

**12th Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
18-21 December 2017, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland**

**Work Meeting with Youth Initiatives
08:30-09:30 p.m. in Room XXV**

- SUMMARY REPORT -

1. Face to face work meeting between the IGF Secretariat and the Youth IGF initiatives, as well as all other formations of youth engagement at the IGF, was hosted during the 12th annual IGF meeting in Geneva, on Thursday, 21 December. This meeting was hosted by the IGF Secretariat's NRIs Focal Point, Anja Gengo.
2. The Host explained that the purpose of this meeting was for the IGF Secretariat to ask the community through an open and inclusive process, what are the community's needs in terms of advancing and improving the youth engagement at the IGF.
3. The Host reminded that the IGF Secretariat in collaboration with the NRIs, has developed a publication that reflects different practices regarding the engagement of youth at the IGF, available at the [IGF website](#). Given that some of the recognized Youth IGF initiatives have approached the Secretariat in past to discuss the ways of supporting these formations, as well as the awareness on Secretariat's side about important work that some communities do, this meeting was organized in order for the bottom up inputs to be channeled to the IGF for potentially defining the work plan for 2018.
4. With this, participants were invited to provide concrete inputs on the question should and could the IGF Secretariat support these activities, and if so, how. This report references to proposals shared by present participants. For full remarks please consult the transcript of the session available [here](#).
5. From the APriIGF, it was advised that developing content materials for youth regarding the IGF process and topics would be helpful. This is tightly connected to the integration of youth in session panels. Content materials could provide information on how to join existing activities at the IGF.
6. Coordinator from Sri Lanka IGF followed to the above summarize comment by sharing a good practice from this national IGF, where they have integrated youth in their annual meeting, as they see this way of youth participation to be effective. It was noted that having

collaborative sessions among young people where they can discuss matters of relevance is also a good way of having youth engaged, in addition to having them integrated in panel discussions with all stakeholders.

From the national IGF of Bangladesh, it was said that youth engagement is successfully integrated in this national IGF process.

7. There was an input shared regarding some communities of young people wanting to know how to organize a Youth IGF initiative and related to this, asking for more information on the process. It was advised that these communities consult the [NRIs Toolkit](#), that describes the organizational process. They are also welcomed to contact the IGF Secretariat for explaining related procedures.

8. One participant noted that many youth activities have informal structure. It was said that the IGF Secretariat could help in structuring these processes, through some coordination activities. These activities could also be connected one to each other, and also to some important processes on youth engagement (like for example, the Council of Europe is conducting).

9. One participant advised that a network of already engaged young people in the IGF processes be created, as this will help in exchanging relevant experiences.

10. Participant from the Hong Kong Youth IGF initiative noted that young people, that are attending the IGF for the first time, could benefit from having more explanations on the role of different stakeholders at the IGF, as well as in getting to know these organizations.

11. An ISOC youth fellow noted the importance of having a mentorship programme, where youth could be connected to more experienced stakeholders. This capacity building initiative would allow for youth to learn more about the Internet governance and to network with some of the most important stakeholders in the IG(F) ecosystem.

12. From the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance (YCIG) it was added that above shared inputs are important, but that however, youth needs to be proactive in this regard and try identifying their own mentors. This participant shared its own experience, of starting to be professionally engaged in this field by actively following and participating activities shared via public mailing lists of some respectful organizations, such ICANN is, for example.

13. From the national IGF of Italy, it was said that this year during their annual meeting, they have organized a dedicated session to youth, and it showed to be a very effective practice. It was advised that for youth it is more useful to be integrated in the IGF processes, than to have separate events, as they will benefit from more stakeholders that will hear their voices.

14. Participants that was coordinating the organization of the Youth APrIGF and the Hong Kong Youth IGF added a suggestion that a dedicated session focused on different models of youth engagement at the IGF, be organized at the next IGF annual meeting. Also, it was advised to think about creating linkages between local, national and regional Youth IGF initiatives, in terms of mutual collaboration and bringing inputs from local levels to regional and vice versa.

15. One participant asked about ways of having youth people engaging with the session organizers at the level of the global IGF, but also on national, subregional and regional levels. The Host briefly said that each session has its (co)organizers and there are ways for connecting interested youth to them, for further planning.

16. Co-coordinator from the IGF-USA noted that it would be effective for youth to create a network concept for youth and others, interested in advancing the youth engagement at the IGF. This will allow for more broader inclusion, as well as the ability to reflect back into the national, subregional and regional IGFs.

17. From DotAsia and APrIGF it was said that the IGF Secretariat could have support from the community in case some of the suggested actions will be implemented. It was said that the MAG and the NRIs coordinators are good resource persons for mentoring youth in this process. It was proposed to have online discussions between mentors and mentees prior to the IGF.

18. One participant suggested to develop mentioned mentor programmes on a particular topic of interest. Another participant followed up with suggesting that, in addition to be focused on substantive matters, these programmes should also be focused on a format through an online webinar prior to the IGF annual meeting.

19. From the YCIG it was added that the community should work on improving existing recourses, instead of developing new. As an example, the [ABC guide to the IGF](#) was referenced.

20. The IGF-USA co-coordinator noted the importance of marketing and branding the work. In addition, an example of good practice of this national IGF in engaging youth was mentioned; as well as an advice that when developing mentioned content materials, youth should also reflect their current status of engagement in the Internet governance related fields.

21. The YCIG representative noted that engaging youth internationally is challenging, as work formations that they operate within are connected to different landscapes.

22. One participant raised a question of a momentum for starting to act, noting that the best would be to take first steps toward improving this process at present moment. From the IGF-USA it was followed with remarks that the mentees should think deeply of what they require from their potential mentors, in order for effective work plans to be developed.

23. Another participant stated that it is feasible to create an international platform for youth, given that successful examples of these already exist.

24. Remarks regarding the importance of continued involvement in the IGF process, that goes much beyond mere participation at one annual event, were shared by one participant. An example of good practice from Dominican Republic was shared, where it was described that a group of enthusiasts there organizes online and offline capacity building programmes that allow for students to learn more about Internet governance pertaining matters. They have also developed an e-book that reflects the basics of this topic.

25. Final remarks were raised by one participant that said that the discussed mentorship programmes could be shaped as a peer-to-peer concept, where more experienced and engaged youth could help engaging other interested peers. Another participant noted the importance of developing collaborations between different programmes on the matter, such for example as this participant's networking with developed concepts in Asia Pacific region.

26. The meeting was concluded with an agreement that these inputs should be consolidated and present participants contacted for further actions.

27. In case of any questions related to the report, please consult the Host of this meeting at: agengo@unog.ch.