Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

Synthesis Paper

Open Consultations

28 February 2013, Paris, France (UNESCO HQ)

I. Introduction

1. This paper summarizes comments received in preparation of the eighth IGF meeting, which is tentatively scheduled to take place in Bali, Indonesia. This version of the paper takes into account comments received by the IGF Secretariat in response to its call for contributions by 14 February 2013. In total 15 contributions were received by the Secretariat. 4 suggestions were also posted on the IGF website discussion board which were included as well. All of these inputs can be found in their entirety on the IGF website.[1]

2. All of the contributions and open consultation transcripts will be posted on the IGF website throughout the preparatory process of the Bali meeting. The readers of this paper are encouraged to read those contributions and the open consultations transcripts, which will be posted for public view after the consultations, for further details.

3. As always, the contributions touched on a wide variety of issues. Some focused on the 2012 meeting in Baku while others made specific recommendations for the 2013 meeting.

II. General comments on the 7th IGF meeting in Baku

4. Many expressions of gratitude were given to the government of Azerbaijan for their successful hosting of the 7th IGF and special recognition was expressed towards Deputy Prime-Minister Abid Sharifov, Minister of Communications and Information Technologies Ali M Abbasov and Deputy Minister of Communications and Information Technologies Elmir Valizada, for their active participation and contributions to the forum.

5. The 7th IGF was praised for continuing the IGF tradition of successfully bringing together an extensive range of leaders from the many communities interested in Internet governance, providing a truly unique opportunity to have frank and open discussions on a wide range of issues.

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[1] The synthesis paper is primarily a summary of the various contributions received by the Secretariat. Suggestions made on the IGF discussion board regarding the themes for the 2013 IGF were also taken into consideration. Some specific suggestions are included verbatim, a complete list of the contributions can be found on the IGF website here: http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/contributionsigf

6. Some of the specific aspects singled out for appreciation by the contributors were the following:

- The hospitality and generosity of the Azeri hosts;
- The preparations done by the IGF Secretariat and the Host Country throughout the year leading up to the meeting;
- UNDESA for providing the institutional home for and administrative support to the IGF Secretariat, and for supporting the IGF process in general;
- The Host Country website and the availability of computers, printers, and copiers;
- The delegate registration experience where the staff processed delegates pleasantly, quickly and efficiently;
- The good layout in the main session rooms and workshop rooms for discussions;
- Continued recognition and appreciation for the availability of remote participation, for the remote hubs and for remote moderation;
- Appreciation for the workshop transcripts, summary reports, web-casts, increased social media activity and other records of the IGF meeting that can be found on the IGF website.
- Appreciation for the frequent updating of the website and schedule during the meeting.

7. The IGF 'pre-events' were greatly appreciated and many contributors said that they should both continue and be strengthened in 2013.

8. Many comments recognized and appreciated the increased attention paid to human rights issues throughout the meeting. The meeting also attracted more young people who participated in higher numbers, and more actively, than ever before.

9. Many inputs lauded the 7th IGF for the 'non-binding' outcomes that emerged from the meeting, in the form of follow-up events, better mutual understanding amongst stakeholders, informal negotiations of positions on upcoming policy processes, suggestions for further research and new capacity building opportunities, etc.

10. In addition to appreciation, the contributions indicated that they would like to see the 2013 meeting build on these positive IGF features. Many of the contributions indicated that the IGF has continued to evolve and has established a solid basis in its organization and planning for the annual meeting's that should be maintained and build upon while undergoing constant improvements based on past experiences.

11. There was some criticism of aspects related to the 2012 meeting, which should be kept in mind when planning the 2013 meeting, some of the criticism included:

- Some contributions said that there were too many workshops and that the practice of holding workshops concurrently with the main sessions should be re-considered. It was mentioned that as a result of the number of workshops and the fact that they were held simultaneously with the main sessions, the interactivity and participation level in both the main sessions and workshops suffered at times;

- The Internet connectivity was sometimes unreliable throughout the week, which caused a variety of problems for participants;
- The venue layout, which used partitions to separate rooms and required the use of headphones in many instances, was said to cause some audio complications for some participants;
- There were some complaints that certain individuals and organizations were victims of ad hominem attacks during workshop and main session discussions.
- There were some complaints regarding the distribution and subsequent removal of written promotional materials during the meeting;
- The quality of the transcripts was mentioned by some as being of poor quality at times;
- The distance of the venue from the hotels presented difficulties for some of the delegates;
- There were difficulties encountered with obtaining meals and coffee in a timely fashion;

III. Comments on the Main Sessions, Workshops and Other Events, Participation and Overall Substance of the 7th IGF in Baku and Suggestions and recommendations to improve the 8th IGF in Bali

12. The main sessions held throughout the week were said to be generally good, as they served their purpose of pushing the global dialogue on Internet governance forward amongst all IGF stakeholders. Some participants however felt that the structure of the main sessions could be reviewed to improve the format to try and make the sessions more interactive and focused.

13. Some contributions recommended that the timing of the main sessions could be adjusted, perhaps into two 90-minute sub-discussions, rather than holding a continuous 3-hour session. It was also recommended by many contributions that the main sessions could perhaps be held separately from the workshops, meaning that they would not ever be held simultaneously with the workshops. This could lead to a much higher level of participation in the main sessions.

14. Some of the contributions suggested that the overall format of the meeting could be adjusted to allow for the main sessions and workshops to be held separately. This could be done, it was suggested by some, by having a full day or two where workshops and other events would take place exclusively, allowing the rest of the time to be spent on the main sessions and opening and closing ceremonies, etc. An appropriate format should be explored further by the MAG and other stakeholders to ensure that participants get the most out of both the main sessions and workshops throughout the meeting.

15. Some contributions called for the main sessions to focus on more specific topics rather than the traditional broad themes. Specific suggestions on such themes are described in the next section. Some contributions suggested that two concrete issues could be addressed during each main session. Another suggestion was to set up preparatory roundtables for each of the main session topics that would be held prior to the

session which would gather relevant workshop organizers and topical experts to better set the stage for the broader plenary debates.

16. It was suggested by many that pro-forma speeches by panelists and other participants during the main sessions should be limited to ensure that adequate time is spent on the substantive work. Increased outreach is also necessary to attract new, geographically and gender diverse panelists and speakers for the 8th IGF. It was suggested that formal, informative invitations should be sent to potential panelists and speakers well in advance of the meeting to allow them plenty of time to plan for the event. This should also be done to attract more remote panelists.

17. The MAG was generally praised for their continued efforts in organizing the main sessions. Some contributions mentioned that MAG members should collectively increase their engagement. It was said that lead contacts for the main sessions should perhaps be required to have preparatory calls with panelists prior to the IGF, for example. It was suggested that to better prepare participants for the main sessions, the different topics and conclusions that have been reached in each main session during the past 7 IGFs could be documented or mapped out visually to contextualize the discussion and provide newcomers with more informational tools during their interventions in these sessions.

18. It was recognized by many that more workshops were held in Baku than in any previous IGF meeting, this allowed for the meeting to address a wide range of issues and the diversity of issues attracted new stakeholders to the IGF community. Some contributions stated however that holding over 100 workshops was simply an overload at times, and that the number of workshops should be reduced accordingly by simply imposing stricter requirements during the workshop selection process.

19. More effort needs to be made to ensure that workshop proposals are complete and updated throughout the planning process, and that the workshop selection process is improved. Outreach to new, 'fresh' speakers should be increased significantly to encourage a greater number of subject experts to participate in the IGF. In particularly, increased efforts must be spent on achieving geographical diversity in the workshops, by bringing in both new topics and panelists relevant to issues pertaining to developing countries.

20. Reporting on the workshops needs to be improved, both in producing substantive outcome oriented reports on the discussions themselves and in the assessments of the quality and level of participation of the sessions. It was suggested also that certain workshops could be designated for making non-binding suggestions as to where certain issues might be resolved and decided (i.e. another International fora dealing with IG issues). This would retain the IGF's not decision-making nature but would move it forward and make it less static. A suggestion was also made that each workshop could have an external observer to evaluate and report the outcomes.

21. Though the opening and closing ceremonies were recognized as being important features of the IGFs, giving the host countries and high-profile speakers an opportunity to

deliver influential messages, methods to reduce the length of these sessions should continue to be explored, as has been the case in previous years.

22. Other events such as the new delegate's briefing session, the regional perspectives session and various round table discussions should be retained and perhaps more attention and emphasis should be placed on these events in the planning process. It was also recommended that the activities of the National and Regional IGF initiatives should be further integrated into the annual meetings.

23. Participation at the 7th IGF was generally said to be very strong, as over 1600 participants attended the meeting and there was a record number of remote participants. The IGF community must strive to further increase participation though looking ahead to the 8th IGF, with a particular focus on increasing the level of diverse participation of those from developing countries, youth, women, and persons with disabilities. Increased outreach to local civil society organizations in Bali was also recommended.

24. Some contributors recommended an increased focus on lessons learned and best practices in both the main sessions and workshops, using the IGF to benchmark progress and showcase success stories that could be implemented elsewhere.

25. Gender issues should be given an increased emphasis throughout the planning process, in workshop selection and in formulating the main and sub-themes of the meeting. The practice of using the 'Gender Report Cards' should be continued.

26. The report of the CSTD working group on improvements to the IGF, now approved and recognized by the general assembly, was mentioned by many to be an important set of guidelines for the IGF community to follow moving forward. While many of the recommendations are already being followed up on or have been practiced in the past, many of them should be implemented in future IGF meetings, funding permitting.

27. The successful use of social media leading up to and during the 7th IGF was recognized as being a major accomplishment. Many contributions said that the use of social media in outreach and reporting of the meeting should continue and improve. The establishment of an official Twitter hash tag should be established well ahead of the meeting as well.

28. Capacity building workshops and other events should be strengthened and increased at the 2013 IGF, past capacity building suggestions should be consolidated and taken into consideration during the meeting planning processes. In this regard pre-events play a significant role and should continue to be supported and enhanced. It was also suggested the IGF should increase it's level of engagement with National decision makers and those responsible for operational and implementation activities. This could be done, perhaps, by introducing clear and coherent 'threads' on specific topics that would offer tutorial days or informational seminars that might justify the travel to the meeting of some policy makers working on very specific issues for their respective countries.

29. Contributors appreciated the fact that main sessions and workshops had remote participation facilities. The 8th IGF should build on this momentum and continue to meet necessary technical and logistical facilities to ensure remote participation in all sessions and workshops. Further awareness raising and development of the remote participation hubs would ensure more opportunities for participation from all stakeholder groups from around the world. Remote participation was also recognized as being one of the most important avenues for participation of those from developing countries. Special attention should be given to providing clear instructions on the IGF website explaining how to connect remotely to specific sessions. In particular, accurate dial-in numbers and email addresses should be made available to ensure remote participants' (timely) connection.

30. The WSIS Review Process will start with the UNESCO WSIS+10 meeting just before the IGF consultation and a UNESCO special event on Internet freedom; it will be followed by a 2014 Review event organized by the ITU and will conclude with a final review of the UN General Assembly in 2015. In the meantime there will be 3 WSIS Forums, and 3 IGF annual meetings, with their consultation and preparation processes. As the IGF is an outcome of the WSIS, it was suggested that it could be important to envision a coherent strategy to reach the 2015 final review and tackle the synergies that these events and processes offer. There is a good share of common participants at those events that would make even more feasible and welcome the consolidation of the WSIS and IGF review process.

31. Clear rules and guidelines need to be made available regarding the UN rules for distributing written outreach/promotional materials during IGF meetings.

32. Delegates should refrain from making ad hominem attacks towards individuals or organizations during their interventions and throughout the general discussions and debates in main sessions, workshops and other events at IGF meetings.

IV. Suggestions for Main Theme and Sub-Themes for the 8th IGF in Bali

33. Some suggestions have been made in regards to the main theme for the 8th IGF in Bali. Some specific suggestions were made while other broader subjects were proposed without a particular 'title'. The following suggestions for the main theme come from both the written contributions and from the IGF website discussion board, and are listed in no particular order (no rank or preference at this time).

- "Internet governance for openness, sharing and improving the lives of all humanity"
- "Human rights and their implications for Internet governance"
- "Public interest principles for the Internet"
- "Shaping global principles for the Internet"
- "New service-oriented approach in the world based on the Internet of Services (IoS) and Internet of Things (IoT)"

34. Generally the main sessions received mixed reviews in regards to their substance and general participation. In Baku the 'sub-themes' were the same as the previous year 'sub-themes' and were the focus of the main sessions, again continuing the practice of previous years. Some suggestions that were made to improve or alter/change these traditional sub-themes (Emerging Issues, Internet Governance for Development, Security, Openness and Privacy, Access and Diversity, Critical Internet Resources and Taking Stock and the way Forward) for the 2013 forum are as follows:

- There was general agreement in the contributions that the Emerging Issues session should remain on the agenda for 2013. One suggestion was to merge it with the Taking Stock session and having this session on the last day, laying the groundwork for the 'emerging' issues that the IGF should take into consideration in the next year. Another suggestion for this session was to change it to a "Recent Trends/Highlights" session that would give an overview of the 'hot' Internet governance topics of the year between the Baku and the 8th IGF in Bali.
- The Internet Governance for Development main session was generally thought of as a good one. In fact, many contributors emphasized the need to broaden the overarching development theme across all topics, continuing the trend of implementing a crosscutting development theme in Baku. It was mentioned that development discussions should be increased in light of the ongoing UN review of the MDGs. One suggestion was to replace the IG4D session in 2013 with a session on "Rights and Principles"
- The Access and Diversity and Security, Openness and Privacy sessions, while very useful to many, were criticized by some for being too broad in scope. It was suggested that perhaps there should be more focused sub-themes and thematic questions formulated to help keep the debates fresh and focused in 2013.
- Generally, the Critical Internet Resources session was seen as a good and useful session, but again, some suggested that more concrete and detailed issues should be addressed there.
- Finally, the Taking Stock session was said to be important; however, more tangible 'outcomes' should come out of this session in regards to concrete next steps that should be taken taking into consideration all discussions that take place in the meeting.

35. Many 'sub-themes' or new/alternative main sessions were proposed by stakeholders in their contributions. Some suggested replacing the traditional main sessions with new session topics while others suggested splitting the main sessions into two different thematic topics. These suggestions[2] included (again, in no particular order of general preference or consensus):

- "Effective participation of all stakeholders in Internet governance"
- "Internet Rights and Principles"/ "Rights and Principles"/ "Public interest principles

[2] This is not an exhaustive list of all 'sub-themes' but rather a summary of some of the most popular proposals, other proposals that were made for possible new topics under the broader themes as well as new workshop topics that were presented can be reviewed by all stakeholders on the IGF website.

for the Internet"/ "Shaping global principles for the Internet."

- "Human Rights" (In Internet Governance)
- "Internet for Kids"
- "Enhanced Cooperation"
- "Recent Trends/Highlights in Internet Governance"
- "Fostering multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms at national and regional levels"
- "Enhancing participation from developing countries in global Internet related for a"
- "Multilingual content and applications"
- "Trust in cyberspace"
- "Spam"
- "Identifying and challenging increases in state censorship and control of the internet in a number of authoritarian and democratic states, and secondly debating the extent to which the role of large web hosts is resulting in a privatization of censorship whereby companies are making decisions and playing a role previously played by government, and with less accountability."
- "A focus on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and its implications for Internet Governance"
- "Public Access"
- "Children's and young people's use of the internet"
- "Child online protection"
- "Internet for Kids (the Innocent Minds & Next Generation)"

36. The report of the working group on improvements to the IGF recommends that a set of policy questions should guide the discussions and debates in the main sessions and throughout the annual IGF meetings, with a goal to then report the outcomes of such debates by stating clearly the convergent and divergent views and opinions on the guiding questions. Some contributors gave suggestions on possible policy questions that could be considered:

- "How to maintain net neutrality as the key architectural principle of the global Internet, and what should be the mechanisms and institutions involved in this process?"
- "What kind of general 'Internet principles' or 'principles for Internet governance' can frame relatively coordinated and harmonious policy responses to key global Internet related issues that impact global public interest?"
- "How to maintain the principle (referred to by some as 'net neutrality') that the price which an ISPs charges their customer for exchanging data packets via the Internet shall not depend on the content of the data packets, nor shall it depend on the party with whom the packets are exchanged?
- "How shall the key architectural principle of best effort service for all user traffic in the global Internet be preserved?"

V. Comments and suggestions on logistical issues of the 7th IGF in Baku and recommendations for logistical improvements for the 8th IGF in Bali

37. Venue planning needs to be carefully done to ensure that participants are staying close to the event site and that transportation to and from the forum is seamless. Food and beverage services should be readily available for participants and staff at all times.

38. Internet connectivity needs to be a top priority for the host country staff. An on-site team should be assembled and should work closely with the MAG and IGF Secretariat well ahead of the meeting. Continuous and uninterrupted connectivity needs to be ensured for 2000+ participants, keeping in mind that most participants will need connections for their laptops, cell phones, cameras, etc. Some suggested that a logistics plan for Internet connectivity should be drafted and shared with the public well ahead of the meeting. It should be IPv4/IPv6 dual stack. Dedicated bandwidth should be reserved for remote participation.

39. Transcription as well as web-cast services should be tested in advance of the meeting and should be of the highest quality to ensure that all discussions are captured and archived, and made available to the public.

40. Inputs were received from the following organizations and individuals:

- ICC BASIS
- Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus
- ICANN
- IFLA
- Index on Censorship
- Internet Rights and Principles Dynamic Coalition
- ISOC
- Association for Progressive Communications
- NRO
- Dr. Svetlana V. Maltseva, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Dean of the Faculty of Business Informatics, Head of the Department of innovations and business in IT and Dr. Mikhail M. Komarov, National Research University Higher School of Economics, Department of innovations and business in IT, Russia
– Google
– Internet Jurisdiction Project
– IT for Change
- Nominet
- ccTLD Regional Organizations