

BRAINSTORMING ON MAIN SESSIONS FOR IGF 2020

Report from Break-out Group I (18 June | 16:00 - 17:00 UTC)

How to read this report:

This report does not include a detailed record of the discussions had in the group, instead it notes the final decision of the group (where possible) or the summary of the discussion. Comments are not attributed to any one group member. The report also notes “creative ideas”, where applicable, for the sessions conducted online

Issues discussed

1. [Format and number of sessions](#)
2. [Opening and closing sessions for thematic tracks](#)
3. [Main session topics](#)

Format and number of sessions

The group agreed that:

- The number of main sessions should be as limited as possible and there shouldn't be more than 8 (not counting opening and closing sessions for the thematic tracks)
- Main Sessions should be timed between 90-120 minutes
- Main Sessions should stand out from the programme and no other sessions should run in parallel
- The MAG should have the responsibility of choosing topics of, approving content and speakers for as well as organizing the main sessions.

There was general support in the group that:

- There should be a Main Session per track, if MAG members can come up with relevant and timely ideas that complement the discussions in workshops and other sessions pertaining to that track
- NRIs and DCs should each organize their main session, as long as it brings together their views on a chosen topic that fits with the overall agenda, not a report of their own activities. Synergies with the thematic main sessions or other main session ideas should be explored.

Creative ideas:

NRIs and / or DCs could explore pre-sessions or satellite events over different regions / time zones or interest groups to get input and build momentum for their session.

Opening and closing sessions for thematic tracks

The group agreed that:

- Opening and closing sessions have worked well last year and should be retained for this year
- Organizing these sessions requires a lot of background work and support from MAG members
- Particular attention should be paid to maintain a good link between the opening and closing sessions and to encourage interaction and contribution from the community. This is especially relevant for the closing session, so that feedback can be gathered on the discussed topics and included in the final IGF report / key messages.

Creative ideas:

The introductory session could be turned into an edited, pre-recorded video collage (5-10 mins), giving an overview of each track and subthemes, perhaps including snippets from the workshop organizers themselves (if they are willing to also send in short recordings) on what to expect in their sessions.

Instead of break-out groups, perhaps thematic coffee breaks could be organized in small groups, to discuss a particular sub-theme. Workshop organizers can be asked to be part of the ones their workshop belongs to and community members can choose which ones to attend.

Main session topics

1. Proposal on having one main session per track

The group supported the idea of having a main session per track, but noted that interested MAG members should convene to explore potential topics and present concrete proposals for the MAG to discuss and approve in the coming weeks

A. Data

The group discussed the proposal of converting workshop # 229 into a main session. While the group agreed this is a good topic to discuss, the majority of those on the call raised concerns about conflicting workshop selection and main session selection processes and advised the workshop be retained as a workshop, but the idea further explored for a main session as well, with HL speakers and diversity ensured by the MAG organizers

Another potential idea was mentioned for a main session on Data, that could explore the topic of data protection in emergency situations, such as COVID-19

B. Environment

The group supported the idea of having a main session for the track and looks forward to discussing a concrete proposal

C. Inclusion

The group supported the idea of having a main session for the track and looks forward to discussing a concrete proposal

Some noted that the proposal on Definitive/Committed Actions for Connecting and Enabling the Remaining Billions would fit well under this track

D. Trust

The group supported the idea of having a main session for the track and looks forward to discussing a concrete proposal

2. Proposal on session on Definitive/Committed Actions for Connecting and Enabling the Remaining Billions

The group agreed that the session should be on the programme, but noted that MAG members interested in the topic should still be allowed time to review and contribute to the session, the policy questions and speaker selection

3. Proposal on the IGF+ related aspects of the UN SG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation

The group agreed there should be a plenary session to discuss this with the community instead of a formal response from the MAG to the Secretary General about Roadmap

The group noted that the session should also discuss the Options Paper that is to be released later this summer

4. Proposal on How Frameworks for the Internet Can Help Address Emerging Issues

The group agreed that this is an interesting topic for the IGF, but considered that it is not a right fit for a Main Session, thus decided not to support this proposal for the IGF 2020 program.

The group noted whether it would be possible for this project lead by ISOC, could be presented to the community as part of an Open Forum or Pre-Event, and perhaps taken forward, if there is interest and support by the community, as a Dynamic Coalition.

5. Proposal on a HL session on COVID-19 related topics

The group took note of this proposal and there was some support for a session on this topic. Group members also noted the synergy between this proposal as supported by UN DESA and the proposal from the Dynamic Coalitions.

Creative ideas:

Some in the group expressed support for including 2-3 short, pre-recorded interventions (~3 minutes) from relevant individuals, usually not attending IGFs, answering a specific question to be addressed in a main session, as a kick starter or scene-setter.