

14th Annual Internet Governance Meeting

25 – 29 November 2019 Berlin, Germany

Post-Meeting Report for Funded Participants

Please submit the report no later than 15 December 2019 to Ms. Lima Madomi from the IGF Secretariat at: lima.madomi@un.org

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1. How would you describe your participation at the IGF meeting? (max. 150 words)

The meeting was a success throughout. I interacted with stakeholders from all the continents to exchange views and ideas and plan for future forums at the national, continental and global levels. Furthermore, the adequate space and rooms, including the restaurant and exhibition areas gave most of the participants the opportunity to meet whenever needed in a favorable environment and discuss IGF related issues.

2. What is the most important benefit you have gained at the meeting? (max. 300 words)

Organizing the African Union Forum, participating in the NRIs Forum as a speaker representing the African continent, listening to the contributions of stakeholders from other continents and meeting/discussing with Parliamentarians from all over the world, interacting with NRIs focal points, interacting with UNDESA secretariat staff.

3. What inputs do you plan to bring to your community from the meeting? (max. 300 words)

The Chairman's summary, the IGF messages and the report of the African Union Open Forum will be disseminated to African Stakeholders. In addition, some of the outputs will be discussed with the African IGF MAG and African stakeholders prior to holding the next African IGF conference.

4. Briefly outline your participation at the IGF meeting, including attended sessions, gained knowledge, networking, recommendations for improvements. (max. 500 words)

I participated in main session meetings and several parallel sessions, especially those related to the National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs) and the various sessions dedicated to Parliamentarians.

I also took part in the General Assembly of the Internet Governance Support Association (IGFSA) as member of the Executive Committee and convened the African Union Open Forum (OF3) where we had over 200 participants, including ministers and parliamentarians. This gave me the opportunity to meet with all the MPs, most of whom I did not know before their arrival in Berlin.

At the NRIs main session, I was especially pleased to see the positive way the session was handled in its format and inclusiveness of all stakeholders. I was also happy to notice at the NRIs very good examples of use of emerging technologies around the world.

Out of the meeting rooms, I spent most of my time at the NRIs booth where I had to provide information to visitors and which also served as a good networking place for me and I interacted with a lot of stakeholders with whom I would interact in the future on IGF process related matters. I provided advice to some of them, especially the African stakeholders who were new in the IGF process and needed how they would fit in the process at their return home by organizing national IGFs or by integrating the existing structures. Moreover I advised new national IGF on the process of their recognition by the IGF secretariat.

Recommendations:

- Make available on a paying basis interpretation from English to French and vice versa
- Allocate a Mentor to the new IGF participants. The mentor would be an experienced IGF practitioner from the region of origin of the new participant and would assist and coach her/him throughout the process and follow up after the IGF has ended
- Provide adequate space for bilateral meetings, workshops, open forums and other meetings like what happened in Berlin