

## IGF Response to Q6 of the Review Process

(revised with revisions highlighted)

The Internet Governance Caucus calls upon the IGF Secretariat to fund the IGF programs and participation substantially and significantly to further enhance the quality of programs with greater diversity of participation. There are two aspects to be considered in this regard: a) WSIS/ present IGF participants representing various stakeholder groups are highly qualified individuals with diverse accomplishments but it is also true that IGF participation needs to be further expanded to invite and include more Civil Society participants known for their commitment and accomplishments outside the IGF arena on various Civil Society causes ; business leaders who are otherwise committed to social and other governance issues are not seen at the IGF, and not all governments are represented at the IGF ( and though not for financial reasons, the present participants from Government are not represented on a high enough level ) - [ this sentence in parenthesis may be deleted if unnecessary as it is not directly relevant to the point ] and b) The present participants of the IGF do not represent all participant segments and geographic regions. This needs to be improved and it requires various efforts, but availability of various categories of Travel Grants for different classes of participants may help improve participation by those not attending the IGF for want of funds. IGF already has made some funds available for representation from Less Developed Countries, but such funding achieves a limited objective.

The true cost of the IGF (including all visible and invisible costs to the IGF Secretariat, participating Governments, organizations and individual participants) would be several times that of the actual outflow from the IGF Secretariat in organizing the IGF, as reflected in the IGF book of accounts. If an economist estimates the total visible and invisible costs of the IGF, it would be an enormous sum, which is already spent. For want of a marginal allocation for travel support to panel speaker and participants, which would amount to a small proportion of the true cost of the IGF, the quality of panels and the diversity of participation are compromised.

With this rationale, the Internet Governance Caucus recommends that the IGF should consider liberal budgetary allocations supported by unconditional grants from business, governments, well funded non-governmental and international organizations and the United Nations. The fund may extend uncompromising, comfortable travel grants/ honorarium to 200 lead participants (panel speakers, program organizers, who are largely invitees who are required to be well-received for participation), full and partial fellowships to a large number of participants with special attention to participants from unrepresented categories (unrepresented geographic regions and/or unrepresented participant segments and even to those from affluent, represented regions if there is an individual need ).

Such a fund would enable the IGF to bring in really diverse opinions to the IGF from experts who would add further value to the IGF. It is especially recommended that such a fund may be built up from contributions that are unconditional (as opposed to a grant from a business trust with stated or implied conditions about the positions to be taken; 'unconditional' does not imply that funds may have to be disbursed without even the basic conditions that the recipient should attend the IGF and attend the sessions etc. In this context "unconditional" means something larger. It is to hint at a system of Travel Grants whereby IGF will pool funds from Business Corporations, Governments, International Organizations, well funded NGOs and UN with no implied conditions on the positions to be taken by participants) and may be awarded to panelists and participants unconditionally. It is recommended that the IGF create a fund large enough to have significant impact in further enhancing quality and diversity of participation.

