

The following text is excerpted from an ongoing discussion on the IGF Advisory Group mailing list thread on its own future. The only changes made relate to an effort to anonymize the comments in respect of the Chatham House rule. The discussion took place between 25 February – 2 March, 2008.

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(Writer A)

Perhaps you are aware that during December 5 -10th 2008, the entire Muslim community across the world will be celebrating Eid-UI-Azha, the biggest Muslim festival. Because of that i think all representatives from the Muslim world may not be able to participate in the next IGF meeting that is planning to be held from December 3-6, 2008.

Considering the situation may I suggest to change the meeting schedule to either beginning from December 1 or December 15?

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(Writer B)

Our calendars in Egypt show Eid Al Adha starting on the 7th or the 8th of December.

A quick search on the Internet suggests the same.

<http://islam.about.com/od/calendar/a/calendar2008.htm>

<<https://mail.tra.gov.eg/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=http://islam.about.com/od/calendar/a/calendar2008.htm>>

<http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/custom.html?year=2008&country=1&hol=8516473&moon=on>

<<http://www.timeanddate.com/calendar/custom.html?year=2008&country=1&hol=8516473&moon=on>>

Maybe our colleague Abdullah Daftardar from Saudi Arabia can confirm the exact dates.

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(Writer A)

To me its Dec 03-06 no problem. But it would have been better if that can be organized 2-3 day's earlier.

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(Writer C)

The Hajj activities run during the period from 6 - 11 December according to the current matching calendar (Remember that Hajj is based on Lunar

calendar), the Eid Ul Adha holiday however runs from 3 - 13 December in Saudi Arabia. The period suggested (3 - 6 December) is very critical for Moslems as it falls during the holiday period and it is particularly difficult for those performing Hajj or have activities to do with Hajj. Therefore I would suggest a start date after 11 December.

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(Writer D)

So I take it that there is no remote participation this week.

(Writer D wrote:)

Hello Markus,

I've received request for info regarding opportunities for remote participation at next week's open consultation. Will people be able to participate remotely and have a means for providing input (such as email address to get a comment on the record)?

Relatedly, will there be remote participation for the Advisory Group discussions next Wed and Thursday? Unfortunately I won't be able to come to Geneva, but would like to participate remotely if possible.

Many thanks for any efforts that can be mustered to facilitate remote participation!

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(Writer E)

Remote participation is possible for the open consultations (see below - picked from the website).

**"\*Remote Participation \***

The open consultations have started and remote participants can follow the proceedings via live Web cast in English <rtsp://live.polito.it/liveshm\_en.sd> and French <rtsp://live.polito.it/liveshm\_fr.sd> and also through the live audiocast in English <rtsp://live.polito.it/liveshm\_a\_en.sd> and French <rtsp://live.polito.it/liveshm\_a\_fr.sd>. \_The VLC player

<<http://www.videolan.org/vlc/>> is the recommended player for the webcast. \_

[Notice]We are currently having technical problems with the French Web cast, as a work around French listeners can view the English Web cast while listening to the French audio cast.

Remote participants can send interventions to the following email addresses:

- \* English: [26feb\\_english@intgovforum.info](mailto:26feb_english@intgovforum.info)  
<[mailto:26feb\\_english@intgovforum.info](mailto:26feb_english@intgovforum.info)>
- \* French: [26feb\\_francais@intgovforum.info](mailto:26feb_francais@intgovforum.info)  
<[mailto:26feb\\_francais@intgovforum.info](mailto:26feb_francais@intgovforum.info)>

A live chat function <[http://xemele.cultura.gov.br/chat\\_igf/](http://xemele.cultura.gov.br/chat_igf/)> is also available for discussions.

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(Chengetai Masango)

Could the members of this list not in Geneva interested in remote participation for the Advisory Group meeting please send Avri or me an email.

This will help in our planning for tomorrow and Thursday.

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(Writer D)

Thank you very much!

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(Writer E)

Attached are the three statements presented yesterday by the Civil Society Internet Governance Caucus regarding the MAG and the IGF.

attached files: IGC - Main themes for IGF Hyd.pdf; IGC - Format of IGF Hyd.pdf; IGC - MAG Rotation.pdf

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(Writer E)

Attached.

attached files: [APC\\_IGF\\_statement\\_20080226.pdf](#)

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(Writer F)

FYI

I mentioned that we've put together a slim booklet, which gives feedback from some of the British attendees at Rio. I attach a PDF.

attached files: Messages from Rio.pdf

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(Writer G)

I understand about 50% 50% split of government and other representatives, but as I asked yesterday, could we please make clear what these regional government groups are. Not the names of the people they appoint, but who are the regional groupings (the five regions, G77, GRULAC, etc etc.)

We have been asked to be more transparent and I think it important for all interested in the IGF to know who these regional groups appointing half of the MAG are.

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(Writer H)

For me is the 5 traditional regions:

- \* the Western European and others (WEO)
- \* the Eastern European Group;
- \* Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC);
- \* the Asian Group;
- \* the African Group.

Although I am not sure if in this group, participates WEO or the European Union.

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(Writer G)

Please see attached excel file. Peter and George will present this proposal in a moment for us to consider in our meeting, result of hard work done by a few (not me!) since yesterday's meeting.

It can be hard to see diagrams projected on the screen so those with laptops might like to open the attached file.

The third sheet "Fondue" is the proposal being presented.

The sheet "Markus" is the proposal we have just covered from the secretariat.

And there is a blank frame for any of us to complete if we wish.

attached files: IGF 2008 Frame.xls

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(Writer E)

Also, it is relevant that, when there is white smoke in the UN regarding the new official list of mappers :), the list is presented with affiliation, the short bio, \*and\* the corresponding stakeholder group. Today mappers are all mixed up in an alphabetical order of surnames.

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(Writer E)

How are Arab states represented (Middle Eastern and Northern African regions)?

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(Writer I)

There were an arab group at the WSIS

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(Writer J)

There is also the Western Asia region (UNESCWA).

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(Writer K)

Some UN task forces like the UNICT TF defined the region as simple as the Arab region (countries that are member in the league of Arab states). Others like ICANN have no separate definition besides the 5 areas they have so part of it with Asia and the rest with Africa.

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(Writer H)

Exactly as you describe it. Within Asia and within Africa. Not as a unity.

(Writer E wrote)  
> How are Arab states represented (Middle Eastern and Northern African  
> regions)?

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(Markus Kummer)

We followed the five regions as used in WSIS and defined by Writer H.

Markus

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(Writer I)

I think that ICANN region definition is not the best way if we want to promote regional balance!

Why not use the WSIS regional groups?

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(Markus Kummer)

Dear colleagues,

Many thanks once again for your hard work during the past days. I hope that you had some time to recover before heading home and I wish you all a safe trip back or hope that you arrived home safely.

The report of the MAG meeting will be made available on our Web site shortly. We made some minor changes, mainly for reasons of coherence and clarity, also making it clear that any decision on the process for the selection of new MAG members was with the Secretary-General.

You will note that the version we posted has no reference anymore to the list of participants in the MAG meeting. While we intended to do so, we realized we were not able to be 100% sure of knowing who attended the meeting. As we had no gate control, we circulated attendance lists late on the second day, but we are not sure whether we were able to reflect the situation correctly. Please find attached the list as we established it and please let us know should there be any errors. Once corrected, we can post it separately on our Web site.

If, in the spirit of transparency, we continue the practice of making public the attendance list we will have to establish a more precise gate control right from the beginning of the next meeting!

Best regards

Markus

Attached files: list of participants MAG meeting 27-28 Feb.doc

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