
MONTREAL – IGFSA NRI Session
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MARKUS KUMMER:

Hello everyone. I'm Markus Kummer, I'm the Chair of the IGFSA Executive Committee. Before we start, I would invite you to honor Tarek with a minute of silence, and please stand in his memory. Thank you, please be seated. Well, this has become a very nice tradition that we meet at ICANN meetings with the NRIs. It has proved very useful in the past and I'm sure this meeting will also be very helpful. We are a short few weeks ahead of the annual IGF meeting and the NRIs play an important part in that meeting.

Let me also maybe break the news, it was sad obviously to lose Tarek who was a very important member of the Executive Committee and supported the IGFSA right from the beginning. So, we are really missing him as he leaves a void that is difficult to fill. Today, the IGFSA Executive Committee met and decided to appoint Nigel Hickson for the remainder of Tarek's term, which would have ended end of next year.

So we have an ICANN Staff member on the Board of the IGFSA which for us is very important as we have a very close link with ICANN and ICANN kindly provides facilities for us to meet during ICANN meetings such as this meeting here. So, that is the good news of today, so we can count on the continued support of ICANN apart from the annual

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contribution. Nigel, I wonder whether you would like to say a few words?

NIGEL HICKSON:

Can I pretend you're the CEO or something? Thank you, Markus. Obviously ICANN is fully committed to the IGF and to the IGFSANRI. Tarek was, as you as well know, passionate about the IGF and the IGFSANRI, he had a belief that all stakeholders wherever they were in the world, whatever country they were should have the ability to come together and discuss internet governance issues in a multistakeholder framework, and he saw that the IGF took that forward and of course he personally was very involved in hosting one of the IGFs in Egypt. So I'm just a member of Staff in the Geneva office and I'll do what I can in the next year to carry things forward. Thank you.

MARKUS KUMMER:

Thank you very much for that, Nigel. I have to apologize, I will have to leave early, I will not be able to stay with you till the end of the meeting, but Marilyn will guide us through the meeting and I do understand we have online Chengetai and Anja waiting to say a few words about the IGF and their activities. Over to you, Chengetai.

CHENGETAI MASANGO:

Thank you very much, Markus, and thank you as well, Marilyn and the IGF Support Association for organizing these meetings, you've done so the past number of years and have been very supportive of the IGF. I

would also like to say that Tarek also will be dearly missed, especially at the IGF Secretariat.

He was based in Geneva and he was a very strong supporter of the IGF and the IGF Secretariat, as well, and he always, always, if we went to him for something he would always, always produce it and without much problem. So yes, he was very appreciated by the IGF Secretariat and he will be missed by all of us.

I would also like to thank you, the audience, for coming in and for the online participants, as well. Unfortunately, neither Anja nor myself could come to the ICANN meeting because we are in the final couple of weeks for the IGF2019 meeting which as you all know is going to be held in Berlin. Anja is going to speak more on that, so I am just going to introduce Anja, and I think you all know Anja Gengo, who is the associate program expert and also the National and Regional Initiatives focal point. So, over to you, Anja, please.

ANJA GENGO:

Thank you very much, Chengetai, I hope you can hear me well. I would like to thank Marilyn and Markus and the entire team of the IGF Support Association for organizing these meetings which are very important for the entire ecosystem.

I don't think there has been an ICANN meeting where I attended that we didn't come back with a number of stakeholders that would like to be engaged into the IGF or they would like to start their own national

or subregional IGF, so there's a quite tangible outcome of these friendly informal gatherings. So for that, thank you very much.

Also, of course along with Chengetai and on behalf of our office, the entire team, joining all of you in honoring Tarek and this is a huge loss for the IGF, I think we lost a great friend, and as Chengetai said, our office also lost a great friend, not just on a professional basis but also on a personal basis, I can speak from my personal experience of how much Tarek was a very senior well known and established expert, and very supportive at that time of my coming to the IGF as a Fellow and yes, it's a very sad moment for all of us, but he will be deeply missed and we will never forget him.

Marilyn asked me to say a few words about the IGF initiatives about the NRIs, just in case in the room there is someone that maybe is not familiar with the concept of the NRIs. Thanks to the colleagues technicians I was able to see through the camera who is present, to a certain extent, in the room, and it looks to me that those are mostly dear colleagues and friends already engaged with the NRIs, so I'm not going to spend a lot of time, but I will just in case if somebody joins us, touch on the nature of the NRIs and say a few words about the upcoming IGF in Berlin, whose preparations are very well underway. So I hope you can see a couple of slides that I'm sharing with you.

So let me start with what is the most up to date information which is the 14th annual IGF meeting as you know it's been hosted by the government of Germany in Berlin in just a very few weeks. We are going to be in Berlin having the meeting. The first series of events will

be on the 25th of November and then the formal meeting starts as of the 26th of November and goes all the way until 29th of November.

The online registration has passed on 1st of November. We have actually hit the record number of online registered participants with over 5000 stakeholders from around the world already registered and approved for the meeting. We're expecting this number of registrations to grow as we are going to open the onsite registration. So in case you did not register, you can do so when you arrive in Berlin, we will open the registration area as of 22nd of November, that is Friday, and there shouldn't be any long queues.

I think we have a great host that really took care of all logistics. The program of the meeting is really rich this year, particularly worked very hard on scheduling more than 200 sessions around three key themes, one is data governance followed by digital inclusion and security safety stability and resilience. The interactive schedule is available, you can access it through the IGF website, and I think that's the best way, actually, to navigate through all the sessions and see what topics are the hot topics for this year and also mark the sessions that you would like to attend.

Now I'm going back a bit to the NRIs. About the origin and the background of the NRIs, I don't think we need to speak a lot. I'm just going to in short say that the NRIs are recognized by the IGF Secretariat and they follow the principles and the procedures of the global IGF. That means they're all multistakeholder bottom-up, open transparent noncommercial initiatives, and of course their whole

programs are developed in a bottom-up manner. The IGF Secretariat recognizes the NRIs.

There is also the NRIs toolkit, that's a document that's been produced by all NRIs recognized by 2016, available in all 6 UN languages. The number is really growing from day to day and we are very proud to say that around the world there are 121 officially recognized NRIs. Three more are in formation. I am hoping that very soon we will have a mix of national IGFs recognized that's the national IGF of Honduras, and that will probably raise our bar of building the IGF to 122, maybe even more, as I said there are a couple in formation.

The map that you can see hopefully on the screen is actually the global spread of the NRIs which is quite well balanced. This is just a short memory, some of you were in Mexico when we hosted the first ever NRIs Main Session. This year the NRIs are also hosting the main session focused on emerging technologies and how they're impacting the people and we very much finalized the preparations for that session that will happen on the third day of the meeting.

In addition, one important meeting the NRIs will host together with the MAG with the community members colleagues from the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is the NRIs Coordination Session. We will discuss in the two hours long session about the long-term sustainability of the NRIs and just in general what's the future of the IGF ecosystem. That would be for the NRIs.

I hope to see many of you in Berlin, just going back to the preparations for the Berlin IGF, we are now looking at the majority of the finalized preparatory practices for now, we are looking forward to the Berlin IGF as the IGF that's going to be probably the most advanced compared to previous ones because of strong support from the side of the host country financially and substantially, financially saying thanks for the host country we were able to support 80 people coming from the Global South countries.

Those are people that were not that much familiar with a majority of them, they were not very much familiar with the IGF in the past. This is maybe the first opportunity for the majority of them to come to attend and we are really looking forward to meeting those people. They come from countries that are historically unrepresented or underrepresented at the IGF, mostly those are least developed countries but developing countries are in the developing states.

As you know many of the NRIs helped us to evaluate a large number of received applications for travel support and I think we all together as a team managed to create the best possible composition of those colleagues.

In addition, the host country is trying to respond effectively to so many recommendations that were given to the IGF which mandates as per the recommendations the advice from the community given during the retreat of the IGF but also to the Secretary General's advice that was delivered during the 13th IGF last year in Paris where specifically the community and of course the institutional whole of the IGF as a

project was advised to include those that are missing at the meeting. So, we're hoping that especially that is very much addressed for this particular IGF.

Looking in the future very quickly, I think we do have a very bright future. There are a number of governments that expressed interest to host the IGF, we can't of course say anything until information is finalized, but I can say that some of the countries are coming from interesting locations.

We may move from Europe then for the coming years until 2025 when the IGF mandate will be again subject for discussion of the General Assembly. So I will stop there, Marilyn I know you have a packed agenda to go further but I will be here if anyone has any questions thank you very much.

MARILYN CADE:

Anja, Chengetai, Markus, I'd just like to ask two short questions which I think will be on the minds of everyone of the NRIs. One is, and I didn't understand clearly, can we pick up badges on the 23rd of November or only beginning the 24th? That's question 1.

Question 2 is for NRIs who are, I know trying to be somewhat paperless but many of the NRIs have short materials that they may want to have available and is there a mechanism or an address where those could be shipped to or do they need to just hand carry them into the room? And then related to that, do you need volunteers to help in the setup of the village booth of the NRIs? Thanks.

ANJA GENGO:

Thank you very much, Marilyn for the question, that's kind of giving me a signal to take these questions and respond. So, the third question, which is excellent, where and when to collect your badges. The registration area will be open as of Friday which is the 22nd of November, throughout the weekend, 23rd and 24th of November, and throughout of course the meeting days.

So at any time you can come and collect your badge there if you are registered. If you're not registered then you have to come and register and then they will print the badge on site for you. So, from the 22nd of November. We will inform about the exact time on Friday probably it's going to be early morning but let me confirm that then through various mailing lists and also the social network accounts of the IGF.

Regarding materials, Marilyn as you said there is an agreed policy between the organizers that this meeting should be paperless, meaning that material should be in a digital format. But of course we understand still that there's much purpose of having a printed output in your hand, so in that regard there is a possibility to ship materials I will share that shortly through the NRIs mailing list if you would like to ship something you can, or if you can bring it physically and put it on the NRIs booth displayed there, that's also very much welcome and I think it's going to be very useful for you to get visibility of excellent work you're doing with the communities, but also for the community present there to learn more.

For the volunteers for the booth, yes, the NRIs have a joint booth and we do invite everyone that are going to be there to inform if they can spend a few minutes, hours, at the NRIs booth and just engage with the participants, speak about your own NRI but also about the collective work we are doing throughout the year. So I think that would be my response to the three questions but please let me know if I made a mistake.

MARKUS KUMMER:

Thank you Anja and Chengetai, this was a very interesting and informative presentation and it's encouraging to see the growing number of NRIs but at the same time it's also frightening, because that means we need to raise more money and that's a good opportunity to make a commercial for the IGFSA. We up to now have given \$2000 to national IGFs from developing countries or economies in transition and \$3500 to regional IGFs.

And if you look at the growing number, that's well beyond our annual budget and that gives me another good segue to encourage you all to become members of the IGFSA and to pay your membership dues and encourage others to join. The more members we have, the stronger we are, and to help strengthen the common cause.

And lastly, I recognize the representative here of one of our big donors, Chris Buckridge, and I would like to invite him to say a few words on behalf of the NRO which has been a steadfast support of the IGFSA. Please Chris.

CHRIS BUCKRIDGE:

Thank you, Markus. Chris Buckridge, I work for the RIPE NCC and we're obviously one of the five regional internet registries that make up the NRO. The NRO has been historically from the beginning a very strong supporter of the IGF both in terms of engagement but also financially, and I think we certainly haven't been alone in that, but it's been the long running story of the IGF that the challenges to find a sustainable financial model going forward both for the global event but then also for the national and regional and Internet Governance events, that we see as a very fundamental part of that ecosystem.

So I think we certainly echo the call that needs to be something that more stakeholders and a diversity of stakeholders need to respond to and I think that the IGF Support Association has been one of the most significant attempts to innovate out of that challenge or innovate out of that dilemma and find a more sustainable basis financially for these internet governance discussions going forward.

So I think that's something we certainly recognize. I think and I'll speak a little bit more from the RIPE NCC perspective here, and following up a little bit on what I spoke about at the cross community session on internet governance the other day. This is also something, there is a chance now, an opportunity to really bring to the fore in responding to the UN's High Level Panel on digital cooperation and it's suggestions for how to further develop the IGF and the IGF ecosystem.

The two points that we made very strongly in that in response to the RIPE NCC produced to that panel's output was to A, note the importance of the NRIs in this ecosystem that the IGF by itself is not the internet governance ecosystem, it relies and is strengthened by a healthy and growing national and regional network of these internet governance events and that should be recognized somehow in whatever future planning the Secretary General and others have for the IGF.

And obviously then the other question is about finance and sustainability of the financial model. Whatever the next steps are, whatever the proposals we see from the Secretary General or others, they need to address that finance and financing issue.

That's something that has really had practical implications for the IGF both in terms of logistics, and I think we discussed this a bit yesterday, but in terms of the further development of the forum and in terms of the communication around what that forum is and its value to the global community. So, thank you again for the work you're doing here and thank you for this event today.

MARKUS KUMMER:

Thank you Chris, and thank you very much to you and your colleagues from the NRO for the continued support. I see Veni would like to add a word.

Veni Markovski:

Thank you, I actually wanted to add on what, Veni Markovski, ICANN UN Engagement for ICANN, based in New York. I wanted to add to what Chris said because I'm a member of the MAG as some of you may know, and we have seen this year, in particular, the German Government and the German Parliament have been extremely generous to the IGF including a very big donation, not donation, but allocation of resources for bringing people from the countries in transitions and underserved agents of 280,000 Euro, which is by any means a very big amount of money for people to come to the IGF.

We were being told that the German government will continue to support the IGF and we are hopeful that it will continue in the future, but also it's a good example of where we can talk to other countries and my urge to everyone here and the people online is to make sure that we reach out to our governments and give them the example of Germany in particular, but also other countries have stepped in the last couple of years.

So there is a good movement from governments and also obviously nontechnical community, private sector is supportive as well, but yes, on the question of financing the IGF and the IGF Secretariat, that's a very important step that the Germans have taken. So my appeal to you as I've heard it and I've said it also during our MAG meeting in Berlin in June is to thank the Germans for what they have done for the IGF because that's the least we can do for bringing all these people from around the world for the first time to an IGF meeting. Thank you.

MARKUS KUMMER: Thank you, with that, I apologize, I have to sneak out, I have to attend an overlapping meeting. I hand it over to you Marilyn to manage the session.

MARILYN CADE: Marilyn speaking. Identify like to focus for just a few minutes on one of the events that will take place on the first day. After I, of course, make the important announcement that Sunday is my birthday and I expect all of you to show up in Berlin. The cake will not look like a turkey. But on day one, and Markus, thank you so much.

On day one in the afternoon there is an open session related to this high level panel with the particular focus on the question about, and I introduced a different term than "improving" the IGF, but instead to focus on "enhancing and strengthening" the IGF. Because I do think a lot of the accomplishments of the IGF are not yet, I come from business, so I'll use the word, "marketed" effectively.

You can still, and Chengetai and Anja I think are still on line with us, you can still submit comments in your individual capacity or in the capacity of your NRI, but don't hold up your comments on the online questions. Consensus sometimes suffers from a development delay and don't miss the opportunity to look at those questions related to strengthening and enhancing the IGF, including this issue of how can more stable funding be provided, and to Chris's point, and I like to say this from my multiple years of working in public fora, first for a state government in the United States, and then with the US Congress and

elected leaders but with many other countries you can talk about policy globally but you have got to change it locally.

And that means reaching not just the Minister of ICT or Communications but also the Minister of Health and Agriculture. The SDGs are about other topics and we know the Secretary General has issued a challenge that we try to bring in more engineers, more scientists, more philosophers, and more diversity in participation. So if we want our national IGFs to really be effective then we have to figure out ways to bring more resources into the national and subregional level in particular.

One of the big gaps we face, I come from industry, but one of the big gaps we face is that business is not contributing significantly and we desperately need governments to contribute, but we also need governments to act in what I call the bully pulpit role of meeting with the industry in their countries, whether they are global providers showing up or they're national, and asking them what they're doing to participate.

And I think the NRIs can really bring that message home, but in order to do that the NRIs need more resources themselves. So, do go online at the IGF website and submit even individual comments, you'll be seeing mine shortly, they will be brilliant, as usual. And I want to thank everyone who has previously submitted comments particularly Chris, I appreciated the comments that RIPE NCC submitted, as well as others.

And then mark your calendar to try to come to that public session which will take place on Day 1. So, that's my promotion for how the NRIs can realizing there will be visibility of that session all the way up to the UN Secretary General, it's a good way for the NRIs to enhance the awareness of the work and engagement that you're already doing. So, that's my promo piece for that. I don't know if any of you wanted to say anything else.

Okay, so why don't we open the floor to comments and questions, particularly as we have Anja and Chengetai still with us. We have two microphones, or you can come up here and use one of these. Just introduce yourself by your name and which NRI you're engaged in or hope to launch.

OMO OAIYA:

My name is Omo Oaiya, I work for WACREN, West and Central African Research and Education Network. So this is all new to me and I thought it would be a good opportunity to ask some questions. So I'm glad Anja is connected because I'm communicating her as well. So maybe a bit of background. So, research networks are new in Africa, we are connecting countries and those countries essentially have networks of campuses.

So a couple of years ago we started with building a youth agenda on the back of internet governance. So we thought it was low hanging fruit and if we could support students who we thought were the majority of the youth demographic, if we could support them to sort of

start discussing these issues then they would emerge youth IGFs from that discussion. And we were very successful with the Nigerian example.

But since then, trying to get them recognized has been a problem because, put simply, some of the members of the parent IGF seemed to have an issue with it, and I haven't been able to get any real clarity from the secretariat and I've been asking for like seven months. So, I wanted to understand, how does this work? Are youth IGFs, are they compelled to be part of the national IGF? Can they be standalone NRIs? That's my question.

MARILYN CADE:

I'll let Anja respond more formally, but why don't you find me and talk to me, as well. I happen to know a lot about the NRIs from my long years of working with them, and sometimes there are activities in internet governance that are specific, and I'm not speaking for the Secretariat, but there are activities in internet governance that are specific to a unique interest group, as opposed to every different stakeholder.

OMO OAIYA:

I totally understand that.

MARILYN CADE:

Research networks have their own mission which they're working on, and so there may be a number of ways for the NRIs in Africa and

elsewhere to become engaged both in dynamic coalitions at the larger IGF, et cetera, but let me let Anja respond to the question about, you know, youth IGFs are unique and have grown up very organically and they're each different.

I see other people here who are engaged in an IGF in their country or in their subregion, and then there are sometimes youth initiatives which are totally separate and sometimes they are integrated. So, let me let Anja respond to your question about is there a more formalized process.

OMO OAIYA:

Before she does, I don't want to conflate the issues, I'm specifically talking about hundreds of students on our campuses to sort of drive your initiatives. So it's not a topic, it's just the demographic

ANJA GENGO:

Marilyn, thank you very much, I hope you can hear me now. First of all, yes, thank you very much for bringing this important, but I have to say very complex topic coming from the Nigerian community. We were informed and it is true you actually stated very well the facts that a few months ago, actually beginning of the year, we were informed about an excellent set of activities that are being undertaken by a group of young people with a very good outreach to more young people across the country.

But what seemed to happen and that's what makes it very complex for the IGF Secretariat, there is maybe a lack of understanding and align practices between the existing national IGF and the youth component integrated into the national IGF and the this initiative that you just mentioned that did an excellent work.

What we are trying to understand better at the Secretariat and it is a fact that is taking us quite a long time, but I will come to that why, is how the two initiatives can work together not in parallel. The IGF Secretariat will always support great work. It will always support individual and collective stakeholders in addressing the Internet Governance in accordance with its principles, but it will not provide support to any kind of competing initiatives just because we strongly believe that it's not healthy for the community.

And I think it would be much better if we can all agree to work together. Some of the requests that we still need to address, our hope was that we can meet in person, we suggested to meet in some of the regional IGFs, unfortunately colleagues were not present there but we're hoping that maybe the Berlin IGF could be a good place for an in-person meeting. Many of the inputs related to the NRIs that are coming to the Secretariat are to a very good extent based on a trust.

We unfortunately are not in a position to go in place and understand better when you when you see what is happening in the community and that's why we are relying on a strong support and advice from the community members. Some of the community members that we work for years did advise that this process that was established at the

beginning of the year, at least that that's when we were informed, is not aligned completely with the principles and we are trying to understand better.

I hope that we can maybe meet in Berlin and discuss, that would be very helpful, and when I say 'meet' we would suggest to meet all together. I think that's very important, that we speak one to each other together, that we work together.

At the beginning Markus said very good words, he said that despite the fact that the NRIs are growing, which is excellent and so encouraging, it also causes concerns on our side in terms of the spread of resources because we are lacking more and more resources, and I mean specifically financial resources, and that's additional reason to work together, as I think by working together we can only be stronger.

Sorry for a bit of lengthy response, and sorry again for not being concrete, the processes in the office are still underway and I'm afraid that it will take us time before we come with a possible concrete solution. I also think that possible concrete solution depends entirely on the community that is dealing with internet governance in Nigeria in accordance with the IGF principles and that means on both groups that are gathered around, the national IGF and the youth IGF.

And finally just to come to the forums of the youth IGF initiatives now, there are various forms, two years ago we managed to cluster all those force into four core models, starting from the youth initiatives that have been integrated into the national IGF, some of them are

completely independent but have very close linkages with the national and regional IGFs.

Some are dealing with the capacity building efforts and I think just in that regard, also, we need to understand the relationship between this existing initiative that we're hoping will have completely recognized and the national IGF that's been established in the country for years. But I just want to send as a final message that we are with the best possible intention and we will definitely support the great work that exists on the side of everyone, but it will take us some time and I really thank you for your understanding and especially for your patience.

MARILYN CADE:

Thank you Anja, and thank you for bringing the question forward. We have like maybe 14 minutes left. I have Joly in the queue and then do you have a followup that you wanted to make if it could be short?

OMO OAIYA:

I think this is probably not the place I wanted to bring it up, I will be in Berlin, and I will take it further in Berlin. Because I don't think, no matter what Anja says, it shouldn't take nine months. Before the youth IGF was approved, somebody wrote us an email, then it was moved to pending, and that's been eight months without any feedback.

MARILYN CADE:

So, let me got to Joly, who was first. Joly, welcome. I would say you need no introduction but you need thanks, even from the beginning, for joining us and for all of the work that you personally do to help all of the NRIs that benefit from the webcasting support and the streaming support that you provide. So, very, very welcome, and your comments please.

JOLY MACFIE:

I can only hit a few of them, and there are many now. My comment was really obviously about livestreaming and what I've learned in my long experience of doing it, is in any event, really, the first thing that you should do is forget about livestreaming and only worry about recording audio.

And I think in terms of best practices we should make an issue of this, of recording audio. If you are livestreaming, the audio should be your prime concern, and when we do come to the smaller NRIs, we find that we have someone with a camera, you know, with the phone at the back, and the audio is terrible, and so the whole thing is basically a waste of effort and they don't have the slides. If they just share the slides on Zoom and they had an audio recorder at the front.

And so I want to make a recommendation and that is that some budget be put aside to enhance audio at NRIs, and there are two devices. One is just the small audio recorder which is like just over \$100, which could just be set at the front and set recording, power cuts, no matter what internet cuts, no matter what goes on, you have

the recording. And two, there is device which goes between the mixer and USB and a laptop, which is about 40 bucks, which can make the world of difference to your remote participation just to have crisp audio coming.

I've defined the basic kit which comes to about \$200 for anybody doing remote participation or recording their event. You always have someone who's going from either the US or Geneva to the NRI, if they could bring one of these in their kit, every time they go to one if you could put you know 10K in the budget to cover that, it would enhance the whole process.

MARILYN CADE:

That was a brilliant suggestion, I'm going to bring it up on the membership list of the IGFSA but also a couple of other places. Thank you.

LIANNA GALSTYAN:

Hi everyone my name is Lianna Galstyan, I'm from Armenia, the Armenia IGF Coordinator and also a MAG member. I will start with a thanks to Joly, as Marilyn said, exactly, his support is really great and he was one of the first who in our first IGF supported with streaming and that was a great help for us when we did not have an experience in this. A quick comment on the youth IGF We do have the youth IGF this year first time, and that IGF comes as a standalone event.

The youth themselves organized and they discuss their own topics, the whole process, they did that alone. So in Armenia we have that already but I must admit that those students who come and youth come up with this idea, where the alumni of the school which we do internet governance school in Armenia, so that somehow had been the result of all this capacity building that we did and they now have their own platform for that.

I'd like to thank Anya and the Secretariat for her continued support and she's really doing that great as a focal point, and I'd like to say, Marilyn, that was really brilliant, bring in first position, really great support for all the NRIs. We are emerging, we're becoming more and more in a network and we really needed somebody who would coordinate all those things for so many countries, we have different challenges, different backgrounds, and Anja is doing great, I would like, Anja, to thank you from here, from Montreal, we can applaud.

Another thanks goes to the German government, actually for this travel support that they provided. This support that they want to bring new stakeholders who have never been for the IGF for our care from our Armenia they chose to bring a person who is blind, visually impaired, so he would never have been at the global IGF if not for this travel support, because he needed a lot of assistance, a lot of materials, so I want to bring this up, that this is a great promotion of it.

That person was coming for the local IGFs, but never could do the same for the global one, so this is a great opportunity for bringing all of the voices from the international countries to the global one. So

thanks again for the government and for this great opportunity of bringing many stakeholders, new people.

MARILYN CADE:

And I will say thank you to Lianna. For those of you who have participated before, she is the role model for volunteering to be a rapporteur, a remote moderator, a moderator, stepping in where there are gaps at the last minute.

LIANNA GALSTYAN:

A quick update, Lianna Galstyan again. What I wanted to say, all the participants, try to reach out what Markus said and also you, Marilyn, that you need to reach out to your ministries but not only the ministries, please reach out to your local MAG members. This is really a good way to do bring your topics when you submit them in workshops or you want to participate, you want to be a speaker in some kind of session, that is a great thing if you reach out to your MAG member, as well. So, we are many, we are 50, 55, depending on the country, and we can be a helping platform for all of the participants. Thanks.

ABDELDJALIL BACHAR BONG: Hi everyone, my name is Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong from Chad, I'm coordinating national IGF. So, we organized our final edition of national IGF on 9th of September, back to back to Africa IGF. It was first time that Chad in Central Africa held the African IGF. So, we have

more than 1000 people first time coming to IGF Chad. So, I need to thank Anja for her support at all times. I sent email, she respond all times, IGFSN also for their support, without their support we cannot make it, because it's very important for us to have a support.

And Marilyn Cade, Markus, Joly for streaming, because NRIs are very important for us, we gather all those people together, and we have new project to our first school of internet governance in Chad, for young people for our stakeholder systems. It was the first time that our IGF we have international speaker coming from ICANN, Yaovi from Central Communication, and we have some people from Mali, from Cameroon. So just to say thank you to IGFSN, thank you to Internal Governance Secretariat, Anja, and all those people. So that's all, thank you.

BIKRAM SHRESTHA:

Thank you, my name is Bikram Shrestha, I am from Nepal, I am Vice-Chair of Nepal IGF. I am former treasurer and immediate past president of Internet Society Nepal chapter. Under my leadership I have hosted first IGF in Nepal and last September from 26 to 29 we host Nepal IGF. We are going to host AP-IGF in Nepal. AP-IGF 2020 is our second largest event in Nepal we are going to host.

Before that I was involved in APRICOT 2018, and that was a successful event we hosted in Nepal and we got the opportunity to host AP-IGF in Nepal. So I want to invite you all if you could make it. Second thing I want to ask, come countries I know are getting, what kind of support

we get from IGFSA, not only the financial, is there technical support also we will get? I don't know, I have some confusion on the support part.

MARILYN CADE:

Congratulations that Nepal will be hosting the Asia Pacific Regional, that is fantastic. The model, as Chad has followed and Nepal has followed, of having a national IGF back to back is proving to be very effective when the regionals are hosting, because it helps to elevate the visibility of the national IGF and also brings resources.

Let me suggest that you chat with the Secretariat, Jen perhaps could chat with you. For preparatory meetings, the Secretariat, for those of you who don't know this, the Secretariat, Anja can help you with providing remote access for your planning meetings. So just send her an email.

But also, the Secretariat for the Asia Pacific IGF is extremely capable, let me just suggest you follow up with them. They're very, very helpful. We have time for maybe one more, please, and then I have one more thing that I want to announce and actually I'm going to just announce, it so it doesn't take time later.

The UN will have, 2020 is a unique year for the United Nations. It's a big anniversary celebration and I will be speaking in our consultative session at the IGF about the NRI's thinking, about how you take advantage of those celebrations that the UN will be organizing to see how you might use that to help advance your visibility. So, not

anymore on it now, I'll ask Anja to put it on an agenda call on the list, but I just want to flag it for all of you as we've been talking about how to enhance awareness and visibility. Please, go ahead.

PETER MADAVHU:

Thank you, Marilyn. My name is Peter Madavhu. I'm the Chairperson of the IGF in South Africa. We also had our national IGF in October and I was also privileged to attend the Africa IGF in Chad, like my fellow colleague said, it was indeed a success.

But to you and Anja, I would like to propose is it possible that the communications of the meetings, these kind of meetings, if it's possible to be communicated in advance? I was lucky to meet you in person with Anja in Kobe, and today's meeting I nearly missed it because the communication somehow was not coming in time. So that's my plea. Thank you.

MARILYN CADE:

Anja, would you or Chengetai like to respond to that?

ANJA GENGO:

Thank you Marilyn and thank you for a great question. In short I'll just say yes, I think that's strategically very wise to do and sometimes we only for the planning of these types of meetings very shortly before they actually happen, but yes, we will do our best to have you informed. Also for the Berlin IGF meeting I will reach out through the NRI list to all stakeholders of the NRIs to meet as many as possible

bilaterally with me of course where needed, and also possibly with of course Chengetai, but also the Chair of the MAG and if needed some colleagues from [inaudible] because this is a quite exceptional year.

As you know, we managed to provide nine grants to the NRIs, financial grants, and we would like to see how that worked this year and whether we could continue with a similar practice for next year based on which criteria, and, of course, if our budget will allow.

MARILYN CADE:

Thank you to both Chengetai and to you. We're going to have to wrap up. Be sure you've signed in and Jen has captured the names of remote participants, so we'll have at least a record of who has participated remotely, as well. I'm around, if you want to try to catch me privately. I know I've been a little invisible compared to my usual efforts to be in the booth, et cetera, and I apologize about that but I've been quite sick and you really didn't want to be around me up until now.

But one of the purposes, and we're wrapping up so we can leave, so the CC can resume, one of the purposes of these networking events that are organized under the sponsorship of IGF Support Association but really hosted by ICANN, is so you know each other and you're no longer walking past each other in the hall. So you have a chance to develop the informal networking exchange and I hope you all find that helpful. Thank you again for coming, taking the time to participate.

Final message, individual membership in the IGF support association is \$25. You have to be paid up in order to vote and we have an election for two seats on the executive committee so please, if you don't know if you're paid up, this is the person who can help you with that. We do take cash, although we prefer to have payment online, but we take cash. But we want to try to grow this membership, we're at about 192, we want to try to grow this membership.

The membership fees do not fund the sponsorship, they help us to cover bank fees and that kind of thing. No one gets a salary, everyone volunteers on the executive committee, but by increasing our membership we increase your voice to the executive committee telling us what you want the priorities to be. So thank you again for coming.

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