IGF 2017 Reporting Template

- Session Title: **WS290 Synthesis Document a Collective Output Shaping the Future of the IGF & NRIs**

- Date: 21 December 2017

- Time: 09:00-10:00 CET

- Session Organizer: Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum/DotAsia Organisation (Secretariat of APrIGF)

- Chair/Moderator: Jennifer Chung, DotAsia Organisation (Secretariat of APrIGF)

- Rapporteur/Notetaker: Yannis Li, DotAsia Organisation (Secretariat of APrIGF)

- List of Speakers and their institutional affiliations:

Speaker: Paul Wilson, Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC)
Speaker: Chat Garcia Ramilo, Alliance for Progressive Communications (APC)
Speaker: Maureen Hilyard, ALAC/APRALO, ICANN
Speaker: Winston Roberts International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)
Speaker: Jianne Soriano, Netmission.asia, Youth IGF organizer

- Key Issues raised (1 sentence per issue):

Is there a value of an output or synthesis document and how this can enhance the IGF process and ecosystem.

How to address process and logistic concerns including inclusiveness, openness and transparency of the platform and participatory process, accessibility, language and translation.

How best to balance time spent on creating such a document and not hinder enjoying the full spectrum of the forum sessions, and how APrIGF refined the process.

How such a document can foster Internet governance discussion and collaboration both within the regional context as well as flowing outwards to the global IGF, across to other regions, as well as inspiring national initiatives to start up similar processes that they can find value in.

How to disseminate such a document where ultimately local policies and regulations can reflect and address Internet goverance issues.

- If there were presentations during the session, please provide a 1-paragraph summary for each presentation:

The brief presentation was informative of the APrIGF Synthesis Document Process, detailing the history of the start of the idea from the New Delhi (2014) meeting to the current Bangkok (2017) document. Statistics were presented for the participation from the community in the various stages from pre meeting open input period to face-to-face town hall sessions during the 3-day forum, to the public comment periods afterwards. Themes of the document as well as the working modalities of the Drafting Committee, an open and voluntary group were discussed. The presentation ended with kick starting the round table of best practices as well as discussion on the value of an output or outcomes document and how this could enhance the IGF process.

- Please describe the Discussions that took place during the workshop session (3 paragraphs):

The session began with the introduction to the process that sprung up organically from the Asia Pacific Internet governance community after APrIGF 2014, and the process after some development and strengthening over the three iterations came to be seen as both an innovation as well as a key part of the APrIGF annual meeting. Key statistics as well as the online open commenting platform that was developed to be fully accessible were introduced to the participants. The structure of the Multistakeholder Steering Group as well as the Drafting Committee (both completely open for participation from the community as well as voluntary) as well as the subthemes of the document (Access, Empowerment and Diversity; Capacity Building; Security – Cybersecurity, Privacy and Safer Internet; Digital Economy and Enabling Innovations; and Human Rights and the Internet) were explained.

The discussants, invited from different stakeholders (civil society, academia, youth, government, technical) who participated in the APrIGF Synthesis Document process in turn outlined key processes as well as what they saw as value and improvements that could be made towards enhancing such an output or synthesis document. Some key points made included the value of being able to organically include prevailing themes (in this context, Capacity Building) that were not originally contemplated as a subtheme of the forum itself during the planning stages but highly discussed at the forum by participants; the importance of accountability being a reason for the existence of the synthesis document in the first place; as well as the desire to capture high level, timely and high level issues in Internet governance from the Asia Pacific region.

Participants both in room as well as remote joined in the three part round table that invited contributions on how such a process can drive participation and discussion at the Internet governance forums (global and National Regional Initiatives), value and objectives of an output document, the process and logistical challenges and the application of the Asia Pacific experience for both the global IGF and other NRIs.

- Please describe any Participant suggestions regarding the way forward/ potential next steps /key takeaways (3 paragraphs):

Participation in the process: Accessibility was a key concern that was brought up both during the process as well as at the workshop session, one of the participants (a 2017 APrIGF Bangkok fellow, visually impaired) highlighted the importance of building in accessibility into the process both online and onsite, and commended APrIGF for ensuring accessible participation. Local language was also a key issue as Asia Pacific is linguistically very diverse, plenaries received simultaneous translation and captioning and suggestions were made to expand this to the town hall sessions for the document as well so local participants can provide input in the host country's official language(s).

Intercessional work and furthering the discussion: Interventions regarding the value of such a process confirmed that the document as well as the process creates a continuation of the Internet governance discussion and work that is intersessional and adds value for the Internet governance community. By keeping the commenting process open for a substantive period (before, during and after the forum) the difficulties and potential pitfalls of difficult text negotiation in a time limited setting can be (and were) avoided or mitigated.

Dissemination: One of the greatest strengths that participants felt the document provided was a high level snapshot of where the region stood on important Internet governance issues. This has inspired other NRIs in the region to start processes similar to this undertaking for national issues. Participants raised questions on how this can lead to policy and regulation changes in their national jurisdiction that better reflect and address Internet governance concerns. Collaboration within and across regions could also be facilitated on the back of this process by having a tangible output for cross-pollination of shared issues and possible solutions. In addition, this can flow outward to the global IGF as part of the intersessional work (as the APrIGF has previously done) as well as inform the increasing widening circle of NRIs. Translation into local languages across the region was also suggested as a way forward, as well as translation into different mediums (i.e. versions adaptable for social media channels) for different audiences (stakeholder-wise, as well as those not already familiar to Internet governance).

Gender Reporting

- Estimate the overall number of the participants present at the session: 35

- Estimate the overall number of women present at the session: 16

- To what extent did the session discuss gender equality and/or women's empowerment?

There were discussions on accessibility in particular, but not specifically on gender equality, although the text of the APrIGF Synthesis Document does in fact devote a significant section on gender equality.

- If the session addressed issues related to gender equality and/or women's empowerment, please provide a brief summary of the discussion:

Please see above