

## **CSTD Working Group on IGF**

### **Questionnaire on improvements to the IGF**

## **ICC BASIS responses to CSTD Working Group on IGF improvements questionnaire**

1. **What do you consider the most important achievements of the first five IGF meetings?**

The IGF has provided a unique space where all actors on an equal footing exchange of best practices and experiences on a wide range of IG issues and in particular has allowed for controversial issues to be aired and discussed which has led to greater understanding and more informed approaches to them. The IGF has had a real impact on national and regional dialogues on Internet governance issues, catalyzing new communications paths for governments, business, civil society and the Internet technical community, which in turn leads to more informed policy choices.

2. **How satisfied are you with the delivery of the results of discussions at the IGF and the impact they have had on developments in national, regional or international Internet governance?**

Very satisfied and this can continue to be built

3. **Which, if any, new mechanisms would you propose to improve the impact of the IGF discussions, in particular as regards the interaction between the IGF and other stakeholders? Please specify the kind of mechanism (e.g. reporting, exchanges, recommendations, concrete advice, etc.) and the stakeholders (e.g. intergovernmental bodies, other fora dealing with Internet Governance, etc.).**

Creating a regular reporting mechanism to other processes and intergovernmental bodies would be an excellent next step. This would ensure the reduction of duplication and maximize the progress made on issues within the IGF for organizations, processes and forums that are decision-making oriented.

This year's best practice document was a productive starting point for compiling the many practice options and experiences that emerge at the IGF; we believe it would be useful to build on this first effort to capture the useful practical input from IGF workshops and sessions to create a user friendly and accessible format to help policymakers and other stakeholders productively use the information.



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The substantive IGF books that are produced should be made available to intergovernmental organizations and processes and perhaps could be distributed each year to missions in NY and Geneva to keep them apprised of developments.

The IGF website has improved over the years, and we believe that more can be done to effectively use the website to provide information about national and regional IGF initiatives, best practice information and other outputs of the IGF.

We do not believe the IGF overall should try to produce recommendations that are negotiated or approved; there are many recommendations that emerge from the discussions and capturing them in a way that allows stakeholders to use them is the most effective way forward.

**4. In your view, what important new issues or themes concerning Internet governance have emerged or become important since the Tunis phase of the Summit, which deserve more attention in the next five years?**

Each year the emerging issues session at the IGF have highlighted new issues such as Internet governance and the environment and cloud computing. Consideration could be given to issues such as reducing barriers to Internet access and creating greater confidence in the use of the Internet.

**5. What do you think should be the priority themes and areas of work of the IGF during the next five years?**

- Continued emphasis on issues of importance to developing and least developed countries
- Attention to policy implications of new technologies
- Space for discussion of controversial issues
- Focus on best practices and information about policy choices and consequences

**6. How can the capacity of those groups that are not yet well represented at the IGF be improved? In particular, what could be done to improve the capacity of representatives from developing countries?**

- National and regional awareness raising efforts and efforts to integrate stakeholders in national level IG discussions
- Continued improvement of the remote participation facilities
- Concise information about how they can participate and effective distribution of this information
- Gather information about what the barriers are to ensure the right challenges are being discussed and addressed
- Attention to new ways to provide travel support if that is a major barrier

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17 November 2010

- Consider the criteria for host countries to ensure costs, facilities, travel access, visas etc are not barriers
7. How do you think more awareness of Internet governance issues and the IGF process can be raised amongst groups whose lives are affected by Internet governance but who are not yet part of the IGF process?
- Website improvements
  - Create a network of organizations who are in touch with these groups and who can work locally to support awareness raising
8. How, if at all, do you think that the IGF process (including the format of the meeting, the preparatory process, the development of the agenda, etc.) needs to change to meet changing circumstances and priorities?
- In-depth discussions tend to take place in the workshops, thus creating more workshop oriented main sessions, reducing the number of panelists and emphasizing interaction
  - Consider the balance of workshops and open forums versus main sessions
  - Improve the timeliness of schedules being posted
  - Consider the balance of time allotted to open consultations versus MAG meetings to develop the programme; possibly allowing more work to be done in the open consultations.
9. Do you have any other comments? (You may find it useful to refer to the Note by the Secretary-General on the continuation of the Internet Governance Forum (document A/65/78 – E/2010/68) or to the contributions made in the formal consultations held online and during the IGF meeting in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in 2009 ( <http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/2009-igf-sharm-el-sheikh/review-process> ).