Main sessions discussion Group IV

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1. Number of main sessions

- In determining the number of main sessions we needed clarity on the BPFs and ISOCs proposal - whether they impact on the numbers and the scheduling
- A track for emerging issues is probably not necessarily as they are already included in the work
- Determining the influence of the thematic tracks on the main session - should we have main sessions determined by thematic tracks.
- The value of thematic (track) main sessions would advantage access to interpretation which allows for diversity in participation and providing an overview of the main tracks.
- Looking at the main session with a design to maintain the interactivity through breakout groups which would combine topping and tailing
- The value of topping and tailing were meant to support/replace the beginners (newcomers) sessions and had the break out value
- Working on asynchronous approach with an offline approach to following the information that is being done and we have a tailing session to conclude what has been covered in the thematic track
- We still think the Newcomers main session is important to stay - Mary, have I understood this correctly?

2. Topics for main sessions, e.g.

- Themes from the thematic tracks. Environment was emphasised during the discussion

- Thematic tracks should have an influence the main sessions

- Roberto and Karim's proposal

- This proposal may be a good candidate to represent the inclusion group but would need consultation with the inclusion group to decide whether to count this as a main session or depending on the number of main sessions this is considered as a standalone main session.
- There is a need for more context on this session as it may be focused more on business models and may need to stand alone or be linked to the emerging issues panel
- Things to consider going forward - should this be for the inclusion group to discuss or should there be a broader conversation ie does it stand alone or become an overlap with emerging issues

- Data track's proposal

- Expanding the suggested track to be more diverse and draw on other sub-themes.
  - It is suggested maintaining workshop 229 but draw some of the insights and questions then design the session to be inclusive and draw in other topics.

- Open consultation proposals (Digital cooperation, pandemic, emerging policy issues)

- The community sees the HLPDC roadmap as valuable for a main session, especially 5A/B part of the recommendations
- However there is a need to look at the content of the emerging issues main session content as they may already be included in other main sessions
- Recommendation that this session rather focus on the recommendations as it adds more value to the overall IGF space

- Dynamic coalition proposal

- Support for the one main session

- NRI proposal

- Support for the one main session

3. Introductory and concluding sessions for tracks.

- We support continuation of those two sessions with some innovations by the facilitators,

- Try not to have schedule overlap with Main sessions or important sessions. Breakout discussions can be done on language groupings
- The concluding should not overlap with other workshops depending on the design to be adopted for the vIGF

4. Thoughts on IGF2020 opening and closing (which is likely to be managed by the UN as the former 'host' of IGF 2020)

- Do we want to have any say on the main sessions as hosted by the UN -
  - Just to make it as interesting as possible to keep the audience as long as it lasts. The UN can share the Agenda beforehand with the MAG.
  - This is the usual opening ceremony.
  - Request the UNSG to appear live and not pre-record his address
- Make sure that open mic will be maintained during the final session but then think of the process - thinking of different formats either taped, recorded or put in a text format. Then have the session pre-recorded in response?
  - Pre-recording and text format will save time and accommodate many speakers.

5. Next steps for working on main session planning

- groups, how many, how to constitute them

- Having as many groups as the Main sessions accommodated in the programme to further develop the sessions (as we had in previous years)
- Important to have all MAG members involved in facilitation and/or moderation of (at least one) Main session, call for volunteers to facilitate each session with a limit on the number of Main Sessions each MAG member can effectively participate in facilitating
- Responding to the pandemics - the sessions are advised to consider the pandemic in the way they plan the questions to be covered

- Thinking on how to enhance interactivity (having an open online document for gathering the inputs from the community during the session, pre-recorded questions, ..)
- Duration of main session - between 90 and 120 minutes
- Try not to have overlap between main sessions and opening and concluding sessions