

## **Contribution of the Government of the United States of America**

### ***Taking Stock of IGF 2019 and Call for Inputs for IGF2020***

**January 2020**

---

The U.S. Government appreciates the opportunity to respond to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Taking Stock and Call for Inputs.

The United States thanks the Government of Germany for hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> IGF. The lengths that Germany went to in providing support for increased participation from developing countries, securing high level speakers, and arranging for an excellent venue are remarkable. We recognize and appreciate the commitment of Germany to the success of the IGF, demonstrated not only by the above-listed efforts but also by the announcement of its generous contribution to the IGF Trust Fund.

We also thank outgoing MAG Chair Lynn St. Amour for her dedication to the IGF and her leadership since 2016, and welcome incoming MAG Chair Anriette Esterhuysen, whose extensive experience will serve the MAG well in preparing for IGF2020 and beyond.

There were several improvements to the IGF and its preparatory process in 2019. Appointment processes, including those for the MAG Chair and the new MAG members, were timely and allowed for positive announcements during the IGF event. The announcement of Poland as the IGF2020 host country showed continuing support for the IGF. Lastly, by specifying the location and dates for the 2020 event during IGF2019, stakeholders are in a better position to plan for participation.

The value of the multistakeholder discussions that take place during the IGF depends in part upon the diversity of perspectives included. We note that there is a lesser degree of participation by some stakeholder groups at the IGF relative to others. The United States encourages the MAG to consider, in particular, how to encourage greater developing country participation.

Organizing the program around a few main themes provided greater cohesion to the IGF's agenda in 2019, and we support repeating the 2019 approach for the 2020 program development process. We also note the IGF Secretariat's efforts to strengthen reporting practices, and to encourage greater visibility of IGF outputs. In keeping with the IGF's core principles – open and transparent, inclusive, bottom-up, multistakeholder, and non-commercial – all outputs that issue under the auspices of the IGF should remain the products of multistakeholder discussion and collaboration.

The untapped potential of the IGF to advance Internet public policy discussions lies in the thousands of transcripts, videos, and reports from fourteen years of IGF discussions. In this vein, the United States continues to encourage the MAG to explore ways to better capture, package, and promote IGF insights.

The United States looks forward to continued, active participation in the IGF and its intercessional processes.