

# **Taking Stock of IGF 2022 and Suggesting Improvements for IGF 2023**

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**Do you submit this input on behalf of your organization or in your personal capacity?**

I submit this input on behalf of my organization

## **Taking Stock of the IGF 2022: What worked well? What worked better?**

**IGF 2022 preparatory process (timeline, call for issues and session proposals, session selection, MAG meetings, capacity development etc.)**

Overall, we found the preparatory process good. The call for issues and session proposals was both timely and clear. However, the main sessions' planning could have been more informative, providing opportunities to get involved. In addition, it is recommended that the IGF Interactive schedule be made accessible earlier to give participants more time to plan their agenda.

## **IGF 2022 overall programme: thematic focus, structure and flow**

We appreciate the effort of having a more focused IGF agenda by defining themes linked to the UN Secretary-General's Global Digital Compact (GDC). It helped with linking the IGF with upcoming UN deliberations and multilateral negotiations on digital cooperation and multistakeholder Internet governance. However, it is still not clear how the IGF community can leverage their outputs to contribute to the GDC process.

On the other hand, the number of sessions, especially for newcomers, was intimidating. There were scheduling conflicts that caused less inclusivity in the number of participants in those key discussions. We suggest holding fewer, more in-depth sessions.

## **IGF 2022 Hybrid format design and experience**

The hybrid format should continue as it provides different attendance options, especially for those that cannot travel. While the benefits of hybrid meetings are clear, there are still some challenges in running sessions for both onsite and online participants.

During IGF2022, we experienced some technical issues that made sessions start late. Furthermore, it took a lot of work for online speakers and participants to know what was happening in the room. While an onsite and online moderator helped conduct fully interactive sessions, rooms did not provide the equipment needed to make the most of the sessions.

Within this context, we recommend that all the room facilities are clearly stated for each meeting room, giving session organizers and speakers a clear indication of what will be available. We also suggest that the vendor should use two computers/devices. One device with a camera of the room - to provide virtual participants with a view of the room throughout the entire meeting. The other device should display the speakers' presentations.

### **IGF 2022 logistics (website, mobile app, schedule, registration, access and use of online platform, bilateral meeting system, security etc.)**

The new IGF website is a significant achievement as it improves user experience regarding visualization and navigation. Nevertheless, there are still some issues to address. For example, each IGF has its website, but its link is not easily accessible on the main IGF website. Furthermore, the IGF website could provide front-page updates on the progress and outcomes of the sessions. Real-time reports (two hours after the sessions) were mandatory. However, they were difficult to find.

There were technical issues accessing the platform for the schedule on Day 1. The IGF website needs, therefore, further improvement to ensure ease of access when logging in and registering for sessions.

**Schedule:** besides making the IGF interactive schedule accessible earlier, it is recommended to improve its navigation. Despite filter options, the schedule took several minutes to navigate, taking several minutes to find relevant sessions.

**Link to sessions:** speakers needed help finding the links to the sessions. Session speakers should be provided with direct login links early to ensure they can access and start their sessions on time. While the document with all links was useful, finding it and navigating it was complex.

### **Intersessional activities and NRIs at IGF 2022**

**Best Practice Forums and Policy Networks at IGF 2022: please comment on process, content, and in particular on how these intersessional activities were included in the IGF 2022 programme**

**Dynamic Coalitions at IGF 2022: please comment on process, content, and in particular on how these intersessional activities were included in the IGF 2022 programme.**

BPFs, PNs, as well as DCs, need to be better integrated into the IGF agenda to showcase the work of the IGF throughout the year. This work was lost in the number of sessions held in parallel.

**National, Regional and Youth IGFs at IGF 2022: please comment on process, content, and in particular on how the NRIs were included in the IGF 2022 programme.**

See Youth Track.

**IGF 2022 programme: please comment on the content, speakers and quality of discussions**

## **IGF 2022 Sessions**

As stated before, the number of sessions -several hosted in parallel- made the schedule challenging to navigate and understand.

It was appreciated that in most sessions we attended, moderators ensured sufficient time for questions and comments from both online and onsite participants.

## **IGF 2022 High-level leaders track**

The High-level leaders track is a positive way of encouraging stronger engagement from government and senior leaders from all sectors. It contributes to raising the profile of the IGF. In terms of the preparation, we suggest that more information on how to get involved in this track is shared with the community. This would guarantee representation of all sectors and diversity in participants across the years.

## **IGF 2022 Youth Track**

Internet Society alumni participated in the IGF Youth Track as youth coordinators. The YouthTrack held four workshops, one in each region, to build up to the Global Youth Summit at the IGF Meeting. Our ambassadors and alumni appreciate the opportunity to get involved in the work of the Youth Track. A recommendation for organizers is to intentionally include youth voices on main panels other than the opening and closing sessions. Youth Track work should not be done mainly in silos but more collaboratively across all IGF communities. Therefore, session proposal structures should include youth voices to observe the call to diversity.

## **IGF 2022 communications, outreach and outputs**

Efforts to collect session outputs and reports are significantly appreciated. The lack of messages and outputs was mentioned as something to improve in previous consultations.

Besides this effort, it is recommended that the messages are leveraged with participants and other audiences to raise the IGF profile and encourage more participants to get involved in this year's IGF. For instance, they could be used on the IGF social media channels.

## **Any other comments on the IGF 2022**

We made the difficult decision of not attending IGF2022 in person due to ongoing security concerns in the host country and efforts to shut down the Internet in some regions. While the hybrid format allowed us to conduct our activities and make meaningful contributions, our preference would be to attend in person. We recommend that the Secretariat consider the local context and the status of the Internet in the countries that submit applications to host this event.

## **What are your suggestions for improvements for IGF 2023?**

## **IGF 2023 preparatory process (timeline, call for session proposals and session selection, MAG and Open Consultations meetings etc.)**

As the IGF is scheduled for October, we recommend making the 2023 timeline available (including call for workshops, MAG consultations and MAG renewal process, etc.) as soon as possible to give community members enough time to prepare for the different stages of the process.

## **IGF 2023 overall programme structure and flow**

As highlighted before, on the one hand, we believe that the IGF 2023 could benefit from fewer sessions. This would also facilitate participation (as IGF newcomers usually feel overwhelmed by the number of workshops) and, most importantly, allow for more focused discussions.

On the other hand, we recommend an increase in newcomer sessions, for example, including one newcomers session on day 0 and an additional two newcomers sessions in the morning and evening of day 1. This increases newcomers' engagement throughout the event.

## **IGF 2023 programme content (thematic approach, session types, speakers profiles)**

The thematic approach makes the programme clearer and more focused. We recommend continuing this approach. Nevertheless, it is important to refrain from repetitiveness in the topics being discussed. The same issues were discussed in different session types in 2022 which made the content repetitive.

We suggest that sessions and speakers build on what has already been discussed in 2022 to avoid repetitiveness and go deeper into the issues. This could be done by inviting session organizers to read the 2022 output messages and asking how they will build on what has been already discussed and what would be their addition to the discussion.

## **IGF 2023 participants: who to invite and how to inter-connect participants?**

We recommend that the Secretariat, as well as MAG members, work closely with all stakeholders of the host country in the preparation process in addition to consultations with the government hosting the meeting. This might increase local participation during the event.

## **Any other comments on the IGF 2023? You are welcome to comment on possible improvements of the IGF as it pertains to the IGF mandate, United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and Our Common Agenda.**

We suggest the MAG monitor the work of the IGF Leadership Panel closely. While the Terms of Reference for the IGF Leadership Panel states that it will leverage the MAG expertise, it is still being determined how that will work in the preparations for the IGF2023. We recommend the MAG and the Panel report and inform the community how that key relationship will work in practice. If the work of the Panel results in any changes in how the IGF is conducted, we expect the MAG and the IGF community to be involved in all phases of the discussion.