

**Virtual Multistakeholder Advisory Group Meeting VIII
22 April 2015**

Summary report

1. The eighth virtual meeting of the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) in the IGF 2015 preparatory process took place on 22 April 2015. Ambassador Jānis Kārklīņš from Latvia moderated the meeting as Chair of the MAG and Mr. Chengetai Masango represented the IGF Secretariat. The meeting was focused on discussions on the on-going workshop evaluation process, the agenda for the open consultations and MAG meeting in Geneva from 20-22 May, progress on inter-sessional work and the feasibility of holding a third MAG meeting and/or an inter-sessional working meeting in September in New York.

Status of workshop evaluation

2. The Secretariat gave a brief update on the status of the ongoing MAG workshop evaluation. All MAG members were reminded to register to the online application put in place by the Secretariat to facilitate the evaluation process. Members were also informed that when registering there may be a short time lapse before they are approved to access the online application. A virtual meeting dedicated to discussions about issues related to the workshop evaluation was held on 14 April. During this meeting, the Secretariat offered guidance to MAG members on how to use the online evaluation application. At the same time, some suggestions were made for improving the evaluation form, such as: the inclusion of some standardized reasons related to why MAG members gave low scores to a workshop proposal; the inclusion of a “merger” tick box to be used by the evaluators to indicate whether they believe that a certain proposal is a good merger candidate. In terms of mergers, MAG members were asked to not only tick the merger box, but also indicate the corresponding number(s) of the workshop proposal(s) identified as possible co-merger(s). Those suggestions are being implemented to help MAG members in their evaluations. The Secretariat will re-circulate the link to the recording of the 14 April meeting, for the use of those who were not able to participate.

3. MAG members have until 3 May to finish their evaluations. Members were reminded that they should all contribute to the evaluation process, as this is an extremely important exercise for the MAG and critical for shaping the best possible IGF programme. **It was noted that evaluation takes considerable time and it should not be postponed until last minute.**

Open Consultations and MAG Meeting, 20-22 May, Geneva

4. A discussion was held on the agenda and working modalities for the upcoming Open Consultations and MAG Meeting taking place from 20 to 22 May in Geneva. A preliminary draft agenda had been circulated to the MAG mailing list prior to the virtual meeting and some comments had been made already online.

5. There was a question about the participation in and purpose of the open consultations planned for the first day of the meeting. It was clarified that the open consultations were open to all stakeholders and that the general purpose of these consultations was to inform community on the state of preparations and to receive input and suggestions on the ongoing IGF programming process from the broader community. While preference would be given to stakeholders other than MAG members to take the floor during the open consultations, MAG members will also have the opportunity to speak and interact with the other participants. Online participation will also be made available for those unable to join the meeting physically in Geneva, and comments from online participants will be encouraged.

6. It was mentioned that, generally, the second round of face-to-face open consultations and MAG meeting is more of a working meeting, focused on the workshop selection and overall programming of the IGF, as compared to the first round usually held shortly after the annual IGF meeting and which is more general and reflective in nature. However, this does not restrict the May meeting from addressing some general questions (on issues such as the future of the IGF and the IGF link to other Internet governance processes), should the MAG decide that this is necessary.

7. There were some requests from MAG members to allocate time in the agenda of the May meeting for inter-sessional work (such as exchanges on the work being done in relation to the Best Practice Forums or the horizontal theme of 'Policy menus for connecting the next billion', etc.), thus taking advantage of the face-to-face meeting between MAG members and other interested stakeholders. This idea received support and the feasibility of setting up these types of working meetings will be further explored. Given the time constraints, and the fact that the largest part of the meeting needs to be allocated to the workshop selection (which is an intense and time consuming process), sessions dedicated to exchanges on inter-sessional work may take place in the morning, before the official start of the meeting, during the lunchtime, or after the main plenary open consultations and MAG meeting. The draft agenda may be updated to reflect allocated meeting time(s) for these sorts of interactions.

8. Discussions were held around the concept of setting up working groups to help facilitate and perhaps expedite the workshop evaluation and selection process during the meeting. MAG members were reminded that splitting the MAG into small groups had been done in the past, and that this had led to some problems. The MAG should therefore continue the 2014 practice, and have the evaluation and selection in plenary, with the entire MAG, thus ensuring that all workshops are evaluated and selected by the full MAG in an open and transparent manner. However, the MAG will have another opportunity to discuss the working modalities and the eventual need for working groups once there will be clear picture about the mathematical results of the workshop proposals grading. All this information will be made available by the Secretariat prior to the face-to-face meeting, to provide the group with a solid basis for further evaluation and selection.

9. MAG members also emphasized the importance of not allowing any lobbying for workshops during the evaluation and selection process. The process will be fully transparent, in fairness to all who proposed workshops, and the evaluation and selection criteria in place will be followed closely. The meeting will be webstreamed, the discussion will be transcribed, and online participation will also be available.

10. There was agreement that further comments and suggestions will be collected online in regards to the agenda for the May Open Consultation and MAG Meeting. The agenda will be further amended and circulated for further feedback to the MAG on the mailing list.

Update on status of inter-sessional work

11. Ambassador Fonseca gave an update on the status of the inter-sessional work on 'Policy menus for connecting the next billion'. The MAG group facilitating this work has been developing a methodology and framework for taking the work forward. The primary objective of this inter-sessional track is to ultimately propose to the IGF in Brazil a document in the form of policy menus. The document will be developed using a web platform to allow all stakeholders to insert comments remotely, and a multistakeholder editorial working group will be tasked with compiling and synthesizing all inputs received from national and regional IGF initiatives, as well as other interested stakeholders. The document will not be a negotiated text, but rather a compilation reflecting main views and ideas in a neutral manner. The process for putting the document together will be open to all and carried out in a fully transparent manner. The draft document will be presented to the IGF 2015 for consideration.

12. A preliminary timeframe for the work on 'policy menus' was proposed, which will consist of: an initial public call for input, followed by the preparation of a first draft document, and then several other rounds of calls for comments and revised draft versions of the document.. In this respect, the 'policy menus' document will be a 'living document' that will evolve over time, allowing national and regional IGF initiatives and other interested stakeholders (individuals and organizations) to contribute when they have their inputs ready. This would allow IGF initiatives that will hold their meeting later in the year to contribute outputs after their meetings are over. The draft framework, methodology and timeframe will be circulated to the entire MAG for further comments and approval.

13. In regards to the editorial group, it was said that this group would be open-ended in nature. The group will be multistakeholder and work in an open, iterative and transparent way, together with the Secretariat, on the basis of inputs received through open consultations and using the online web platform hosted by the Secretariat. Details regarding the composition and the creation of the editorial group need to be further discussed by the MAG before making a final decision.

14. There was agreement that further outreach was needed in order to attract significant participation in the inter-sessional work on 'Policy menus for connecting the next billion'. National and regional IGF initiatives, as well as other

stakeholders need to be further engaged and encouraged to contribute to this work. MAG members were invited to contribute to doing outreach in this regard. The Working group on outreach and communications could also help encourage inputs from the community throughout this iterative process. The Secretariat will follow up with national and regional IGF initiatives to get an idea on how many of them plan to take up the issue of 'policy menus' in their meetings and provide input into the IGF inter-sessional work.

15. Brief updates were given by coordinators of the Best Practice Forums (BPFs). It was reported that the groups working on the BPFs carried over from last year were already continuing and building upon the previous work, through online meetings and discussions via the mailing lists. The three new BPFs for 2015 are also in the process of initiating their work and will be guided by the experiences of the BPFs from 2014. Each BPF, however, will be carried out in a unique fashion, depending on its respective desired outputs, based upon feedback and demand from the broader community.

16. It was also reported that a call with dynamic coalitions had been convened to discuss about modalities for increasing the synergies between the work of the coalitions and the inter-sessional work of the IGF and MAG programming of the annual meeting. It was reported that there would be a need for the coalitions to have a main session slot during the IGF in Brazil to formally present their work to the community. This concept will be developed further and reported on during the May Open Consultations and MAG Meeting.

Discussion on feasibility of holding a third face-to-face MAG meeting and/or inter-sessional working session in September

17. The Chair asked for MAG views on whether to hold a third face-to-face MAG meeting in New York in September. The MAG was reminded that the original idea of having a third meeting was proposed by the Chair in the context of trying to reach out to delegations in New York on the subject of the overall WSIS review and IGF renewal. However, the Chair reported that the current President of the UN General Assembly had not been very receptive to this idea when recently approached about it. Other consultations revealed that it was foreseen that the beginning of September, and particularly the period around the Labor Day holiday, would not be a very good time to hold a meeting in New York. The second part of the month would also be a busy time, as the General Assembly will meet and the Millennium Development Goal review will be taking place.

18. Based upon these initial consultations on the feasibility of holding a MAG meeting in New York in September, the Chair asked for the views of the MAG on a possible alternative of holding a working session to take forward the inter-sessional work in some way. Many MAG members supported the idea of having such a session to advance the inter-sessional work, including the Policy Menus, the BPFs, dynamic coalitions, and saw it as a good chance to show continuation of the overall IGF work and to engage new stakeholders to contribute.

19. It was reported that Denmark will assume the position of President of the General Assembly in June and that they might be more receptive to engaging

with the IGF and MAG in September. On the other hand, the MAG cautioned that the logistics for holding a meeting in New York during the busy month of September might be difficult. Some MAG members supported the general concept of conducting outreach in New York to decision makers within the WSIS review process, to advocate for a renewal of the IGF mandate.

20. Other members emphasized the importance of focusing on conducting outreach and advocacy at the many relevant meetings taking place between May and September (such as the WSIS Forum, the CSTD meeting, meetings of the national and regional IGF initiatives, etc.). There was agreement also that it would be useful to find out more about what the WSIS review process will consist of, when consultations will take place and who the co-facilitators for the review will be. MAG members were encouraged to think about these issues further and to share views on the MAG mailing list in the next month leading up to the May Open Consultations and MAG Meeting, where perhaps a decision could be made either way.

21. Ambassador Fonseca reminded the MAG about Brazil's initiatives to organize IGF outreach and briefing sessions for diplomatic missions in Geneva and New York. It was underlined that these initiatives should not be seen as being in the detriment of any other outreach initiative the MAG would undertake. The MAG was also invited to participate in and contribute to the IGF-focused side event organized by Brazil in the context of the WSIS Forum, on 25 May, in Geneva.

Any other business

22. It was proposed that the next MAG virtual meeting would take place on 6 May at 12:00 noon GMT.

Annex

List of participants

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| Chair | |
| Mr. Kārklīņš, Jānis | Ambassador at large of Latvia |
| Honorary Chair | |
| Fonseca, Benedicto | Ambassador, Ministério das Relações Exteriores, Brazil |
| Advisor to the Chair | |
| Mr. Kummer, Markus | Member, ICANN Board of Directors |
| MAG members | |
| Ms. Arida, Christine | Director of Telecom Services and Planning Division, National Telecom Regulatory Authority |
| Ms. Ali Husain Castilho, Angelic Caroline | Diplomat, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname |
| Ms. Alexander, Fiona | Associate Administrator for International Affairs, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), U.S. Department of Commerce |
| Mr. Amessinou, Kossi | Ingénieur Tic, Ministère du Développement, de l'Analyse Economique et de la Prospective |
| Ms. Bommelaer, Constance | Geneva, Switzerland- Senior Director of Global Policy Partnerships, Internet Society (ISOC) |
| Ms. Cade, Marilyn | CEO, Strategies mCADE llc |
| Ms. Chaturvedi, Subi | Adjunct Faculty/Hon. Managing Trustee, IIIT Delhi |
| Mr. Dengate Thrush, Peter | Counsel, Barrister |
| Ms. Doria, Avri | Independent Researcher, DBA Technicalities |
| Mr. Elgamal, Hossam | Board Member, AfICTA - Africa ICT Alliance |
| Mr. Fernández González, Juan Alfonso | Advisor, Ministry of Communications of the Republic of Cuba |
| Mr. Gjorgjinski, Ljupco Jivan | Assistant Director, Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the |

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| | Republic of Macedonia |
| Ms. Ho, Bianca | NetMission Ambassador, NetMission.Asia |
| Ms. Kaspar, Lea | Programme Lead, Global Partners Digital |
| Ms. Laksmi, Shita | Programme Manager, HIVOS Regional Office Southeast Asia |
| Ms. Lazanski, Dominique | Public Policy Director, GSM Association |
| Ms. Mahmutovic, Aida | Programme Manager, Oneworld - Platform for Southeast Europe (OWPSEE) Foundation |
| Mr. Mazzone, Giacomo | Head of Institutional Relations, European Broadcasting Union |
| Mr. Moisander, Juuso | Commercial Secretary, Information Society and ICT, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland |
| Mr. Nelson, Michael | Information Technology Trends and Internet Policy Consultant |
| Ms. Neves, Ana | Director of the Department of Information Society, "Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P.", Ministry of Education and Science |
| Ms. Paque, Virginia | Director Internet Governance Programmes, Diplo Foundation |
| Mr. Percy Kenyanito, Ephraim | Policy Fellow, Access |
| Ms. St. Amour, Lynn | CEO, Internet Matters |
| Ms. Salakova, Marianne | Consultant on Internet related Policies, Legal Transformations Center |
| Ms. Soboutipour, Shahram | Senior Advisor on International Affairs, Tehran ICT Guide Organization (TIG) |
| Mr. Wagner, Flávio | Board Member, Brazilian Internet Steering Committee (CGI.br) |
| IGF 2015 Host Country | |
| Mr. Ferreira dos Santos Jr. Jandyr | Counsellor, Head of the Information Society Division, Department of Scientific and Technological Themes, Ministry of External Relations |
| Other attendees | |
| Mr. Faye, Makane | |
| Mr. Gutterman, Brian | |
| Ms. Porciuncula, Lorryne | |
| Ms. Teleanu, Sorina | |
| Ms. Suto, Timea | |

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| IGF Secretariat | |
| Mr. Masango, Chengetai | Programme and Technology Manager |
| Ms. Barnes, Ma. Victoria | Assistant |
| Mr. Fatani, Rafid | Consultant |
| Mr. Quesada Rodríguez, Adrián | Fellow |
| Ms. Van der Spuy, Anri | Fellow |
| Ms. Baclig Lara | Intern |