

Dear Colleagues

My name is Marilyn Cade. I am the CEO of a micro enterprise that focuses on the nexus of changing technology and Internet Governance. I have been a member of the IGFSAs Executive Committee since it was launched. I seek reelection with a clear commitment to continue to be actively engaged in the work of the IGFSAs. I am particularly interested in how the NRIs network can continue to grow and evolve, with the support of IGFSAs, and how we can grow the membership and engagement of all IGFSAs members, and how we can substantially increase our fundraising in order to fulfill our core mission. In particular, we must pursue increased outreach to the business sector to diversify our sponsorship base, as well as pursuing an approach to gather small financial contributions, such as a form of crowd sourcing.

First, as you may know, the IGFSAs Executive Committee is a working Committee. By that I mean that while we have a small Secretariat, much of the work, including outreach and fundraising; preparing the required reports that any not for profit must file; recruitment and retention of members, as well as participating as possible and where invited, in many of the NRIs, is done by the elected members of the Executive Committee. Thus, it is very important that a commitment to the time and access to resources to participate actively is a basic requirement. I am pleased that I can make this commitment of continuing the time that is needed, and to participating in other ways, as I do now, through helping to coordinate the informal gatherings of the NRIs network at ICANN meetings, speaking both in person and remotely at some of the NRIs, and contributing to membership engagement and outreach, and the funding challenges.

IGFSAs is a young NGO, and some of our time during the last year was spent transitioning from one Secretariat/Secretary to another; moving the website and putting additional back office functions in place, such as support for membership payments online. I am pleased that I have been able to initiate the first four page document describing the IGFs work, and continue to contribute to the development and distribution of the two page flyer that is available on the IGFSAs website. I have also been an active participant in the NRI s shared village booth, and also in the IGFSAs booth at the IGF, and in the events IGFSAs has hosted at the WSIS Forum. I have also in the past been a contributor to the UN Trust Fund, which has helped me to fully understand the funding challenges faced by the IGF. I have also been the catalyst to launch and coordinate a national IGF for four years, including accepting the responsibility for raising the funds needed to sponsor the IGF-USA. And, I continue to be an active participant and contributor to a number of NRIs, when invited.

Challenges Ahead:

As we all complete 2018, we will face new questions about the value of the multi stakeholder model; how and whether it should evolve and if so, how? Recent calls for increased multi-lateralism will put additional strain at the national level and regional levels. There will be implications coming out of the ITU s Plenipotenary Conference, which ends only a day or two after the IGF2018. And, the UN Secretary General s High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation will have implications for the IGF, regardless of what the recommendations are. New and emerging technologies are already receiving much interest – in the market and in government halls and

meetings. Whether the multi stakeholder models can be strengthened, and draw more engagement are questions arising at the national levels, as well as the global.

In short, the IGF *and* the IGFSAs face both new challenges, and new opportunities.

My focus has been and will continue to be on the continued evolution and support of the NRIs, which are an amazing and self-generated contributor to the IGF, but as importantly, to the growth and development of multi stakeholder engagement at the more localized level. I also see the need for continued and enhanced ways to make the work and contributions of the NRIs more visible, both within their own space – national, sub regional, regional or youth initiative – and reflecting visibly into the IGF itself. I hope that with increased funding resources, IGFSAs will be able to increase the support, especially to the national Initiatives, and also continue examining how to further engage with youth Initiatives. I also am committed to approaches to increasing communications with our IGFSAs membership on a more regularized basis, which could be through a quarterly two page newsletter, or a webinar approach.

Since December 2015, the network of NRIs has grown from around 57 to over 111, with several more under development.

I often say: we can talk *globally*, but we must act *locally* to change laws, regulations and practices. That reinforces the importance of the NRIs – they are critical to reflect national/regional level concerns into the IGF, but also reflecting the discussions and outputs of the IGF into the national level.

My background includes over 20 years in a global high tech and communications company, where I had a full range of experiences as a manager and executive, including supporting marketing and communications initiatives. I was involved in all phases of the World Summit on the Information Society as a business leader; I have been engaged in the IGF in each of its 13 years and I served as an IFG MAG member for a three year term. I have extensive experience in working on behalf of the private sector in the ITU; in UNESCO; in UNCTAD's Commission on Science and Technology for Development, including being appointed by the UN Secretary General to three working groups of relevance to the IGF – Improvements for the IGF; and the two working groups on Enhanced Cooperation. I am extensively engaged, still at ICANN; and with the IGF-USA, which I catalyzed. I continue to join the majority of the MAG calls as an observer and past MAG member and am pleased that through this engagement with the NRI network, I am able to keep abreast of the challenges and issues facing the NRIs with an understanding that crosses the distribution of the NRIs.

I welcome any questions and am reachable at marilynscale@hotmail.com. And, I ask for your support to vote in support of my reelection to the IGFSAs Executive Committee