



Progress Report

GLO/06/X01

“Internet Governance Forum”

Project to support the Internet Governance Forum

Progress Report 2015

I. Introduction

This annual report presents an overview and synopsis of some of the activities undertaken as part of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) process in 2015. It is structured around the four expected accomplishments listed in the IGF Project Document¹:

- creation of an enabling environment for multistakeholder policy dialogue related to key elements of Internet governance;
- enhanced collaboration among key organizations dealing with different Internet governance issues in support of development goals;
- exchange of information to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet;
- strengthened capacity building of developing country stakeholders to participate effectively in Internet governance arrangements.

The ongoing implementation of the recommendations made by the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Working Group on Improvements to the IGF² was again a top priority for the IGF Secretariat, UNDESA and the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group. Considerable efforts were made to increase capacity building efforts, refine and improve working modalities through consultations with the IGF community, increase and enhance participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries and improve and enhance the visibility of IGF outcomes.

2015 was the IGF's final year in its second five-year mandate. It was marked by the tenth annual IGF meeting, held from 10-13 November in João Pessoa, Brazil. The preparatory process for IGF 2015 for the first time included three rounds of face-to-face Open Consultations and Multistakeholder (MAG) meetings – in December 2014 and May and September 2015. Fourteen online MAG meetings³ were also convened as part of the ongoing preparatory process.

In addition to the global IGF, more than 40 national and regional IGF initiatives held meetings in 2015, bringing the IGF's unique policy dialogue platform to more stakeholders in more parts of the world than ever before.

High-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (15-16 December 2015)

On 16 December 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted draft resolution A/70/L.33 containing the outcome document⁴ of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on

¹ The IGF Project Document is available at

<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/2013/TrustFund/Project%20document%20IGF.pdf>

² http://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/a67d65_en.pdf

³ Online MAG meeting summaries from the 2015 preparatory process can be accessed here:

<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/magabout>

⁴ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/Draft%20resolution%20on%20WSIS%20overall%20review.pdf>

the Information Society. In paragraph 63 of the outcome document, Member States acknowledged the role of the Internet Governance Forum as a multi-stakeholder platform for discussion of Internet governance issues and extended for another ten years the existing mandate of the Forum as set out in paragraphs 72 to 78 of the Tunis Agenda. Member States recognised that during that period, the Forum should continue to show progress on working modalities and the participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries.

II. Activities undertaken in 2015

A. *Expected accomplishment 1*

Creation of an enabling environment for multistakeholder policy dialogue related to key elements of Internet governance

A.1. Taking stock of IGF 2014 and preparing for IGF 2015

The first Open Consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group meeting⁵ in the IGF 2015 preparatory process took place from 1-3 December 2014 at the ITU headquarters, in Geneva, Switzerland. The purpose of the three-day meeting was to take stock of IGF 2014, looking at what worked well and what did not, and to start preparations for IGF 2015.

Members of the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and other stakeholders present, onsite and online, in the meeting defined the next steps for the preparations for IGF 2015 and discussed a number of issues related to the overall IGF process:

- a) *MAG working groups.* Several working groups were created in order to further explore a number of issues: inter-sessional activity leading to IGF 2015, overarching theme and sub-themes for IGF 2015; guidelines for main/focus sessions; workshop selection criteria and mechanism; online participation; self-assessment of the IGF (progress made with the implementation of the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF) and a group dedicated to IGF strategy for outreach and communication. These groups were open to any interested stakeholder.
- b) *Milestones for IGF 2015.* It was decided that two additional rounds of Open Consultations and MAG meetings would be held in 2015: one mainly dedicated to selection of workshops, and one focused on an analysis of the state of play of inter-sessional work. The MAG also decided it would continue its work through regular virtual meetings.
- c) *Inter-sessional work.* Building on the recommendations in the IGF 2014 Chair's Summary, it was decided that an additional track of substantive and community driven inter-sessional activities would be undertaken in the period leading to IGF 2015.
- d) *Communication and outreach.* The MAG decided to continue and improve work on defining activities intended to better promote the IGF, to better communicate its work and to consolidate its linkages with other Internet governance entities and processes.

⁵ The summary report of the meeting is available at <http://intgovforum.org/cms/documents/igf-meeting/igf-2015-joao-pessoa/422-december-2014-open-consultations-and-mag-meeting-summary-report/file>

During the **fourth virtual meeting⁶ of the 2015 preparatory process** the MAG endorsed and agreed on the IGF 2015 overarching theme, “The Evolution of Internet Governance: Empowering Sustainable Development”, and eight sub-themes: cybersecurity and trust, Internet economy, inclusiveness and diversity, openness, enhancing multistakeholder cooperation, Internet and human rights, critical Internet resources and emerging issues. The MAG agreed also during this virtual meeting that whilst there would be eight sub-themes, the IGF 2015 would follow the precedent set at IGF 2014 and would not hold eight main sessions related specifically to the sub-themes of the meeting. Instead, the MAG would identify the most important topics on which to organise main sessions, taking into account the fact that combinations of sub-themes would also be possible.

The second round of Open Consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) meetings⁷ in the IGF 2015 preparatory process took place from 20-22 May 2015 at the headquarters of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), in Geneva, Switzerland. The MAG and other stakeholders present at the meeting addressed a number of important issues during the three-day meeting ranging from the structure and programme of the meeting to inter-sessional work. Much of the time spent during the first day of open consultations was focused on listening to the views of the broader IGF community both present in Geneva and participating online as to how the MAG could programme the 2015 IGF to satisfy all stakeholders. Discussions were held on issues such as the number of main sessions, formats, relations with sub-themes and workshops and the engagement of participants both present at the annual meeting and participating online.

The majority of the second and third days of the Open Consultations and MAG meeting were spent on the further evaluation and selection of workshops that would take place in João Pessoa. The discussions were informed by the evaluations completed prior to the meeting by the MAG. The Secretariat provided a statistical analysis and ranking of the workshops based on these evaluations. More than 240 proposals were received by the Secretariat. The top 60 ranked, based on pre-established criteria, were automatically accepted, the next 60-70 were accepted provided there were no objections, and the rest were selected through a process of discussion and consensus by the MAG.

Workshops were selected based on their qualitative scoring by the Secretariat and the MAG, together with further analysis which strived to provide a stakeholder balance in terms of workshop organisers and workshop panelists. Priority was also given to first-time workshop organisers and newcomers to the IGF, as well as workshops that focused on new and emerging topics. Some workshops on similar topics were invited to merge with one another.

A considerable amount of time was also spent discussing the various inter-sessional activities including the Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion initiative, the Best Practice Forums and the work of the Dynamic Coalitions. There was agreement that further programming work and discussions on the substance and schedule for the 2015 IGF would continue online on the MAG mailing list, the MAG working group mailing lists, the inter-sessional work mailing lists

⁶ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/virtual-meeting-report/432-virtual-mag-meeting-iii-summary-report/file>

⁷ The summary report of the meeting is available at <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/contributions/open-consultations/2014-may/313-mag-summary-report-may-2014/file>

and in future online meetings.

The 3rd Open Consultations and MAG Meeting of the 2015 IGF preparatory cycle took place from 2-4 September at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France⁸. Online participation was made available (live transcription, WebEx, webcast) for those who were unable to join physically and the three-day meeting was focused on continuing efforts towards the preparations for the IGF 2015 annual meeting, finalising the agenda and format of the main sessions that were to take place during IGF 2015, and progressing the various inter-sessional activities being undertaken including the 'Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion' compilation, and the work of the IGF Dynamic Coalitions and Best Practice Forums.

The MAG and broader IGF community took stock of the ongoing preparations of main sessions scheduled to take place at the annual meeting. It was agreed that the main sessions would be scheduled in such a way that relevant workshops and other sessions related to the main sessions can feed into them, if applicable and timing permitting. MAG main session coordinators were encouraged to arrange their sessions to be interactive and representative of a diversity of views. Main session guidelines prepared by the MAG working group on main sessions would be followed when applicable.

Updates were provided on the ongoing work of the six 2015 Best Practice Forums (BPFs). There was agreement that some of the BPF's might come to an end after the 2015 meeting, some may continue into the 2016 cycle, and perhaps some new topics for BPFs will emerge based on discussions of the community at the meeting. It was agreed that the IGF Best Practice Forums would post their draft outputs to the IGF website review platform well ahead of the IGF in Brazil, allowing the community to provide feedback in a transparent manner.

Coordinators of the IGF Dynamic Coalitions Main Session reported on their progress and plans for the main session at the 2015 meeting. It was agreed that after nine years of letting dynamic coalitions evolve in the margins of the IGF, at the 10th annual meeting the coalitions would bring their work into the mainstream by presenting their respective output documents and findings, with a view to producing additional tangible IGF outputs. There was a good discussion about both the IGF '[Policy Options](#)' and [best practices papers](#), part of an effort in 2015 for the IGF to develop more tangible outputs and support broader tracks (e.g. SDGs, WSIS+10) while leveraging the global network of IGFs that are held on all continents.

A.2. The 10th IGF meeting

The IGF's 10th annual meeting took place during an important time for not only the future of Internet governance and the IGF in the ongoing process to review the progress made on the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS) outcomes, but also for making sure that Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and the Internet will support and help to enable the recently adopted 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development⁹. The tenth annual meeting of the IGF was held from the 10th to the 13th of November 2015 in João Pessoa, Brazil.

⁸ [Full transcripts 3rd Open Consultations and MAG Meeting September 2015](#)

⁹ http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E

More than 2,400¹⁰ registered participants from over 116 countries attended the meeting, with thousands more actively participating online. The overarching theme for IGF 2015 was: 'Evolution of Internet Governance: Empowering Sustainable Development'.

This theme was timely, as the General Assembly had just adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and was reviewing the implementation of the WSIS outcomes at its upcoming 70th Session in December. The 10th IGF hosted more than 150 sessions throughout the week and enabled the IGF's various community-driven inter-sessional activities to promote the collaborative work they have been delivering throughout the year and provided the broader IGF community an opportunity to contribute feedback on a variety of significant outcomes. In line with the CSTD Working Group recommendations, the IGF demonstrated its capacity to produce tangible outcomes within multistakeholder collaboration frameworks. Mobilising the inherent benefits of solving problems through a diversity of perspectives, and building on a busy and compelling agenda, the IGF community was united in its willingness to address complex issues and work towards concrete solutions.

IGF 2015 again aimed to facilitate increased participation among stakeholders from developing countries and to enhance linkages between the growing number of national and regional IGF initiatives, the global IGF and the rest of the Internet governance ecosystem. Insights and outputs from the more than 40 national and regional IGF initiative meetings¹¹ that took place in the past year served as valuable inputs at IGF 2015.

More than 100 workshops and 20 open forums, as well as several individual sessions for dynamic coalitions, best practice forums and thematic pre-events, were held during the 10th IGF.

A.4. Multistakeholder Advisory Group

A press release¹² announcing the renewal of the MAG for 2015 was issued on 12 November 2014. A total of 55 members¹³, 25 among them new, were appointed by the UN Secretary General to advise him on the programme and schedule of the IGF 2015 meeting. The Advisory Group members are from all stakeholder groups and all regions, representing governments, civil society, the private sector and technical community. All members serve in their personal capacity, but are expected to have extensive linkages with their respective stakeholder groups. Ambassador Jānis Kārkliņš of Latvia chaired the Multistakeholder Advisory Group of the Internet Governance Forum again in 2015.

A.5. Syntheses of contributions received by the IGF Secretariat

A number of call for contributions from IGF stakeholders were issued over the course of the year. The submitted contributions were published on the IGF website and summarised by the IGF Secretariat in synthesis/compilation papers.

¹⁰ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/igf-2015-attendance-statistics>

¹¹ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/igf-initiatives>

¹² The press release is available at <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/pi2104.doc.htm>

¹³ The MAG 2015 list is available at <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/component/content/article?id=2102:mag-2015>

1. Call for contributions taking stock of the IGF 2014 meeting and looking forward to the IGF 2015 meeting, including suggestions on the format, schedule and themes¹⁴
2. Open call for inputs on inter-sessional work.¹⁵
3. Call for inputs from stakeholders to the 'Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion' compilation report.
4. Call for contributions taking stock of the IGF 2015 meeting and looking forward to the 11th IGF in 2016.

A.6. Ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Throughout 2015, the IGF Secretariat continued to work with all stakeholders to continue to implement the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF. These recommendations have been actively implemented since adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2012, in all five key areas outlined by the Working Group: shaping the outcomes of IGF meetings; working modalities, including open consultations, the MAG and the Secretariat; funding of the IGF; broadening participation and capacity-building; linking the IGF to other Internet governance-related entities.

In 2016 the IGF Secretariat, together with the MAG and UNDESA, will continue to carry out this process of implementation of the recommendations to the largest extent possible, funding permitted. A MAG working group created in December 2014 worked in 2015 to examine the progress done by the IGF from the MAG perspective in terms of implementing the recommendations.

In the outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, Member States supported the recommendations in the report of the CSTD Working Group, which the General Assembly took note of in its resolution 68/198 of 20 December 2013, and called for their accelerated implementation. Member States also called on the Commission, within its regular reporting, to give due consideration to fulfilment of the Working Group recommendations.

A.7. Remote/online participation

Remote/online participation was an integral part of the IGF 2015 annual meeting and preparatory process. All three physical open consultations and MAG meetings were web streamed, live transcriptions were provided via the IGF website and a remote participation platform (WebEx) was available for online participants to actively contribute to the discussions, through text questions or comments, or audio/video interventions.

Remote/online participation details were published on the IGF website before each meeting.

¹⁴ The synthesis paper is available at <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/contributions/open-consultations/2014-december/408-synthesis-paper-contributions-taking-stock-of-igf-2014-and-looking-forward-to-igf-2015/file>

¹⁵ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/176-igf-2015/preparatory-process/2142-open-call-for-input-on-inter-sessional-work>

Remote participation manuals and instructions¹⁶ were prepared and made available to online participants, moderators and hubs before the 10th IGF meeting in Brazil. Online training sessions were held to help them become familiar with the WebEx platform. Onsite trainings were also provided for remote/online participation assistants.

Organisers of remote hubs for previous IGF meetings were again encouraged to set up hubs for the 2015 meeting and the IGF Secretariat also reached out to new individuals and entities and invited them to consider planning remote hubs in different locations around the world. 50 remote hubs connected participants from countries such as Mexico, Argentina, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Egypt, Iran, Cuba and New Zealand, to name a few.

Throughout 2015 the IGF Secretariat provided continuous online participation support, by sharing WebEx services and moderating meetings at the request of national and regional IGF initiatives.

B.

Expected accomplishment 2

Enhanced collaboration among key organizations dealing with different Internet governance issues in support of development goals

B.1. Participation in the IGF 2015 meeting

The 2015 annual meeting was attended by 2137 onsite participants, from 112 countries, representing all stakeholder groups and regions¹⁷. The following numbers and charts show the breakdown of onsite participants by stakeholder group, region and gender.

Onsite participants by stakeholder group

Civil Society	44%
Government	22%
Intergovernmental Organizations	4%
Private Sector	12%
Technical Community	10%
Media	8%

Onsite participants by region

Africa	5%
Asia Pacific	8%
Host country (Brazil)	49%
Eastern Europe	3%

¹⁶ Remote participation manuals and guidelines are available at <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/igf-2014/remote-participation-2014>

¹⁷ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/igf-2015-attendance-statistics>

Latin America and Caribbean	9%
Western Europe and Others	26%

Onsite participants by gender

Female	38%
Male	62%

The 10th IGF once again served as a nexus for UN agencies, intergovernmental organizations and major institutions tackling challenges related to Internet public policy. During the week the CSTD held an open session on the ten-year review of the progress made in the implementation of the WSIS outcomes; the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) organised a number of events and workshops, including the launch of an Internet Freedom Series Publication and presentation of a Comprehensive Study on the Internet. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) presented a new 'e>merge' partnership and discussed the implementation of its Connect 2020 Agenda. Open Forums were convened by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), among many others.

Emerging groups and initiatives such as the Global Commission on Internet Governance, the NETmundial Initiative and the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise held sessions. The Italian Chamber of Deputies presented an "Internet Bill of Rights"; the "African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedom initiative" was discussed; Stanford University carried out a deliberative poll exercise on the multi-dimensional subject of access; and various emerging and established observatories related to Internet governance shared experiences with a focus on future collaboration.

Youth participation was particularly strong during the 10th IGF. The Youth Coalition on Internet Governance developed an 'IGF for Newbies' resource to help assimilate young people with the IGF and Internet governance issues. A programme called Youth@IGF empowered the next generation of leaders and increased the onsite participation of approximately 70 young leaders from Latin America and the Caribbean in debates throughout the IGF.

B.2. National and regional IGF initiatives

National and regional IGF initiatives continue to grow in number and to foster multistakeholder debates on Internet governance issues relevant at national and regional levels. Annual activity reports submitted by many of these initiatives were collected by the IGF Secretariat and published on the IGF website.¹⁸ The meetings held by these initiatives were also publicised on the IGF website, in the "events calendar". The Secretariat reached out to newly-formed initiatives and invited them to be included in the IGF's public online list. As in previous years, an inter-regional dialogue session was held at the annual meeting which brought together coordinators and participants from national and regional IGFs.

¹⁸ Details about national and regional IGF initiatives listed by the IGF Secretariat are available at <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/national-and-regional-igf-initiatives-2014>

B.3. Participation in various Internet governance-related events and processes

In 2015, the IGF Secretariat continued to interact and communicate with other Internet governance-related entities, as part of the efforts to consolidate the IGF's linkages with such entities.

During face-to-face open consultations and MAG meetings in 2015 and periodically during online MAG meetings, the IGF community was briefed and interacted with related Internet governance initiatives such as initiatives of the European Commission, Council of Europe, UNCTAD, and UNECA. Briefings and presentations also came from the Global Internet Policy Observatory, the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise and the Net Mundial Initiative.

The Secretariat participated in a number of events where matters related to Internet governance in general and the IGF in particular were discussed. This included national and regional IGF initiatives, ICANN meetings; the Geneva Internet Conference, the annual World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum and meetings of the CSTD. The Secretariat's participation and interaction with stakeholders at such events allow the IGF to better relate to the evolving Internet governance ecosystem and to ensure that the IGF is appropriately placed within the various processes.

C. *Expected accomplishment 3*

Exchange of information to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet

C.1. Online collaboration

The IGF website has continued to be a valuable tool for stakeholders to find and share information. In 2015, the Secretariat continued to work to improve the website by linking more information and adding functionalities. 2015 featured an improved online review platform for stakeholders to provide comments and suggestions on the draft outcome documents by best practice forums and dynamic coalitions, and on the 'Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion'.¹⁹ The 'Sched'²⁰ tool, which was used again by the Secretariat and integrated into the IGF website ahead of the IGF 2015 meeting, was received with appreciation by stakeholders.

There were an estimated 70,000+ visits to the IGF website in 2015. Approximately 3 out of 5 of these visits are considered independent visits. These are cases in which connections to the IGF site were made from different devices, or from the same device, with a separation of at least 30 minutes. Considering that a person can open several sessions at the same time from the same device, it has been calculated that more than 125,000 sessions were opened to the IGF site in 2015. The average session duration was 04:13 minutes with a mean of 4 pages visited, taking

¹⁹ The review platform is available at <http://review.intgovforum.org>

²⁰ <http://igf2015.intgovforum.org/>

into consideration all sessions. In regards to language, about 60% of the opened sessions were initiated from English-language configured devices, followed by Portuguese devices (14%), French and Spanish (around 6% each), Chinese (4%) and German (2%). From a geographical point of view, about 60% of the sessions were initiated from the WEOG region - Western Europe and Others Group, followed by GRULAC – Latin American and Caribbean (18%), Asia-Pacific (15%), Africa (5%), and Eastern Europe (2%).

The growth of social media activity amongst the IGF community has been a significant achievement in recent years and the IGF Secretariat, together with the MAG and all stakeholders, is working to continue to broaden the reach of the IGF online through various social channels. It is estimated that tweets about the 2015 IGF (#IGF2015) reached millions of interested stakeholders in the lead-up to and throughout the week of the annual meeting in Brazil. The IGF Secretariat worked with the MAG outreach and communications working group to build a dedicated page on the IGF website related to social media outreach and engagement.

Several mailing lists were created and managed by the IGF Secretariat in 2015 and were used by MAG members and other IGF stakeholders to work collaboratively on the preparations for the annual meeting and inter-sessional activities. These included mailing lists set up for: preparing the IGF 2015 main sessions; IGF 2015 best practice forums; inter-sessional work leading to the IGF 2015 meeting; guidelines for IGF 2015 main sessions; IGF 2015 overarching theme and sub-themes; IGF outreach and communication; online participation; IGF self-assessment.

C.2. Web-based repository of IGF documentation

In 2015, a wealth of materials was added on the IGF website, including: various contributions received from stakeholders and syntheses of such contributions, summary reports of open consultations and MAG meetings (including the virtual meetings), background papers submitted by workshop organisers, etc. transcripts of the open consultations and MAG meetings, inter-sessional documentation produced by various IGF communities (BPFs, DCs, etc.) as well as transcripts and reports of the various sessions held during the annual IGF 2015 meeting.

Video recordings of the open consultations, MAG meetings and IGF 2014 sessions were uploaded on the IGF's YouTube channel. During the IGF 2015 week, the video streams were viewed 14,024 times (for an estimated total of 149,763 minutes watched). By the end of 2015, the video archive of the 2015 IGF had attracted 8,402 individual viewers (for a total of 36,204 minutes watched). In general, in 2015, the IGF YouTube channel, as a whole, had 33,274 views (+33.36% compared to the previous year), with a total of 236,182 minutes watched (+67.99% compared to the previous year).

C.3. IGF Inter-Sessional Outputs/Outcomes and other IGF Publications

As outlined in paragraph 72.1 of the Tunis Agenda, the publication of the IGF's proceedings is part of the Forum's mandate. In fulfilling this part of the mandate, the IGF Secretariat produced and published the IGF 2014 proceedings book, which included transcripts and reports of

sessions held during the 2014 annual meeting.²¹

The IGF 2015 Chair's Summary²² was also prepared once again by the IGF Secretariat and submitted for approval to the Chair of the meeting.

The IGF 'Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion' inter-sessional work process produced a tangible and community driven, bottom-up IGF output. The compilation output document and the comprehensive collection of inputs and contributions to the process²³, available on the IGF website, will be forwarded to other related processes such as the General Assembly's 2nd Committee through UNDESA, the ITU Council and UNESCO through council meetings, and these agencies will be encouraged to disseminate this information as widely as possible to make government officials aware of the work.

Outputs²⁴ from the IGF 2015 Best Practice Forums (BPFs), work developed throughout the year available on the IGF website, were presented to the community in dedicated sessions at the 10th annual meeting and in a main session. The BPFs worked throughout the year to produce diverse outputs which have now become robust resources, to serve as inputs into other pertinent forums, that can evolve and grow over time on the subjects of: Regulation and Mitigation of Unwanted Communications; Establishing and Supporting Computer Security Incident Response Teams (CSIRTs); Developing Meaningful Multistakeholder Participation Mechanisms; Practices to Counter Online Abuse and Gender-Based Violence Against Women and Girls; Creating an Enabling Environment for IPv6 Adoption and Enabling Environments to Establish Successful IXPs.

The more than 150 thematic workshops and other sessions that took place throughout the week²⁵ have also produced output reports which are available to all on the IGF website and now serve as resources and inputs into other relevant processes.

C.4. Dynamic Coalitions

IGF dynamic coalitions²⁶ were featured in a main session at the IGF for the first time in 2015. The MAG decided to dedicate a main session to the coalitions in order to both highlight the groups' reports and open them to consideration as tangible outputs.

Eight coalitions - on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD), on Core Internet Values (DCCIV), on

²¹ The book is available at <https://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/publications/613-igf-2014-istanbul-evolution-of-internet-governance-empowering-sustainable-development>

²² The Chair's Summary is available at https://www.intgovforum.org/cms/10th%20IGF%20Chairs%20Summary_Finalv2.pdf

²³ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/policy-options-for-connection-the-next-billion/cnb-outdocs>

²⁴ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/best-practice-forums/draft-2015-bpf-outs>

²⁵ <http://igf2015.intgovforum.org/>

²⁶ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/dynamiccoalitions>

Gender and Internet Governance (DCGIG), on Internet Rights & Principles (IRPC), on Network Neutrality (DCNN), on Platform Responsibility (DCPR), on Public Access in Libraries (DCPAL), and on the Internet of Things (Dicots) - volunteered to present their work in the first segment of the session. These eight were part of an experimental process to solicit feedback from participants via “idea ratings sheets” containing key themes from the coalitions’ respective reports. The sheets were used to stimulate debate and discussion during the second segment of the session on the following day. Essential themes or issues presented for feedback included the right to access, gender inclusion in Internet governance processes, support to libraries as public access points, and common definitions of net neutrality. The rating sheets were an innovation of the session and were used for the first time in an IGF setting.

In addition, in the session’s second segment, two new dynamic coalitions on Child Online Safety (DCCOS), on Accountability, and on Freedom of Expression Online, had the opportunity to introduce themselves and invite participation in their burgeoning groups.

A suggestion that emerged from the discussions was a proposal to create a DC Coordination Group. This proposal found broad support among the participants. The main task of the proposed group would be to develop a charter for all DCs with common principles and rules of procedure they would agree to adhere to, such as having open lists and open archives. The Group would also look at areas of overlap and duplication and aim to create synergies among the DCs.

D.

Expected accomplishment 4

Strengthened capacity of developing country stakeholders to participate effectively in Internet governance arrangements

D.1. Participation of developing countries in the IGF process

The IGF Secretariat, together with the MAG and the broader IGF community, have continued their efforts to increase participation in IGF meetings (including the preparatory processes) and to attract and encourage more participants from developing countries.

In 2015, financial support was again provided to stakeholders from least developed countries, developing countries and transitional economies to enable them to participate in open Consultations, MAG meetings and the 10th IGF. The IGF also funded or partially funded approximately 54 missions for members of the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) from developing or least developed countries to actively participate in IGF Open Consultations, MAG Meetings and the 10th IGF. Eligibility criteria for funding a participant to attend the IGF and/or the Open Consultations and MAG meeting were published on the IGF website.²⁷

The IGF Secretariat, together with UNDESA’s Division for Public Administration and Development Management (DPADM), organised an important capacity-building workshop, “Internet Governance for Innovation and Sustainable Development”, in Medellín, Colombia from 24 -25 June 2015, which aimed to strengthen the capacities of government officials and

²⁷ <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/documents/igf-meeting/416-eligibility-criteria-for-funding-a-meeting-participant/file>

other relevant stakeholders to better understand and participate in the global Internet governance debate for promoting an open and free Internet that can both foster innovation for pursuing the post-2015 development agenda and meeting the challenges of sustainable development.

D.2. Internships and fellowships at the IGF Secretariat

The IGF Secretariat continued its highly successful fellowship programme which allows young people active in the field of Internet Governance an opportunity to work at the IGF Secretariat for up to nine months. Fellows from Costa Rica, South Africa and Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the Secretariat during 2015.

III. Conclusions

2015 proved to be a very busy year for the IGF as 14 months of preparatory time between the September 2014 9th annual meeting and the November 2015 10th IGF allowed the IGF Secretariat and MAG to consult and work with the IGF community on considerable inter-sessional activities, as well as on improved working modalities and programming for the annual meeting. A record number of national and regional IGF meetings also took place during the past year. Throughout the year the IGF continued to strive towards fulfilling its mandate by providing an open and inclusive multistakeholder platform to discuss policy issues related to the Internet. 2015 was also marked by the strengthening of the IGF Secretariat as three additional staff members were added to the IGF Secretariat during the second half of the year. (Associate Programme Officer, Associate Information Systems Officer, Programme Management Assistant).

Looking ahead to 2016 and following on the recent renewal of the IGF mandate for another ten years, the IGF will strive to build upon the significant progress it has made in recent years in fulfilling its mandate and implementing the recommendations of the CSTD working group on IGF improvements. The IGF will also focus its efforts on refining and improving its working modalities and increasing and enhancing the participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries. Capacity building efforts will remain a cross-cutting priority.

Another one of the expected accomplishments of the IGF, as indicated in the project document, is an “enhanced collaboration among key organizations dealing with different Internet governance issues in support of development goals”. In addition, the Working Group on Improvements to the IGF underlined that it was “important for the IGF to continue and improve its interaction and communication with other Internet governance-related entities in order to further global policy dialogue”. It is, therefore, necessary for the IGF to continue to sustain its relations with such Internet governance entities, including national and regional IGF initiatives, as well as organizations such as the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), regional Internet registries etc.

National and regional IGF initiatives have been created around the world to carry on discussions on Internet governance issues that are of particular relevance for the respective countries or regions. It is important for the IGF to not only maintain but to strengthen and consolidate its linkages with these regional and national IGFs and to continue to support and encourage them. There have been calls for increased cross-fertilization between the growing



network of IGF initiatives and the global IGF.

It is expected that the IGF will build on the progress made in both 2014 and 2015 in carrying out bottom-up, substantive inter-sessional activities. The IGF Secretariat will once again consult with the broader IGF multistakeholder community during open consultations, through the MAG, and using the IGF website and other outreach and communication channels, to ensure that the IGF platform is as open and transparent as possible.