

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

**Template for Submission of Executive Summaries for
Thematic/Country Workshop/ Action Line Facilitation Meetings/ Interactive
Sessions/ High Level Dialogues/Publication Releases/Briefings**

Deadline: Thursday 28 May, 2015

Exception: For sessions on Friday 29 May, please send at the latest 2 hours after the session)

Please note that the WSIS Forum 2015 Outcome Document will be released on the 29th of May (last day of the Forum)

- 1) Briefing: IGFSAs-Internet Governance Forum Support Association - Building Support for the IGF**
- 2) IGFSAs**

- 3) Main outcomes highlighting the following:**

I. Debated Issues

The Briefing Session examined the IGFSAs and its function as a platform allowing individuals and organizations to support the IGF, as well as to financial contributions to support the global IGF, and the national and regional IGF initiatives. The Session highlighted the importance of the IGF as an indispensable part of the Internet ecosystem. Speakers overviewed the funding model of the IGF through voluntary contributions, mainly by governments, private sector companies and not-for-profit organizations, made through contributions to the UN IGF Trust Fund. The IGFSAs was created to broaden the donor base and create an additional funding source that also accepts small individual contributions. In addition, by joining the IGFSAs, members of the IGFSAs signal their support for the IGF.

The IGFSAs is managed by an Executive Committee of nine members, elected at the Annual Meeting; three members of the Executive Committee participated in the Outreach session at WSIS Forum: Marilyn Cade, Cheryl Miller, and Virat Bhatia, as well as IGFSAs's Secretary, Markus Kummer, and Secretariat, Kyle Shulman.

Financial Contributions to the IGF by IGFSAs: To date, the IGFSAs has raised \$268,000, and \$114,000 has been contributed to the UN IGF Trust Fund. The Executive Committee has committed to allocate 70% to support the IGF Secretariat, either directly or to the UN IGF Trust Fund. A second key priority of the IGFSAs is to seek and promote exchanges and collaboration with the national and regional IGF initiatives. Thus, 15% of funds raised have been reserved for this purpose. A first such contribution was made to the forthcoming meeting in Sofia of the European Dialogue on Internet Governance, Eurodig. In short, the IGFSAs seeks to fill gaps that cannot be covered by the UN IGF Trust Fund.



Membership Update: The Association comprises 107 Individual and 12 organizational members. The annual membership fee is \$25.00 for Individual and \$100.00 for organizational members. The fees are purposely kept very low, as the goal is to have a broad and diverse membership. Thus, the membership fees are not the sole way that IGFSAs raise funds to support the IGF and its activities. Funding contributions of higher amounts are made voluntarily, both by IGFSAs members and other contributors. Participants were encouraged to visit the IGFSAs website www.igfsa.org and to apply for membership and/or to make a contribution. Participants were told that alternatively they could also contact the secretariat directly

The discussion showed much support for the IGFSAs activities. The IGFSAs brochure was found helpful, but the point was also made that the packaging both of the IGF itself and of IGFSAs needed to be made clearer for governments, in particular, and include more information about the IGF's activities. These comments were well received and participants were also updated on the current planning for the IGF2015, to be held in Brazil, 10-13 November 2015, with a particular focus on describing the evolution toward more outputs through Best Practices Forums and other intersessional work, focused on Connecting the Next Billion. In addition, there will be substantive interaction organized by the coordinators of the national and regional IGF Initiatives. An open and inclusive multistakeholder dialogue on public policy issues relating to the Internet is the best way in the search of sustainable policy solutions.

II. Quotes

“The IGFSAs were created to allow for cluster funding, as many small contributions can make a big contribution to the IGF. Its members, by joining the IGFSAs, show their political support of the IGF. The IGFSAs are not in competition with the UN IGF Trust Fund, but it is an additional funding source.”

-Markus Kummer, IGFSAs Secretary

" This IGFSAs session during the WSIS Forum was a great opportunity to encourage participants in the WSIS Forum to also engage in the IGF and to become engaged in national and regional IGF initiatives in their own countries. "

- Marilyn Cade IGFSAs Executive Committee Member

III. Main Outcomes of the Session highlighting

-The IGFSAs were created to help provide a stable and sustainable financial basis of the IGF.



-The IGFSa provides an easy way for individuals and organizations to contribute via the IGFSa payment portal or through the IGFSa Secretariat.

-The IGFSa also aims to strengthen the IGF by improving the linkages with the national and regional IGF initiatives and by providing fellowships.

- The IGF also contributes to the implementation of all WSIS Action lines.

-The IGFSa strongly supports the renewal of the IGF mandate, -- this would also help to strengthen the implementation of WSIS Action lines beyond 2015 and contribute to the post 2015 WSIS activities to lead toward an Information Society for all.

IV. Main linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals

The IGFSa fully supports the purpose and mission of the IGF as a platform for multistakeholder dialogue and shares the vision that the Internet is an open and inclusive platform and a powerful enabler that can contribute to attaining the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

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