

## **Input IGF Expert Group Meeting (EGM)**

No one owns the internet, we all do. The internet is a great good: it is for everyone, or at least it should be. Everyone should have access to a safe and secure internet and should be able to utilize the internet equally.

Unfortunately this is not yet the case. The Internet Governance Forum must be the key instrument to make this happen. It is therefore incredibly important that the Internet Governance Forum provides a platform for multiple stakeholders, including youth, to express their thoughts and opinions on the future of the internet. In order to make this happen, the Internet Governance Forum must move forward and improve to stay relevant.

The entire public must be well represented at the IGF: including specifically minority groups. The IGF must provide a place for a diverse mix of stakeholders to come together and exchange views, thoughts and with this establish positive change.

After the Expert Group Meeting, new procedures must be embedded in the IGF way of working to establish the abovementioned goal.

### Recommendations:

- Engaging youth into session organization should be a standard criterium.
- Best practices from workshops should be widely spread, also outside the IG community in order to engage the un-engaged (e.g. politicians, universities).
- Structural funding mechanisms should be in place allowing youngsters to participate in full-capacity. A suggestion could be to create an IGF membership organisation with a stable funding/ financial support mechanism for individuals and NRIs in need of financial support.
- The session format should allow for more discussion and interaction, creating a dynamic approach. Sessions should allow a short setting the scene and introduction of the issue identified, followed by discussion and interaction.
- International (youth) working groups should be established, in order to collaborate on specific (long lasting re-occurring) themes. These working groups should have multiple (online) gatherings throughout the year (agile approach).
- The working groups should engage within various decision-making and discussion processes in order to expand the field of digital development.
- The IGF leadership panel collaborating with the MAG should identify the themes in need for a specific working group.
- IGF meetings should rotate through all UN regions.
- At least one youngster from each UN region must take place in the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG).
- An online video series should be established allowing newbies to be trained and informed in order to ease participation in the Internet Governance Forum and its processes.

### EGM preparation

To conclude, these are some thoughts that I have gathered throughout the past eight years participating as a young person in IG processes. These recommendations are based on my experiences talking to youth globally and at the IGF. The pandemic has increased the possibility to participate online in the IGF, allowing for a more inclusive participation. In order to strengthen youth

participation at the IGF and the upcoming Expert Group Meeting, it is essential to organize a youth session to gather input from youth and local representatives for the Expert Group Meeting.

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