NOTA INFORMATIVA

6 de febrero de 2018

Asunto: IGF Community Public Consultation: Call for Inputs – Taking stock of the 2017 work programme and 12th IGF and suggestions for 2018 and 13th IGF

Generalidades: The Internet Governance Forum invites all stakeholders to send their comments on the following two questions**:**

   a) Taking stock of 2017 programming, preparatory process, community intersessional activities and the 12th annual IGF: What worked well? What worked not so well?
   b) Suggestions for improvements in 2018? (programming, preparatory processes, community intersessional activities and improvements for 13th annual meeting)

Taking into consideration the participation that the Federal Telecommunications Institute had in the IGF 2017, we highlight the following comments and proposals regarding the program, the preparatory process, and we suggest some improvements for the Forums in the future:

Participation: Considering the statistics of participation in the IGF 2017, we observe that the Internet Governance Forum continues to be a space where different stakeholders can join with the purpose of sharing experiences, exchanging points of view, establishing relationships and partnerships that pursue the same objective, etc.

The statistics show that there were 2019 on-site participants from at least 142 countries, which represented all stakeholders: civil society, governments, technical community, intergovernmental organizations and the private sector.

However, the same statistics show that there is still a need to promote the participation of women in the Forum. In the same way, it is necessary to promote participation of other stakeholders, since currently; the group that predominates in the forum is Civil Society, with 44.6% of participation, while governments only accounted for 20.3% and the technical community and private sector with 14% participation each.

Preparatory process: The Federal Telecommunications Institute considers that the preparatory process is open, inclusive, based on a multistakeholder model, since it allows and encourages the participation of all those stakeholders interested in the Internet ecosystem.

However, we could observe that this year the format for the presentation of workshop proposals was complicated and not very comprehensible, especially when it was necessary to confirm the speakers proposed to participate in the workshops.

For example, in the previous process, it was necessary to create an account for each one of the speakers who would participate in the proposed workshop, which implied registering many data, however, on many occasions the speaker had already an account. This was a big problem, because after the entering all the data requested, the system announced that the speaker had an account, which made it difficult and slow to submit contributions.

In addition, the format was extensive and difficult to understand. The instructions were only available in English, which also makes it difficult for non-English speakers to participate and propose

workshops. In the same way, it is complicated and difficult to have all the proposed speakers fully confirmed by the time of submitting workshop proposal, which complicates the submission of proposals in a timely manner.

Improvements: It is necessary that the format to propose workshops would be more friendly and easier to fill, in order to facilitate the presentation of contributions for future workshops. Likewise, it is necessary to encourage the use of other languages different from English, in order to promote the inclusion of stakeholders from different regions.

Program: Analyzing the 2017 program, it is observed that there were at least 8 main topics in the forum; regarding this topics, there were the following number of workshops:

- Access & inclusión & diversity: at least 19 workshops
- Critical Internet Resources: 15 workshops
- Cybersecurity: 20 workshops
- Digital Economy & Digital Work & Sustainable Development: 16 workshops
- Gender & Youth: 18 workshops
- Human Rights Online: 15 workshops
- Multistakeholder Cooperation & Governance: 15 workshops
- New Technologies & Emerging Issues: 25 workshops

Considering the above, it is clear that there is a great disparity of issues; the issues that are most privileged are those related to human rights, leaving aside the technical, political and/or regulatory issues. In order to encourage the participation of all stakeholders, it is important to promote a greater diversity of topics; otherwise, the IGF will no longer be a multistakeholder space.

On the other hand, the distribution of workshop schedules during 2017 was complicated because the workshops were spliced, this implicated that some participants had to leave the discussions before finishing the workshop or were forced to arrive late to other workshops of their interest.

It is necessary to modify the time distribution of the workshops, so that they begin and end at the same time, so the participants would be able to remain throughout the workshop.

Finally, we consider that currently there is an excess of workshops in the Forum. While it is important to give a space to all interested stakeholders, sometimes the excess of workshops causes that some rooms have very little participation, which it is not good for the discussion of the issues. Therefore, it is necessary to reduce the number of workshops in future Forums.