved at the IGF, during its current mandate.