

Suggestions for the IGF 2012

An NRO Contribution to the February Open Consultations

27 January 2012

Similar to our submission in February 2011, we have taken a three-pronged approach to this submission: 1) What has worked in the past and should be kept; 2) What has been used in the past but could be improved; and 3) What new elements could be introduced to the 2012 IGF.

1. Keep

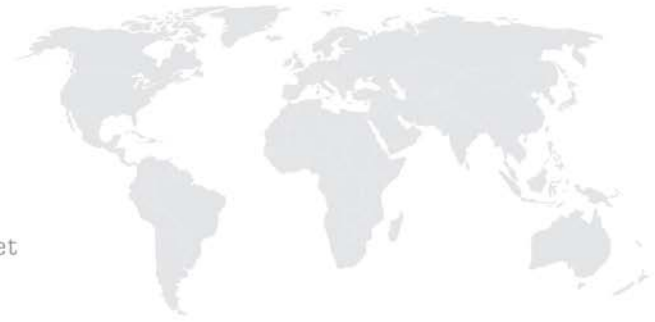
During the past six IGFs, a number of good program practices have been developed which should be continued for the IGF 2012 program. These include:

- Enabling the MAG to facilitate workshop mergers when multiple workshop proposals contain similar or duplicate content areas
- Aggregating the diverse set of workshop submissions into theme-based tracks by the MAG in close coordination with open consultation input
- Scheduling “feeder” workshops, prioritizing those that include representatives from all stakeholder groups
- Including representatives from all stakeholder groups in main session panels
- Minimizing time for panelist during main discussions, allowing as much time as possible for open discussion from the floor and from remote participants
- While the general level of discussion on Internet governance issues at the IGF continues to mature, it remains important to provide a “Setting the Scene” session that can help provide a necessary introduction to newcomers to Internet governance discussions.
- Maintain rotation of the IGF venue between regions in order to improve participation and bring new voices to the dialogue.

2. Improve:

Areas that could be improved are:

- Remote Participation was improved in 2011 compared to 2010, but there is still much to be done to improve this important tool for strengthening accessibility.
- Continue to encourage Regional Hubs and support greater direct participation between them and the IGF sessions in order to allow a bidirectional flow of discussions.
- IGF should continue to encourage organizations co-locating meetings at the IGF to publicize details of their events as early as possible via the IGF website to encourage



greater participation in these events, thereby facilitating greater multi-stakeholder cross collaboration.

- Continue to foster Regional IG discussions or meetings, as these are the most productive way of engaging people regionally. Once Regional Meetings are held, the need to carry the regional perspective to the global stage is important. However, there is also a challenge for the outcome of the regional meetings to stay local in order to facilitate and produce impact on Governments and policy decisions between stakeholders.
- Continue to encourage a diverse range of sources to collate, interpret and analyze IGF discussions with the goal of continuing debate and deepening of study on the topics discussed at the IGF.

3. Add:

Areas for innovation could include:

- Build a link between Regional IG discussions and the MAG for feedback and information sharing.