

# Remarks by 2017 Host Country:

## Lessons learned & Suggestions for future IGFs

## Looking back: IGF 2017

- Great opportunity to break the silos: Very rich, diverse and well attended IGF 2017, timely and « hot » topics
- Some innovations:
  - Interactive format of Opening Session
  - « Geneva Messages »
- Potential of Geneva as a Hub for global Digital Governance
- Thanks to MAG members, MAG Chair & Secretariat!

## Suggestions for the future

- Continue raising the IGF's political relevance and visibility:
  - Take a broad approach to Internet Governance
  - Focus on issues of relevance for politicians, citizens and businesses, particularly in sessions with high visibility
  - Enhance communication about the IGF's « added value » (compared to other IG events): Bottom-up, open, inclusive
  - Continued presence of the UNSG, if possible in person, would be valuable

## Suggestions for the future

- Continue raising diversity:
  - Specific outreach needed to: Political leaders, business community, women, global south, young people
  - Involve diplomatic missions, IOs, NGOs, academic networks and think tanks in Geneva as early as possible in the preparatory process
  - More systematic inclusion of NRIs would be desirable
  - Enhance mix of stakeholders within one session

## Suggestions for the future

- Increased focus on content & substance:
  - Enhance in-depth debates on selected topics (instead of “superficial” discussions that go in all directions)
  - Idea: Introduce work tracks on priority topics within inter-sessional work
  - Topics of high-level/main sessions could be identified through open call for issues (as in EuroDIG process)
  - Establish clear linkages to the Agenda 2030

## Suggestions for the future

- Discussion formats:
  - Promote dynamic and interactive discussion formats in all sessions
  - Consider fewer panels and speakers
  - Interactive format of Opening Session introduced at IGF 2017 should be maintained and further improved
  - Default duration of 3 hours for main sessions could be reconsidered

## Suggestions for the future

- More tangible and usable outcomes:
  - Build on the experience of the « Geneva Messages » introduced at IGF 2017 and promote them in other fora
  - Enhance dissemination of work by initiatives such as CNB, BPFs, DCs and NRI
  - Further improve information sources (“daily reports” etc.) at disposal during IGFs, e.g. by strengthening partnerships with GIP, GIPO, IG Schools etc.

## Suggestions for the future

- Long-term planning:
  - Important efforts by Working Group on Multi-Year Strategic Work Programme
  - Strive for earlier confirmation of next host country
  - Closer co-operation between former, current and future host countries

## Suggestions for the future

- In short:
  - There are lots of ideas and proposals around, how to further improve the IGF process and meetings.
  - The most important issue regarding this is, however...

## Suggestions for the future

- ...that all of us make sure that there is enough

**MONEY.**

- because otherwise, all good ideas will just remain ideas...

**Switzerland will continue to support  
the IGF and its continuous improvement.**

**Thank you!**