Internet Governance Forum 2024
Taking Stock from IGF 2023
February 2024
IGF 2023 stock taking and considerations for 2024

Summary

- Open Microphone and Taking Stock session at the IGF 2023
- Written contributions via email/the IGF 2023 Taking Stock online form
- Written contributions via the Call for IGF 2024 Thematic Input

From the IGF 2023 Taking Stock online form and via email:

23 contributions

1. WEOG
2. Asia Pacific
3. GRULAC
4. Africa
5. IGOs

Regions

Stakeholders

1. CSO
2. Privat Sec.
4. Governments

Access all contributions here
IGF 2023 Stock Taking
Preparatory Process
- Launch the number of thematic tracks of the more focused agenda
- Better include ISC, as well as academic/tech-focused programme building and value addition
- Continue to use the online submission to better plan submissions
- Increase transparency in the selection of thematic chairs/track leaders
- Include webinars to a selected number of tracks

IGF 2023 Stock Taking
International Work and NRENs
- Increase the number of requests for the various NRENs dealing initiatives related to the global NREN programme
- Increase NRENs and NREN teams on front and common contributions to the IGF
- Not to pursue the use of NRENs, RRs, and NRENs
- Not to pursue the work of NRENs, RRs, and NRENs

IGF 2023 Stock Taking
Programme Structure and Content
- Continuously align the programme with the IGF Code of Conduct
- Take care to maintain a balance in the thematic tracks in order to cover the various aspects of the global Internet
- Keep the number of tracks and the track leaders
- Have a clear and visible programme that includes all the thematic tracks
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IGF 2023 Stock Taking
Technological Matters and Communications
- Implement the use of video conferencing tools and communication platforms, such as Zoom and similar platforms
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IGF 2023 Stock Taking
Other Logistics and Host Country Role
- Encourage a more active role, especially for those countries in the Global South
- Develop a more active role, especially for those countries in the Global South
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IGF 2023 Stock Taking
Participation, Stakeholder Engagement
- Increase the visibility of the importance of stakeholder engagement and ensure their visibility and active participation across the programmes, without alienating them in a way that is meaningful to them
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IGF 2023 Stock Taking
Case Studies
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IGF 2023 stock taking
Preparatory Process

• Lower the **number of thematic tracks** in favour of a more focused agenda
• Better include **DCs, as well as intersessional work** in programme building and MAG discussions
• Earlier announcement of any **deadline extensions** to better plan submissions
• **Increase transparency** in the selection of sessions (other than workshops)
• Include **useful feedback** to a rejected workshop proposals
• **Better coordinate** between the IGF Secretariat, the host country and main session organizers during the **preparatory process of high-level sessions**
• Earlier announcement of key dates (e.g., OC and MAG meetings) and publication of the **IGF 2024 timeline** on the website
• **Expand the list of issues** in the IGF Call for Thematic Input
• Increase **meaningful participation of marginalized and vulnerable groups** (indigenous communities, youth (incl. teens), LGBTQI+ members...) incl. in IGF decision-making processes and the process to structure the meeting
IGF 2023 stock taking
Intersessional Work and NRIs

• Enhance the integration of the various NRI and Youth initiatives output in the global IGF programme
• Ensure NRI and youth inputs are front and centre in contributions to the GDC
• Better promote the work of BPFs, PNs, DCs and Youth
• Include DCs outcomes of intersessional activities in the MAG strategic planning (e.g., meeting programme, advocacy of IGF outputs), as DCs called for a more formal IGF recognition of their outputs
• Noting the increase in number of DCs and the competing pressure for slots in the IGF programme, DCs expressed their concern about the ability to integrate key DC outcomes in the IGF framework
• Organize a dedicated day to IGF intersessional work, featuring BPFs, PNs, NRIs, DC sessions
IGF 2023 stock taking
Programme Structure and Content

• Continue to **align the programme with the GDC & WSIS+20 review process**, while giving less prominent status to **Artificial Intelligence**

• Improve and release (an accessible) **interactive IGF schedule** earlier, incl. a firm deadline to allow changes on the session pages

• Decrease the **number of sessions** (avoiding duplications), **start sessions later and end them earlier** (increasing onsite attendance)

• Simplify the programme by reducing the **number of session types**

• Include more **people with disabilities, youth, gender-diverse and Global South individuals** as in-person speakers, especially in main hall events

• Allocate more time to **open discussions at high-level and LP events**

• The **Parliamentary Track** should engage IGF communities more widely

• Limit **speakers' interventions** in IGF sessions

• Use the IGF 2024 as a **platform to discuss the final report of the High-Level Advisory Body on AI**
IGF 2023 stock taking
Technical Matters and Communications

• Explore the possibility of holding **fully virtual events**. The requirement of having onsite panelists and moderators was welcomed by other respondents.
• Improve the **accessibility of each session** and ensure remote and onsite participants are treated equally.
• Better promote the **IGF mobile app**, enhance features to include a chat function.
• Develop a **set of instructions** for organizers to edit session pages.
• **Registration** for the individual sessions did not seem straightforward.
• Produce during the week of the IGF more information material, such as event summaries.
• Engage more notable **Internet personalities and the international media**, both as journalists of the event and as digital stakeholders.
• Enhance **communications activities**, which could be used by session organizers to widely promote their events ahead of and during the IGF.
• Better advertise the **3D venue and virtual booths**.
• **Acquiring a visa** was challenging, especially for some nationals from the Global South. Steps to obtain a visa to Saudi Arabia should be clear.
• Ensure various types of **disabilities** are considered early on with the preparatory process. This should include access on the website as well as at the venue.
• Implement **green events** by following sustainable event management practices.
• Towards improving transparency, share **privileges and immunities** of meeting participants.
• **Place the village** closer to workshop rooms or coffee corners to increase attendance.
• Do not organize **reception or social gathering** during meeting hours to avoid any overlaps with on-going sessions.
• The **reference and signage to rooms** at the venue was confusing.
IGF 2023 stock taking
Participation, Stakeholder Engagement

- Improve the **notable presence of youth** and ensure their visibility and active participation across the programme, without silo-ing them in a youth track or assigning less visible roles (e.g., online moderators)
- Enhance **business participation** (e.g., big tech companies and start-ups) by creating a dedicated space for interactions
- Increase the **outreach to legislators** from the Global North
- Raise wider awareness of existing **IGF outputs and support their dissemination**
- Introduce a **Judiciary Track** to develop capacity of judges in the digital arena
- Attract **more government representatives** other than from WEOG
- Take the lead in organizing an **IGF side event** at the Summit of the Future increasing the participation of the IGF community