Call for Inputs – Taking Stocks

Let me thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to make a contribution to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2018 which occurred from12-14 November, 2018. IGF 2018 was well organized and also will be remembered for having both the President Emmanuel Macron (President of France) and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres to address the occasion. The success of IGF 2018 could not have been realized with the critical role played by IGF Secretariat, the Multi-stakeholder Group (MAG), the Government of France (the host country) , UNESCO, and other host organizations. This submission is being put together by Timothy Kwadwo Asiedu, the Founder and Managing Director / CEO of TIM Technology Services Ltd., Accra, Ghana, Africa.

Please find below the responses to various questions:

A) Taking stock of 2018 programming, output, preparatory process, community intersectional activities and the 13th annual IGF: What worked well? What worked no so well?

In taking stock for IGF 2018, programming, output involving participants in the UN IGF's Best Practice Forum and Others, preparatory process, community intersectional activities consisting also the various BPFs and others all worked well.

Logistics: On the issue of Logistics, although the host country, France and other surrounding communities were given a short note to prepare for the 2018 IGF, it must be recorded that the IGF was well organized. The areas which had some challenges on the first day of the Forum and will require improvement are on site Internet access for some of the participants and also Internet connection for remote participation. Some rooms had no moderators for remote participants and in such instances; queries by remote participants were not attended to.

B) What suggestions for improvements could be made for 2019? (Please focus on programming, the outputs preparatory process, community intersectional activities and improvements for the 14th annual meeting and beyond).

Considering some logistic challenges like Internet access for some participants and Internet connections for remote participation not working properly, which occurred on the first day of the 2018 IGF, organizers of 2019 IGF will have to look at them and ensure that it does re-occur, through adopting continuous improvement strategy.

C) How could the IGF respond to the recommendation made by the UN Secretary General during his speech at the IGF 2018 Opening Ceremony?

During the UN Secretary General Opening Ceremony speech at the recent IGF 2018, the following recommendations were made which IGF 2018 could respond to:

1. First, we must be more than multistakeholder and also multidisciplinary in realizing our technological goals.
2. It was also mentioned that cooperation among actors in the digital space has not kept pace with new technologies.
3. Digital technologies are transversal, yet discussions are still siloed. For example, data is addressed across policy space from technological, economic, human rights, standardization, and jurisdiction viewpoints.
4. When you discuss data and artificial intelligence, you might want to invite philosophers to consider ethics. You might want to bring in anthropologist and other specialists who are not typically included in technology gatherings.
5. When you discuss social media, you need to include political and Social Scientist.
6. We need to wide range of expertise, experience and ideas to strike the right policy balance. For example to find the right inter play between protection of privacy and security.
7. Second, we need to create shared language and references.
8. I ask you, as I asked the Panel, to inspire new thinking and language on digital cooperation, create share references, propose new approaches, and look for possible ways to reframe existing problems, be they in trade, security, or human rights.
9. We need to make sure that the most competent forums are dealing with the most consequential questions and that they can benefit from cross-cutting resources.
10. Third, one will need a dedicated effort to include and amplify the weak and the missing voices.
11. A great strength of the IGF 2018 is its multi-stakeholder approach, but urge your digital discussions to move beyond the so-called "usual suspect".
12. Digital growth affects everyone and traditionally unheard and marginalized.

Considering the above enumerated recommendations of the UN Secretary General, it is expected that the IGF consisting of groups like MAG, BPF, Connecting and Enabling the Next Billions - Phase IV of IGF Intersessional and others can respond by acting on the above recommendations. In carrying out their tasks they can adopt the continuous improvement of Total Quality Management. It is also expected these professionals for the various groups carry out their tasks in an innovative manner.

D) How could the IGF respond to President Macron's "call for action" made during his speech at the IGF 2018 Opening Ceremony?

During the IGF 2018 Opening Ceremony, President Macron touched on many critical issues which the Forum is required to act upon, which are as follows:

1. Cybersecurity: The President also did mention that, the Internet is threatened and also under threat, with a lot of cyber attacks. The issue of Cybersecurity is quite critical during this digital era and without coming out good strategies to counter the threat, the trust we have for the Internet will be broken. Already we have IGF Intersessional consisting BPF, MAG and others in place who will continue to tackle issues of

Cybersecurity. In fact these groups work throughout the year, so their discussions and the necessary actions will continue.

2. The President also did mention that, the Internet is threatened by its contents and the services it provides. For that matter there will be the need for control and regulations for the Internet. He further indicated that there will be the need through regulation to build this new path where governments along with Internet players, civil societies and all actors will be able to regulate properly.

3. The President also touched on the very ideals and values of the Internet are threatened. The issue of threatening comes about as a result of the principles of neutrality of the Internet is brought into question. So he further advised that, there is the need to build this new space – a free open and safe Internet where access will be encouraged by all, while ensuring our values and our ideals are also respected.

4. The President also indicated that since the creation of the forum in 2005, he has always been in favour of the forum having its own secretariat, although the Internet Governance Forum being now directly under the United Nations Secretary – General. The President later indicated that, he is leaving it with the Secretary General to take his own decision.

5. The President also touched on the protection of the citizens, with two major focuses: Data protection and the regulation of Contents. He further discussed on hate speech and Cyberbullying, which there is the need to do much in terms of cooperation between states and the private sectors. He further indicated that, these issues are a worry to the younger generations and is causing a growing number of suicides.

6. The President also touched on the measures to fight fake news. He further indicated that, this issue comes under the need to fight against totalitarianism. He further clarified that, there is the need to jointly establish the boundaries of the right to high – quality information and trustworthy third parties in this field.

7. He further also touched on the need to focus on confidence, stability and security in cyberspace.

8. The President touched on the France supports for the "The Paris Call for Trust and Security in Cyberspace" which was issued during the Paris Peace Forum and the Internet Governance Forum. This text is the first declaration to call on states, international organization , NGO, business, local authorities and local actors to work together to uphold international law in cyberspace, protect rights online, fight against destabilizing activities and ensure the security of digital products.

9. The President further touched on the future of the Internet is preserving the web's potential in terms of creativity, invention and economic development.

10. The Internet's DNA: The President touched on the Internet's DNA, which makes it unique is the ability to give talented people, regardless of their resources, a language in which to express themselves and universal audience. This is also its transformative power. There is the need to act in digital space to preserve cultural diversity.

11. The President again touched on the issue of Artificial Intelligence, Copyright law and also the need to have basic education on Internet for all, including the children.

12. In conclusion, the President touched on the need to invent, innovate new forms of multilateral cooperation that involve not only states, but also all the stakeholders they represent.

Considering the above enumerated "call for action" of the French President, the IGF

can respond by acting on the above listed points through the use of the groups like the BPF, MAG and others of the IGF Intersessional. It is also expected that these professionals for the various groups carry out their tasks in an innovative manner.

E) What other organizations / disciplines should the IGF be collaborating with and how / to what purpose?

Since the IGF normally consists of different groups from different organizations and disciplines, it is expected that the members of professional groups should rather join professional associations/ bodies in order to improve upon their professional expertise so that they can carry out their tasks professionally.

F) The Secretary – General set-up a High - Level Panel on Digital Cooperation (HLPDC) to "identify good examples and propose modalities for working cooperatively across sectors, disciplines and borders to address challenges in the digital age".

    i) How can the IGF contribute to the work of the HLPDC to help foster these aims?

        The High – Level Panel on Digital Cooperation was established by the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in July, 2018. The panel of a diverse group of Leaders including government ministers, young entrepreneurs, academics, and activist and as indicated above thus: "identify good examples and propose modalities for working cooperatively across, disciplines and borders to address challenges in digital age". Considering the size of the panel, about 22 in number, I believe they cannot do their work alone and will need the support of IGF to realize aims. In case any Professional member of IGF would like to provide a support to the HLPDC, the Panel can be contacted at IGF website and the required message supplied to the form made available at site. The IGF member will then be engaged by the HLPDC to find out whatever form assistance that member intend offering.

    ii) Do you have any specific inputs for the HLPDC in relation to the IGF?

        Since I am an ICT/Cybersecurity Professional, a researcher and an author, I believe my expertise can be beneficial to the HLPDC, through IGF.