

Rome, 20 January 2022

I would like to thank the IGF for the opportunity to take part in the IGF 2021 taking stock.

I share few considerations in my personal capacity

The IGF 2021 Preparatory process worked well. However, I think some improvements could be introduced by reducing the number of sessions included in the programme and merging the sessions dealing with the same issues. The sessions debate should be more focused on specific issues and interlinked with results, projects, best practices implemented by the stakeholders worldwide.

It is also important to increase engagement of the “Non Attending” stakeholders reflecting why they did not participate and what are the elements that could increase their participation.

The IGF programme should guarantee more continuity between an IGF cycle and the next one in terms of tangible outputs, results and best practices. On this aspect It could be useful to adopt a multi-year plan identifying the IGF main priorities on a yearly basis and comparing them with those coming from NRIs and the other intersessional activities (DCs, BPFs, PNEs, etc.).

Based on the multiyear plan the IGF MAG could organize some events during the year in addition to the annual event.

The hybrid format was a successful experience that increased participation and it should be kept. However sometimes the zoom links did not work well and this aspect should be improved.

About the IGF 2021 High-level leaders track and Parliamentarian tracks, I think more participation should be promoted also with reference to the best practices and the possibility to implement common projects among the UN countries.

The NRIS sessions were well organized and debated however the IGF program should give more space to the NRIS. NRIs could organize some sessions focused on creating practical, feasible projects that bring solutions to an identified common issue (for example, courses for digital literacy done in a cooperative way among interested NRIs). It's also important for the NRIs to define a common multi-year plan to support achieving goals long term that could bring sustainability.

Youth participation in 2021 was successful but it could be improved promoting youth participation in the different IGF WGs, to the intersessional activities and to the MAG.

Based on the results coming from the annual event, I suggest the IGF should promote the implementation of concrete projects.

A global IG Observatory supporting IGF work could be very useful. The Observatory should not limiting itself to the sharing of the results of the debate of the annual IGF event and of the previous editions but it should collect share and link information to the initiatives underway by other international entities that operate in various capacities in the Internet Governance constellation (ICANN, ITU, OECD, UNESCO, IEEE, CSTD, Council of Europe, etc.).

I welcome the new LP and I think it would facilitate sharing of the IGF results in the agendas of the

international organizations dealing with Internet Governance issues (eg. OECD, ITU, European Commission, etc).

I share also few considerations on how the IGF could be improved and strengthen in the context of the “Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (par. 93)” and the IGF + model and with reference to the “Our Common Agenda (par. 93)” report issued by the UNSG.

On this aspect I want to recall the concrete recommendations developed by the **MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy** (WG- strategy) and included in the following documents:

- 1) [Response to the paper on “Options for the Future of Digital Cooperation”](#)
- 2) [Proposals on strategic improvements to the IGF and operational measures in 2021](#)

And the [Letter to the UNSG sent by the MAG](#)

I think the IGF ecosystem includes all the elements to support “*the multi-stakeholder digital technology track in preparation for a Summit of the Future to agree on a Global Digital Compact*”
On this aspect I think the IGF should share concrete proposals to be sent to the UN SG, on how this support could be implemented .

Further I suggest:

- 1) To activate a closer path between WSIS process and IGF in view of WSIS + 20;
- 2) To place the IGF secretariat directly under the UN SG's office;
- 3) To create a structural link between the IGF and the UNGA in order to contribute to the work of thematic Open Ended WGs relevant to IGF.

Best Regards,

Concettina Cassa (former MAG member 2018- 2020)