

**IGF 2018 First Open Consultations and Multistakeholder
Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting
20-22 March 2018
International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Geneva, Switzerland**

Executive Summary: Announcements, Decisions Taken and Next Steps:

- *In response to comments made by the IGF community through the annual stocktaking call, as well as inputs from stakeholders and MAG members during the Open Consultation and MAG meeting, it was decided that a new approach to the annual meeting programme would be adopted, focusing on:
 - *reducing the number of parallel tracks*
 - *fewer duplicative sessions*
 - *increased thematic coherence across the IGF agenda.*
 - *more integration of the intersessional activities in the programme themes**
- *This will entail a multi-step process, beginning with a public call for issues, then a call for workshop proposals informed by those issues, followed by an evaluation of the proposals by the MAG.*
- *In connection with the above, it was agreed that composing 'thematic tracks', or non-duplicative thematic programme components, might arise from this process and that this would necessitate thoughtful MAG engagement with the content and structure of the programme.*
- *It was further agreed that specific programme considerations, such as themes for Best Practice Forums (BPFs) or main sessions, could be made on the basis of the issues identified.*
- *It was decided that the issues would be solicited and then collected under broad topical 'baskets', along the lines of what is used by some regional IGFs and Internet governance organizations (ANNEX I), informed by the discussions within the Open Consultation and MAG meeting. In the end, the MAG chose a proposal put forward by the IGF Chair and Secretariat that integrated the best suggestions.*
- *Two possible timetable scenarios were proposed for the call for issues, call for workshop proposals, and workshop evaluation and selection by the MAG (ANNEX II). The target date for publicizing the issues call would be 26 March, after which the community would be invited to respond for approximately three weeks. Each timetable culminates in the MAG's second face-to-face meeting, taking place in late June or mid-July.*

Overall Summary

1. The First Open Consultations and MAG Meeting of the 2018 IGF preparatory cycle took place from 20-22 March in Geneva, Switzerland, with appreciation to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) for providing the venue. Online participation was made available for those who were unable to join in person. Ms. Lynn St. Amour moderated the meeting as the Chair of the MAG, recently re-appointed for a third year. Mr. Chengetai Masango represented the IGF Secretariat and Mr. Armin Plum represented the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA).
2. The [agenda](#) for the three-day meeting focused on taking stock of the IGF 2017 meeting and intersessional processes, as well as launching planning discussions on the 2018 IGF annual meeting and intersessional work. [Transcripts](#) from the proceedings held in plenary can be accessed via the IGF website.
3. In addition to the open consultations and MAG meeting, a two-hour orientation session for new MAG members was held (face-to-face) on the afternoon of 19 March.

This was seen as particularly necessary, as this year's rotation introduced a historically high number of new members, at 28 (50% of the MAG composition). Remote participation was made available during the orientation, with the session agenda viewable within the [overall meeting agenda](#).

4. The MAG Chair Ms. St. Amour, formally thanked Mr. Malcolm Johnson, Deputy Secretary-General of the ITU for providing meeting space. In his welcome, Mr. Johnson described the shared history between the IGF and the WSIS Forum as processes both deriving from WSIS. The Open Consultation was then formally opened by the MAG Chair Ms. Lynn St. Amour. Mr. Armin Plum of UNDESA delivered a statement on behalf of the UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, underlining UNDESA's High Level Political Forum (HLPF), to take place in July 2018, in which Internet governance-relevant themes will be discussed. In addition, Mr. Plum made mention of the selection process for this year's MAG and noted the very good gender balance that had been achieved.

5. Mr. Jorge Cancio of the Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), Switzerland, representing the 2017 Host Country, delivered a short presentation highlighting the successes of last year's meeting in Geneva. In particular, it was said the increased participation of Governments and intergovernmental organizations was a welcome development, as well as the launch of new 'Geneva Messages' synthesizing key points from all the main sessions. The mix of issues was also notable, demonstrating the IGF's adaptability as both a platform for discussion of traditional themes like cybersecurity, access or digital rights online, as well as 'hot topics' like Artificial Intelligence, blockchain technologies and 'fakenews', which, taken together, gave participants a full spectrum of issues under the 'digitization' phenomenon. It was remarked that these and other programmatic innovations that had been piloted could be built on and taken forward.

6. The Secretariat then gave a report out to the MAG on its [annual stocktaking process](#), which collected community inputs on what worked well in the 2017 annual meeting programme and intersessional work, what worked less well, and suggestions for improvement in 2018. The process generated submissions (a total of 34, comparable or the same to previous years) from all stakeholder groups and regions, including a number of community groups such as Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) and National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs). The Secretariat's overview noted that, in general, the community had been highly satisfied with the 2017 meeting and had expressed much appreciation to Switzerland as the host country for its smooth and efficient organization. It also shared a few high-level conclusions based on the process and as reflected in the resulting [synthesis paper](#). These were, firstly, that stakeholders felt that the IGF had proven its relevance with the 2017 meeting, by including a number of current and emerging issues and by ensuring the presence of Governmental and intergovernmental policymakers, who were key for cross-sectoral exchange. Secondly, several observations were made that the programme was rich, diverse and had improved in terms of inclusiveness, but could benefit from a simpler structure and stronger focus. And lastly, the Secretariat reported that many contributors had raised in one way or another the need for clearer, more tangible outputs emerging from the meeting, along the lines of or developing on the 'Geneva Messages' pilot.

7. Regarding the themes and structure of the programme in 2017, including the session typologies, the Secretariat relayed that stakeholders had expressed strong agreement with the topics of the main sessions, in particular the focus on cybersecurity, and that at the same time, they wished to see greater alignment between the Main Sessions, themes and subthemes. Workshops were also said to have improved, along with a clear desire that they continue to evolve to be even more participatory, innovative and less panel-formatted. Comments had also been made that the annual

meeting programme should make a clearer link to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

8. On the IGF's intersessional groups – such as BPFs, the policy initiative on 'Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s)' (CENB) and DCs – and NRIs, it was noted by the community that their work was valuable, that the sessions they held at the IGF, including those organized for the first time by NRIs, were interesting and well-attended, and that as much as possible should be done to continue raising awareness of their work and supporting their activities moving forward. Suggestions were also made to open up communication among the groups and synchronize their work plans where appropriate.

9. Additional community input was reported on Day 0 and the logistics of the 2017 meeting, which was broadly positive on the facilities at the venue, the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG), but also called for volunteers or other resources to better assist participants at the meeting, particularly those with disabilities. Day 0, it was said, continued to be seen as a worthwhile gathering point in the IGF week but could be given more thought in terms of its purpose and relationship to the IGF Meeting programme. It was also noted that more thought on the different ways it could be leveraged given its flexible nature would be helpful.

10. Responding to the findings of the stocktaking process, participants in the meeting echoed many of the community's positions, especially regarding programme structure and content. Several recommended reductions and streamlining – referring to reducing the number of sessions, session durations and number of panelists, depending on the case – and emphasizing the need for the MAG to continue to introduce new and late-breaking topics of interest while maintaining its bottom-up approach to the selection of issues. They also agreed on the need to further last year's successful engagement of Governments, putting forward ideas for strategically-placed ministerial or high-level sessions and targeted invitations, as well as the need to strengthen private sector engagement. Largely reiterating community inputs, recommendations were made to strengthen communication and outreach of the intersessional work and of NRIs, to better foster cross-fertilization among these groups, and to facilitate more integration and reporting of their activities into the larger IGF. While there were mixed views on how to produce more suitable outcomes from the meeting and heeding their respective mandates the most appropriate way to connect to the UN sustainable development agenda, it was widely felt that IGF outputs should be made as visible as possible and that ties between the IGF and other organizations, including intergovernmental ones, should be strengthened.

11. The meeting's open consultations included updates from a number of Internet-governance related entities on their work and its relevance to the IGF. Participants heard statements from the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the European Commission, ITU, DiploFoundation, the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE), the Internet Society (ISOC), the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), Association for Progressive Communications (APC), the IGF Support Association (IGFSA), and the World Economic Forum (WEF), among others.

12. At the close of the first day, a short briefing was provided on shared efforts between the MAG Chair and UNDESA, including the IGF Secretariat, to finalize arrangements for the host country and venue of the 2018 meeting. The Chair informed that talks were underway with a few strong candidate countries, one in Asia, one in Latin America and one in Europe. A second scenario might involve an IGF hosted by the UN only, at one of the major offices where conferencing facilities are adequate for the scale of the meeting (Asia or Africa). Should these scenarios be exhausted, a third for a virtual conference was also under discussion.

13. A short information session on the IGF's Trust Fund was given by UNDESA during the lunch break of the first day, the [presentation](#) for which can be viewed online.
14. The second day of the meeting, which marked the first formal day of MAG discussions, opened with remarks from Mr. Thomas Schneider, Ambassador, Vice-Director of the Swiss Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), and IGF 2017 Host Country Co-Chair, [reflecting on ways forward for the 2018 IGF](#) and suggestions for improvements that could be taken onboard. Mr. Schneider underscored, above all else, the need to improve awareness of and outreach efforts by the IGF, including to secure sustainable funding of its activities. To this end, the efforts at programmatic continuity being elaborated by the MAG's Working Group on Multiyear Strategic Work Programme (WG-MWP) were essential. It was said the programme itself should prioritise content and substance, and the IGF should continue to find mechanisms for producing more visible and tangible outcomes. Mr. Schneider also mentioned that IGF host countries should have better communication with one another, so best practices are passed on and knowledge of meeting arrangements is not lost from one year to the next.
15. A significant portion of the MAG's deliberations on the first day of the MAG meeting took up the issues raised the prior day and in the stocktaking process. Namely, members agreed that some structural reforms to the programme should be implemented, while exercising caution that important elements of the programme building from previous years is not lost – most importantly, the IGF's bottom-up and consultative approach. It was said that intersessional work, which previously the MAG discussed whether and how much space to devote to in the annual programme, should be fully supported and increasingly integrated into the IGF annual meeting programme and overall in the IGF ecosystem. They also agreed on the need to ensure that awareness-raising of the IGF is conducted at all levels, both intersessionally and at the annual meeting, where introductory or newcomer sessions could be further developed. The communications and 'marketing' aspect of the annual meeting could also be strengthened through a more systematic application of something like the 'Geneva Messages', a reporting and outputs mechanism extendable to other sessions outside of the main ones.
16. As part of the discussion on how best to provide thematic coherence to the agenda, it was mentioned that session mergers, which more recently the MAG had done less of, could once again be a useful tool for consolidating themes and avoiding duplication. MAG members also raised a number of themes they felt would be important to have reflected in the next meeting. As a topic of interest in the Global South in particular, many cited the impact of Internet on inequality and unemployment, as well as related labour issues, for potential inclusion. Others suggested having more in-depth discussions of some of the emerging issues introduced at the meeting in 2017. In general, it was stressed that the themes should continue to reflect community priorities in an inclusive way, specifically those of the Global South, where access and connectivity are at the forefront of policy discussions (and other topics, such as Artificial Intelligence, less so). Some of the specific issues for consideration were as follows: Poverty & Discrimination; Governing Stability, Government Roles; Artificial Intelligence; Internet of Things; Digital 4.0; Cybersecurity; Data; Impact of New Digital Technologies in Traditional Industries; Digital Gaps with Focus on Economy and Gender; Human Rights – new technologies, understanding the risks and benefits; Government & Smart Cities; Societal Challenges (e.g. cyberbullying); Youth; Gender; Education.
17. On the third day of the meeting (second day of the MAG meeting), the MAG briefly took up a discussion of BPFs and the CENB initiative, as well as what some of the topics of these might be for the coming year. Updates were given from the three BPFs in 2017, on Cybersecurity, Gender & Access, and Local Content, along with proposals for their continuation, and with a likely focus on 'norms and values' by the Cybersecurity BPF. It was mentioned that a possible framing for CENB in a fourth phase would be

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9, and possibly SDG 17, which has a close substantive link to the IGF's own multistakeholder processes. With the understanding that all proposals would need to be submitted in writing after the meeting, a number of other BPF topics emerged in the room, including: Clean Energy & Internet, New Internet Protocols, Cloud Services/Big Data, Youth Cyber Issues, and Artificial Intelligence. The MAG agreed to take these up at the first virtual MAG meeting as it is important to get them underway.

18. The MAG then took forward its discussion on how best to implement a process to apply themes to the agenda in a bottom-up way. It agreed approaches similar to those by the Latin American and Caribbean IGF (LAC IGF), the European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) and others, could be taken, using topical 'baskets' (**ANNEX I**) and beginning with a call for issues from the community. Other regional efforts such as the African IGF, West African IGF, Arab Regional IGF shared their processes and support for a more thematic approach. This would follow a multi-step approach, integrating the past workshops process, by first making a public call for issues; then the call for workshops which would be informed by the issues submitted; and finally the evaluation of workshop proposals by the MAG. The results from the issues call need not be limited to the succeeding workshops process, but could also serve as input or as a 'sensing exercise' more broadly for the thematic direction of the programme in 2018, including main sessions in the annual meeting and BPFs, etc. intersessionally. The results of the issues call would also help to identify which issues were important to which stakeholders resulting in a programme with appeal to all stakeholders. Importantly, the rate and diversity of participation in the call for issues could signal to the IGF where its outreach gaps lie.

19. Deciding to proceed with this approach, two timetables were proposed (**ANNEX II**) outlining the process and ending with the MAG's second face-to-face meeting. Members were informed that the second scenario could involve the meeting being held in New York alongside the HLPF. The other option would be to hold the meeting in Geneva, as usual. There was general approval of timing of the various stages, with significant support for the 2nd option, while at the same time that option met with some concern. Given this, the Secretariat will review the timetable and the decision was deferred to the MAG's next virtual meeting. It was agreed steps would be taken to ensure the early publicizing of the call for issues, the target date for which would be Monday 26 March.

20. The meeting closed with the understanding that due to a significant backlog of items virtual meetings would be scheduled immediately, with the final schedule and duration to be agreed on in the first virtual meeting. This "Virtual Meeting" practice is in line with past years and it enables the MAG to continue carrying out annual meeting preparations and facilitation of community intersessional activities.

Annex I

Topical 'Baskets' for Clustering/Call for Issues

<i>Region A</i>	<i>Region B</i>	<i>Organization A</i>	<i>Chair & Secretariat Proposal</i>
Technical & Operational Issues	Infrastructure, Networks, Protocols	Infrastructure	Technical & Operational Issues
Innovation and Economic Issues	Digital Economy	Economic	Innovation & Economic Issues
Security and Crime	Cybersecurity, Trust and Privacy	Security	Cybersecurity, Trust and Privacy
Access & Literacy	Digital Inclusion and Accessibility	Sociocultural	Digital Inclusion, Gender, Youth, and Accessibility
Development of IG Ecosystem	National and Regional IGF Initiatives	Development	Evolution of Internet Governance
Human Rights		Human Rights	Human Rights
Media & Content			Media & Content
Other	The Future of the Internet		Emerging Technologies (AI, distributed ledger, etc.)
	Data Protection	Legal	Other

Annex II

Proposed Timetables for IGF Issues and Workshops Process

Proposed Scenario 1

	Activity	Dates	Duration
1.	Open call inviting suggestions for issues	26 March-13 April	3 weeks
2.	Secretariat organizes issues and schedule outline for MAG review	16-20 April	5 days
3.	Open call inviting workshop proposals	23 April-18 May	4 weeks
4.	MAG workshop evaluation	21 May-8 June	3 weeks
5.	Secretariat analysis and evaluation of workshop results	11-15 June	5 days
6.	MAG reviews analysis	15-20 June	5 days
7.	MAG meets to select final workshops	20-22 June	3-day meeting

Proposed Scenario 2

	Activity	Dates	Duration
1.	Open call inviting suggestions for issues	26 March-20 April	4 weeks
2.	Secretariat organizes issues and schedule outline for MAG review	23-4 May	2 weeks
3.	Open call inviting workshop proposals	7 May-1 June	4 weeks

4.	MAG workshop evaluation	4-22 June	3 weeks
5.	Secretariat analysis and evaluation of workshop results	22 June-2 July	9 days
6.	MAG reviews analysis	2-11 July	9 days
7.	MAG meets to select final workshops	9-11 July	3-day meeting

List of Participants

MAG Chair			
Ms.	Lynn	St. Amour	Internet Matters
MAG Members			
Ms.	Abdulla	Rasha	The American University in Cairo
Mr.	Bello	Pablo	ASIET
Ms.	Bou harb	Zeina	Ogero Telecom
Ms.	Cadena	Sylvia	APNIC Foundation
Mr.	Candia Ibarra	Miguel	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay
Mr.	Carvell	Mark	United Kingdom Government - Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Mr.	Casasbuenas	Julián	Colnodo/APC
Ms.	Cassa	Concettina	Agency for Digital Italy
Ms.	Chung	Jennifer	DotAsia Organisation
Ms.	Croll	Jutta	Digital Opportunities Foundation / Stiftung Digitale Chancen
Mr.	Donkor	Wisdom Kwasi	Ghana Open Data Initiative Project
Ms.	Franz	Liesyl	Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues at the Department of State, United States
Ms.	Galpaya	Helani	LIRNEasia
Ms.	Galstyan	Lianna	ISOC Armenia
Ms.	Gatto	Raquel	ISOC
Mr.	Gridl	Rudolf	Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
Mr.	Ilishebo	Michael	Zambia Police Service
Ms.	Jallow	Adama	Give1Project Gambia
Mr.	Jevtovic	Danko	Jugodata
Mr.	Ji	Haojun	Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Mr.	Lo	Mamadou	CNCAS
Mr.	Mansoor Ansari	Omar	TechNation
Mr.	Markovski	Veni	ICANN
Mr.	Mochizuki	Kenta	Yahoo Japan Corporation
Ms.	Muñoz	Maricela	Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Mr.	Ndicho Bambo	Samuel	Ministry of External Relations Cameroon
Ms.	Parris	June	Halaqah Media
Mr.	Regoje	Nebojsa	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Mr.	van Rhijn	Arnold	Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy
Mr.	Rowney	Paul	ISOC Namibia
Mr.	Sabir	Sumon Ahmed	Fiber@Home Limited
Mr.	Sibul	Heiki	Estonia Internet Foundation
Ms.	Suto	Timea	ICC BASIS
Mr.	Szubert	Krzysztof	Ministry of Digital Affairs, Poland
Mr.	Tao	Xiaofeng	China Association for Science and Technology
Ms.	Teleanu	Sorina	DiploFoundation
Ms.	Uduma	Mary	Nigeria Internet Governance Forum
Mr.	Wallis	Ben	Microsoft
Former IGF Host Country Representatives			
Ms.	Arida	Christine	National Telecom Regulatory Authority of Egypt
Mr.	Cancio	Jorge	Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), Switzerland
Mr.	da Fonseca	Carlos	Division for the Information Society, Government of Brazil
Mr.	Rosas	Israel	Coordination of the National Digital Strategy, Mexico
Mr.	Schneider	Thomas	Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), Switzerland
Ms.	Walpen	Livia	Federal Office of Communications (OFCOM), Switzerland
Other Participants			
Ms.	Cade	Marilyn	ICT Strategies - mCADE llc
Ms.	Chalmers	Susan	National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S Department of Commerce
Mr.	Degezelle	Wim	DUERMOVO - DRMV
Mr.	de Natris	Wout	De Natris Consult
Mr.	Francis Olivier	Cubahiro	Ministry of ICT/ ISOC Burundi Chapter
Mr.	He	Zhi	Office for Cyber Affairs of MFA of China
Mr.	Hellmonds	Peter	Arete Publica Associates
Mr.	Hickson	Nigel	ICANN
Ms.	Hu	Xianhong	UNESCO
Mr.	Kummer	Markus	IGFSA
Mr.	Mazzone	Giacomo	European Broadcasting Union (EBU)
Mr.	Paruta	Frédéric	Mission permanente de la France à Genève
Mr.	Prendergast	Jim	The Galway Strategy Group
Ms.	Roy	Chrystiane	Mission Permanente du Canada
Mr.	Ruckstuhl	Austin	United Nations University - CRIS
Ms.	Sareidaki	Despoina	ITU
Ms.	Scialpi	Valentina	European Commission
Mr.	Wen	Hongzhang	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China
Mr.	Wong	Alex	World Economic Forum

Online Participants (MAG Members)			
Mr.	Ahkuputra	Wanawit	Ministry of Digital Economy / Royal Thai government
Ms.	Dahmani	Wafa	Tunisian Internet Agency ATI
Ms.	Erramuspe	Alejandra	Agestic, Office of President, Uruguay
Mr.	Estrada	Miguel Ignacio	LACTLD
Ms.	Glavor	Natasa	CARNet
Mr.	Malcolm	Jeremy	Electronic Frontier Foundation
Ms.	Ribeiro	Renata Aquino	E. I.
Ms.	Soriano	Jianne	NetMission.Asia
Online Participants (Former IGF Host Country Representatives)			
Ms.	Rizki	Ameliah	MCIT Indonesia
Mr.	Utoyo	Donny	Indonesia
Online Participants (Other)			
Mr.	Adisa	Bolutife	Digital Grassroots
Mr.	Ali	Hussain	University of Malaya
Ms.	Baptista	Ana	Department for the Information Society, Government of Portugal
Mr.	Buckridge	Chris	RIPE NCC
Mr.	Cazumbá Cerqueira Pinto	Élisson Diones	Youth Observatory - Youth LACIGF
Mr.	Faye	Makane	African Union
Mr.	Fiumarelli	Nicolas	Youth IGF Uruguay
Mr.	Kuurma	Petri	Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Ms.	Li	Yannis	DotAsia Organisation
Mr.	Momeni	Avis	Protege QV
Mr.	Muthusamy	Sivasubramanian	Internet Society India Chennai
Mr.	Myers	Jeffrey	Wilcox & Myers, P.C.
Mr.	Parvez	Md Nasim	The Safeworks
Mr.	Rahman	Shah Zahidur	Augere
Mr.	Sastre Portela	Andrés	ASIET
Mr.	Seturi	Ucha	IGF Georgia
Mr.	Shrestha Rana	Uttam	NPNOG
Ms.	Shveta kokash	Shveta Kokash	ISOC, Mumbai chapter
Mr.	Sindy	Obed	Digital Grassroots
Mr.	Wagner	Flavio	NIC.br
Ms.	Wang	Yue	China Internet Network Information Center
IGF Secretariat			
Mr.	Masango	Chengetai	Programme and Technology Manager
Mr.	Garcia Bobo	Luis	Associate Information Systems Officer
Ms.	Mazzucchi	Eleonora	Programme Management Assistant
Ms.	Gengo	Anja	Focal Point for the National and Regional IGFs