The 13th Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was hosted by the Government of France at the headquarters of UNESCO in Paris from 12 to 14 November 2018.
2018: AN EXCEPTIONAL YEAR FOR IGF

The 2018 IGF was presided at the highest level by both the host country - the Government of France President Macron - and the United Nations Secretariat.

UN Secretary General (SG) António Guterres addressed the IGF, marking the first time in the Forum’s history that an SG has attended in person.
SG’S CALL FOR ACTION

Secretary-General Guterres’ opening address to the Forum noted the importance of the work being done in the Internet governance space and made three recommendations:

(i) calling for a multidisciplinary approach, involving experts not traditionally involved such as philosophers and anthropologists;

(ii) encouraging the development and use of a shared language to make the work of the community more inclusive accessible and relevant to a wider audience, and incorporate contributions from diverse fields, such as trade and human rights; and

(iii) calling for efforts to draw “weak and missing voices” into the IGF’s work, promoting the accessibility and connectivity of the Internet of all people but especially the underserved and marginalized communities.
MORE INTERACTION WITH THE IGF COMMUNITY

With emphasis on improving working modalities and fulfilling the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF, the public call for issues was created in order to better understand which themes or topics the broader IGF community wished to see discussed.

This resulted in a more thematic programme, answering the community’s request for more concrete, focused, non-duplicative and cohesive discussions during the IGF annual meeting.

The IGF 2018 also represented an opportunity for participants to give input to the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation and interact with the panel’s members through an open forum session in the programme.
STATISTICS OF 2018 — MAIN THEMES

- Human Rights, Gender and Youth 15%
- Evolution of Internet Governance 11%
- Digital Inclusion and Accessibility 13%
- Emerging Technologies 9%
- Media and Content 6%
- Technical and Operational Issues 5%
- Others 10%
- Development Innovation and Economic Issues 15%
- Cybersecurity, Trust and Privacy 16%
STATISTICS OF 2018 – ONSITE ATTENDANCE

Breakdown of Onsite Participants by Stakeholder Group

- Civil Society 45%
- Government 18%
- Intergovernmental Organization 7%
- Private Sector 20%
- Technical Community 11%
- Press/Media 1%
STATISTICS OF 2018 – ONSITE ATTENDANCE

Breakdown of Onsite Participants by Regional Group

- African Group 25%
- Eastern European Group 6%
- Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC) 9%
- Western European and Others Group (WEOG) 38%
- Intergovernmental Organization 6%
- Asia-Pacific Group 16%
IGF 2018: ACHIEVING A BROADER AUDIENCE

Transcripts and webcasts were made instantly available throughout the meetings.

Reports and summaries of the more than 150 sessions were published on the IGF’s website. All sessions were live streamed, and session videos were uploaded for online viewing.

The ‘IGF Messages’ were drafted on the basis of community inputs and published online during the meeting itself, providing succinct and readable takeaways on the IGF’s major themes.

IGF’s and wider UN Secretariat’s social media channels were also active during the week as additional platforms for dialogue.

A set of continuous activities throughout the 2018 programme was developed under the Youth and Newcomers Track by the MAG and IGF Secretariat.
IGF 2018: ACHIEVING CAPACITY BUILDING

One tangible way for the IGF to enhance and increase the participation of developing countries is through the National, Regional and Youth IGFs (NRIs).

There were 111 NRIs present at the IGF 2018 compared to 97 NRIs in the 2017 annual meeting.

Since the 2017, 9 more countries have established IGF processes, increasing the number of national IGFs to 80, and 5 communities established Youth IGFs, increasing the total number to 14.

32 different NRIs were involved in preparing 5 NRIs collaborative sessions during the IGF 2018 which focused on access, cybersecurity, digital economy, emerging technologies and fake news.
THE MULTISTAKEHOLDER IGF COMMUNITY IN ACTION: SHAPING THE OUTCOMES OF IGF MEETINGS

In 2018, the IGF furthered its work on Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s). This year, the intersessional initiative aimed at supplementing the recommendations made in Phases I, II and III with concrete case studies to highlight how projects on the ground help to make progress in key sustainable development goals.

The Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) through their regular monthly virtual meetings and adoption of common work standards (open archives, open membership, open mailing lists), their activities have become more synchronized. A set of papers on the SDGs produced by DCs highlighted the strong convergences between Internet governance and sustainable development.

By continuously involving new people in their work, the various Best Forum Practices (BPFs) also contributed to enlarging the global footprint of the IGF. BPFs worked throughout the year in an open and inclusive way via open mailing lists, regular virtual meetings and BPF workshops.
MAG WORKING GROUPS

- Working Group on IGF Improvements (WG-IMP)
- Working Group on Multi-year Strategic Work Programme (WG-MWP)
- Working Group on Outreach and Engagement (WG-OE)
- Working Group on Workshop Review and Evaluation Process (WG-WREP)
- Working Group on Fundraising (WG-FUN)
GERMANY AND THE 2019 IGF

The next host, Germany, held an open forum where they outlined their commitment to host the 2019 IGF.

This provided an overview of their preparations, which are being conducted in a multistakeholder manner, working closely with the German National IGF and other stakeholder groups.

The Government of Germany reconfirmed their intent to facilitate greater participation of individuals from the Global South.
IGF 2019 IN BERLIN, GERMANY

The 14th Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) will be hosted by the Government of Germany in Berlin from 25 to 29 November 2019.
IGF 2019: FIRST ONSITE MAG MEETING

The first face-to-face 2019 Open Consultations and MAG meeting will take place on 28-30 January 2019 at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

Registration is open until **24 January 2019**.
IGF 2019 CALL FOR ISSUES: CURRENT NUMBERS OF CONTRIBUTIONS (OPEN UNTIL 24/01/2019)

By Stakeholder group
- Government (10)
- Intergovernmental Organization (2)
- Civil Society (59)
- Technical Community (12)
- Private Sector (16)

By Regional group
- Eastern European Group (4)
- Asia-Pacific Group (17)
- Latin American and Caribbean Group (11)
- African Group (33)
- Western European and Others Group (26)
- Other (6)
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

Chengetai Masango
IGF Programme and Technology Manager
chengetai.masango@un.org