IGF 2022

Second Open Consultations and MAG Meeting | 6–8 July 2022

Summary of key points and action items

The second Open Consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) meeting in the IGF 2022 preparatory cycle was held on 6–8 July 2022, in Geneva and online. Mr. Paul Mitchell moderated the meeting as MAG Chair. The Host Country was represented by Mrs. Huria Ali Mahdi, State Minister at the Ministry of Innovation and Technology, Government of Ethiopia.

This summary provides an overview of key points raised in relation to future actions/activities, as well as main decisions made. For a detailed record of the discussions, transcripts and recordings are available.

IGF workshops

Results of workshop selection process

- The MAG selected 79 workshops to be held at IGF 2022, from a total of 245 proposals.

Communication with session organizers

- It was suggested that, when communicating with session organizers about their proposals being accepted, the following elements should be highlighted:
    - The hybrid format of the IGF 2022 meeting and the need for sessions to integrate this format into their session planning and ensure that a plan is put in place to engage both onsite and online participants in an interactive discussion.
    - Ensure that the content of their sessions is updated throughout the year.
    - Integrate a gender lens into their discussions, as appropriate.
- The Secretariat could share with the MAG WG on Workshops Process the draft message to be shared with accepted proposers to ensure the above elements are integrated.

Suggestions for the workshop submission and evaluation process

In addition to finalising the selection of workshops, the MAG also discussed improvements that could be brought to the workshop proposal and selection process in the future.

Revising the workshop proposal submission form
- Revise the workshop proposal submission form, make it simpler, more concise, and more user friendly (including from a technical point of view). This will bring benefits to both session proponents (easier to submit proposals) and MAG members (easier to perform the evaluation).

- In the form itself, provide more guidelines on what is meant by session description and expected outcomes, and the difference between them. Encourage submitters to outline expected outcomes that are outward-looking, directed toward the IGF community and the Internet governance/digital policy ecosystem (as opposed to them being self-oriented).
- Revise the section on the hybrid format, to highlight focus not on the use of tools, but on what is being proposed in terms of audience engagement and interaction. Otherwise put, highlight the fact that the hybrid format should help improve engagement during the session.
- Consider introducing a requirement in the form for the session proposal to be summarised in a very short paragraph (e.g. a tweet). This would facilitate a better understanding of the proposal being evaluated.
- One suggestion was made to convene the WG on workshop process in the coming 1-2 months to start developing the workshop proposal submission form for next year, based on immediate recollections and understanding of what worked and what did not work.

Encouraging the submission of workshop proposals and providing some training in this regard
- Consider what MAG could do to foster 'a culture of submitting proposals to the IGF'. Leveraging the network of national, regional and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs) to encourage submissions was one suggestion. Facilitating multilingualism in the submission of proposals – while considering the constraints of available resources – was also suggested.
- Consider putting in place some capacity building activities to train the community on how to write session proposals, to increase their chances of being selected.
- Consider creating a database of workshops that got accepted over the past few years and encourage the community to review those as guidance on how to write their own submissions. (Personal data can be removed.)

Evaluation and selection process
- Make it clear to MAG members that the workshop proposals evaluation process is mandatory and they are expected to engage in this core task of the MAG.
- Avoid changing timelines in the evaluation and selection process, once approved.
- Consider having MAG members randomly assigned to evaluate proposals across all themes (as opposed to one or two particular themes). Members would then be convened in theme-related groups in the second stage of the evaluation, when they discuss the results of the scoring and make the final selection of workshops.
- The theme-related evaluation groups could meet online, before the face-to-face MAG meeting, to look at the rankings of proposals in their group and come up with lists of workshops proposed for acceptance, further discussion and rejection. The Secretariat would then compile these lists and have them ready for the face-fo-face meeting, where the MAG would look at them as a whole and make the final selection.

- When evaluating session proposals, diversity should be considered in a holistic manner: not only looking at stakeholder, regional or gender diversity, but also the content of the session, the diversity of views and whether something new is brought to the discussion.
- Discuss what can be done to ensure that session proposals dealing with gender-related issues make it to the IGF programme.
- Explore ways to use workshops as an opportunity to foster more linkages between the global IGF and NRIs. For instance, encourage workshop proponents to host discussions on the topics they propose at the national and/or regional level and indicate in the session proposal how this is done. Such proposals could be given extra points when being evaluated.
- Consider whether the MAG could have more substance, content-based discussions when working on the IGF programme. Right now, the MAG encourages the community to submit proposals and then evaluates the proposals. But is there anything the MAG could/should do to ensure that the overall IGF programme includes topics that are current and highly relevant, if these are not submitted by the community (e.g. make sure the descriptions of the themes are more detailed and capture all the issues and topics the MAG would want to see reflected in the programme)?

IGF main sessions

Decision on IGF 2022 main sessions

There was general agreement on having a total of seven (7) main sessions at IGF 2022:
- Five sessions on the five main themes of the meeting.
- One session for NRIs.
- One session for dynamic coalitions (DCs).

Action items for the preparation of main sessions

- The Secretariat will prepare five groups for the five thematic main sessions, and invite MAG members to sign up to the groups they are interested in.
- Once the groups are formed, they will appoint one or two facilitators.
- The (co)facilitators will then coordinate on issues related to main session outputs (process, format etc.). They could also communicate with the Office of the Tech Envoy on this issue, considering the intention of having IGF outputs feed into the GDC development process.
- The MAG to discuss whether and how to review the main session guidelines from 2021.

Considerations for the preparation of main sessions

Several suggestions were made on issues to consider when planning the thematic main sessions:
- Build linkages between the main sessions and the relevant intersessional work, to avoid duplication and have them complement each other (e.g. in the case of Internet

fragmentation, which is both a theme of IGF 2022 and the topic of a PN). Similarly, build linkages between the main sessions and relevant workshops and other sessions addressing similar topics. One approach could be to engage volunteers from relevant sessions and intersessional work in the planning of main sessions.

- Consider placing the main sessions towards the end of the meeting, to allow them to be framed as a chronological cultimation of the discussions happening before in other sessions.
- Try to have the planning of main sessions finalised earlier than usual. For instance, having the session descriptions and at least two key speakers confirmed and published two months before the IGF would be very useful for communications and outreach efforts.
- Think about what could be done to avoid situations that appeared in previous years, when there was not much MAG members engagement in some main session planning groups, leading to lack of clarity and things being left to the last minute. One suggestion was to provide clear guidance to MAG members at the start of this process – what is expected from them, clear timelines and deadlines, etc.
- Ensure that the groups working on planning the main sessions have some coordination on issues related to the outputs of the sessions: what they should capture and how, to ensure that they are meaningful and could serve as valuable, concrete and actionable input into the GDC. Coordinated efforts could take place by having the main session facilitators meet periodically to ensure consistency across their sessions.

Other elements of the IGF 2022 meeting programme

High-level leaders track and parliamentary track

- Engage MAG members in outreach to high-level leaders and parliamentarians who could be invited to contribute to these tracks.
- Engage ministers from developing nations in the high-level leaders track.
- For a better outreach for the parliamentary track, rely not only on the formal invitations, but also reach out to individuals MPs (e.g. those who were part of the IGF in previous years), for instance to inform them that that invitations have been sent and to encourage them to follow up with their parliaments.

Overall programme

Discussions during the Open Consultations and MAG meeting highlighted a series of elements to be considered in the next steps of the IGF 2022 planning process:

- Ensure a full integration of the programme (e.g. high-level leaders track aligned with the themes of IGF 2022).
- Explore modalities for how to avoid having the same individuals speak in multiple sessions.

- Take a holistic look at all session proposals and try to avoid cases in which one entity gets multiple sessions. Ensure that the accepted open forums are not 'workshops under disguise'.
- Have a discussion on the role the MAG could have in shaping the whole programme – not only in relation to workshops – to avoid overlaps, the same entity having multiple types of sessions, etc.

Hybrid format

Several points were raised on issues to consider when planning and implementing the hybrid format of the IGF 2022 meeting:
- Ensure a proper planning for the hybrid IGF, considering elements such as: simple and stable online processes and tools (e.g. registration, joining online sessions, stability of website); training and guidelines for session organizers, on both technical and substantive issues (e.g. insisting on the need to have at least one on site moderator).
- Enhance cooperation with the session organizers on implementing the hybrid model (through capacity development).
- The engagement of hubs needs to be considered as part of the hybrid approach.

Action items related to the hybrid format

- The MAG Working Group on Hybrid Meetings (WG-Hybrid) to work with the Secretariat to devise guidelines and training for session organizers on the hybrid approach. These should focus not only on technical issues (i.e. the use of tools), but also on how to ensure that the sessions are interactive and all participants, online and on site, are meaningfully engaged in the discussions.
- The group co-facilitators suggested that there is some communication with session organizers about the hybrid format, to discuss experiences and approaches, and see how to feed them into the planning and execution of sessions for seamless hybrid and highly interactive sessions. A discussion is to be held on the MAG list and in subsequent MAG meetings on how to proceed with such a plan.

IGF 2022 outcomes and outputs

Suggestions and key points raised during the discussions on IGF 2022 outcomes and outputs included:
- Shape IGF 2022 outputs in a way that allows them to serve multiple purposes, i.e. contribution to the Global Digital Compact (GDC process, but also relevance for various stakeholder groups, communities, and their work. Think of what the session outputs (and the related report forms) should look like to serve these purposes.

- Look into what can be done to streamline IGF Messages and ensure they are concrete and actionable.
- Think of how to offer more opportunities for intersessional activities to present their outputs at the IGF meeting.
- Engage NRIs and session organisers in the dissemination of IGF outputs.
- Consider what can be done to measure the impact of IGF outputs (i.e. whether and how they are used by decision-makers).
- When discussing how to strengthen IGF outputs and outcomes, be mindful of existing realities and limitations, such as: the types of outputs that the IGF – as a space for multistakeholder dialogue – can produce; who, whether, and how 'endorses' such outputs; resources available to develop and promote outputs.

IGF contribution to the Global Digital Compact

A discussion during the Open Consultations on IGF contributions to the GDC development process highlighted the following key point:
- NRIs were encouraged to contribute to the call for input launched by the Office of the Tech Envoy (OTE).
- Once the UN General Assembly President appoints the co-facilitators for the GDC process, reach out to them and invite them to engage in IGF work.
- UN member states that support the IGF and the multistakeholder model should insist that the GDC development process be open and inclusive and consider input from non-governmental stakeholders. The broader IGF community could also promote this message.
- The IGF (community) to also look at what happens after the GDC is developed and what role the IGF could play in its implementation/follow-up.

IGF intersessional activities

In addition to overviews of the work of IGF intersessional activities and capacity development initiatives, the following main issues were raised during the discussions:
- MAG members and the IGF community were invited to contribute to the work of the best practice forums (BPFs) on cybersecurity and gender and digital rights, the policy networks (PNs) on meaningful access and Internet fragmentation, and the 24 dynamic coalitions.
- Some suggestions were made on how to strengthen the DCs presence and contribution to IGF activities throughout the year: hosting an intersessional meeting that would allow DCs to get together and discuss (a) their outputs and other results of their work, and (b) what they could do to contribute to the annual IGF meeting; considering the possibility of allocating more time to DCs – as well as BPFs and PNs – to present their outcomes at the meetings and engage the community in a discussion on them; ensuring that DCs and their work are properly reflected in the report produced after the IGF meeting.

- MAG members and stakeholders were also invited to engage in the capacity development activities led by the Secretariat and help promote them.

Cooperation with NRIs

The following suggestions were made during discussions on cooperation with NRIs:
- Encourage MAG members to actively contribute to NRIs.
- Encourage the international community to make financial resources available for NRIs in an open and transparent manner.
- Explore modalities to strengthen the integration of NRIs into other IGF components and to foster more cooperation between individual NRIs.
- Foster more relations between NRIs and IGF intersessional activities, e.g. through having NRIs-designated experts to be liaisons with the intersessional work of interest.
- Rethink ways of working with youth to develop their IG capacity.

Other issues related to the IGF 2022 meeting

- Stakeholders are invited to apply for IGF booths and for travel support to attend IGF 2022.
- The Secretariat to look into making available reports on security in Ethiopia from the UN Department of Safety and Security.

MAG activities

MAG working groups

WG-Hybrid
- *See above, under Hybrid format*

WG-Strategy
- The WG on IGF Strategy will be focusing on two streams of work in the upcoming period: fostering linkages with the Office of the Envoy on Technology, and facilitating input to the Global Digital Compact and other activities related to Our Common Agenda. The IGF multi-year work plan is also on the group's list of things to work on, but this is likely something to require the engagement of the entire MAG.
- The WG has prepared a [draft MAG communication](#) regarding the GDC and the call for input launched by the Office of the Envoy on Technology. MAG members were reminded to review the draft and provide input.
- The WG also intends to draft a second communication related to the GDC which would outline how the IGF has evolved and developed over the years. This would be in response to the Secretary-General's call in the Our Common Agenda for IGF improvements. The MAG will be invited to review the draft in the upcoming weeks.

- MAG members and others from the IGF community are invited to contribute to the work of the group. Suggestions are also welcome on activities the WG could engage in to support overall MAG work.

WG-OEC
- The WG on Outreach, Engagement and Communications reminded MAG members to contribute to the development of a database with stakeholders to be considered as part of the IGF communications strategy.
- The WG intends to work together with WG-Hybrid to prepare a toolkit for session organizers on communications and outreach regarding their sessions.

Overall discussions on MAG work

- Calls were made for the MAG as a whole to be more effective and for more members to get engaged in the work.
  - The Secretariat clarified that it keeps track of the engagement of members in MAG work (e.g. attendance of meetings, participation in the workshop evaluation process) and that this will be taken into consideration during the MAG renewal process.
- There was a discussion on whether and how the MAG could foster a network of MAG alumni, former MAG members who can use their knowledge and expertise to support the onboarding of new members, for instance.

MAG Terms of Reference (ToR)

Building on suggestions made during the IGF Expert Group Meeting held earlier this year in New York, the MAG chair has convened a group of MAG members to work on suggesting revisions to the MAG ToR. The group came up with a draft revised ToR that includes four sets of changes related to: new language regarding the identification of needs (i.e. trying to make sure that the MAG is considering needs and policy directions in the overall Internet governance ecosystem in its work); new provisions regarding participation requirements and expectations for MAG members; new language to state that the MAG also provides advice on the purpose of the IGF; new provisions regarding the relationship with other UN activities.

During the discussions, the following additional suggestions were made:
- Include text regarding the expected workload for MAG members (e.g. several hours/month, with a significant increase during the workshop evaluation process, the planning of main sessions, the face-to-face meetings and the IGF annual meeting).
- Include text to encourage outgoing MAG members to contribute to a network of alumni or a community of expertise to use their experience and expertise to support future IGF work (support new members, assist with capacity development for session organizers, etc.).

- - Some concerns were raised that the ToR is about the work of acting MAG members (not former ones) and that it might be unrealistic to place such expectations on all MAG members.
- Amend the part about the MAG responsibility to 'identity emerging Internet governance issues' to 'identify <u>and promote engagement </u>with emerging Internet governance issues'.
- Include a direct link to the Tunis Agenda when this is referenced in the text.

Next steps
- The points above to be integrated into the draft revised ToR and circulated on the MAG list.
- The MAG to endorse the draft revised ToR.
- The draft revised ToR to be submitted to the UN Secretariat for consideration.