



**IGF Leadership Panel
Meeting
Vienna, Austria
6-7 & 8 March 2023**

The [Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\) Leadership Panel](#) met for a two-day meeting on 6-7 March 2023 at the Federal Chancellery in Vienna, Austria at the invitation of H.E. Ms. Karoline Edtstadler, Federal Minister for the EU and the Constitution of Austria. For Members not present onsite, virtual participation was made available. Mr. Vinton Cerf moderated the meeting as Chair of the Panel. The meeting's purpose was to establish a plan of work ahead of the 18th annual IGF, set to take place in Kyoto, Japan, 8-12 October 2023, as well as longer-term strategies in line with the Panel's mandate to address urgent digital issues and strengthen the IGF.

In its prior meetings, the Panel had agreed to structure its work across four subgroups as follows: Group A - "Awareness-Raising and Outreach", focused on promoting the IGF through other fora and outreach events; Group B - "Inputs to the IGF and Liaison with the MAG", on cooperation with the IGF's Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG); Group C - "Fundraising", on increasing contributions to the IGF's voluntary Trust Fund; and Group D - "Opportunities for Substantive Contributions and Guidance", on substantive programmatic inputs to the IGF and outlining an inclusive, principles-based vision for the digital future (provisionally termed, "Internet We Want").

Deliberations in Vienna focused on taking forward the tasks initiated by these groups, making initial suggestions for enhancing the IGF 2023 programme, and review and agreement on a set of general, common talking points for members that reflect the IGF's thematic messaging and emphasize its value.

In addition, members participated in dedicated sessions with both the IGF's Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), to explore deeper collaboration on their shared objectives, and the co-facilitators of the UN Global Digital Compact (GDC) process. The Chair, Mr. Cerf, and the Host of the meeting, H.E. Ms. Edtstadler, held a joint press conference in the morning of 7 March. On 8 March, the Panel held a final, supplementary session: an open exchange with stakeholders at the UN Office at Vienna (UNOV) on IGF strategic objectives.

Below is an overview of action items and next steps raised in relation to future activities.

Decisions, Action Items & Next Steps

I. Documents

- Leadership Panel Working Groups A & D will consolidate their proposed contributions to the Global Digital Compact (GDC) as a single one-page document, inviting comments from the membership for ten days, until 20 March.

- Working Group A will produce a set of thematic talking points which draw from the IGF Messages in 2021 and 2022. These could be shared with the MAG when ready.
- Working Group A will produce a one-page executive document to raise awareness about the IGF process and IGF Messages. Per the suggestion of Minister Edtstadler, this paper could be the basis for a formal document on behalf of the Panel distributed to UN member states – potentially the endorsement of the Secretary-General could be sought for this.
- Working Group D will take the lead in drafting a “vision paper”, outlining some of the high-level aspirations of IGF and what it could accomplish should the vision be fulfilled. Group D’s outline on “The Internet We Want” could act as a starting point.
- Following their agreement on the foundational Common Messages/Talking Points provided by the Secretariat, which focus on the value of the IGF, Members will build on these and tailor them to identified audiences, target groups and organizations. The Chair suggested that derivative papers could be written from the perspective of potential audiences as if it were titled “The Internet YOU Want and Why.”
- The Panel’s Common Messages/Talking Points will be shared with the MAG.
- The Secretariat will explore what stories, including and along the lines of the testimonials collected during the IGF’s last mandate renewal, could better illustrate or bring to life some of the Common Messages/Talking Points. One source for these might be the Schools on Internet Governance (SIGs).

II. Organizational Tasks

- Panel Member Maria Fernanda Garza volunteered to begin drafting a list of target organizations and stakeholder groups, along with which parts of the Panel could be best suited to connect with them. Target groups should be invited to participate in IGF 2023.
- Members are to ensure that their common calendar is populated with all the events and fora that would be appropriate for them to attend or that they plan to attend, specifying: when, where, the link to the programme, and who will attend (if there are members beyond themselves).
- Members are to ensure their common file store is updated with the documents they have shared thus far on the Panel mailing list.
- Members should consider a strategy with timeline to define the framework of joint work with the MAG.
- The Secretariat will explore a solution for a shared LP/MAG file system.

III. Substantive & Other Contributions to IGF 2023

- On the basis of the thematic inputs received by the Secretariat, as well as comments made during the Panel's press conference, the Panel can put forward and develop thematic suggestions surrounding: Artificial Intelligence, Data Governance issues, and Digital Divides, which persist and continue to be important across the world.
- Regarding the latter issue above, the Panel should consider new approaches to discussing persistent digital divides that go beyond technical solutions and give the discussion new impetus and relevance.
- The Panel will look at "issues of the future" for potential inclusion at IGF, such as quantum computing, 6G and blockchain, as initial examples. Five to ten of these could be selected.
- The Panel should look at important digital legislative policies across countries to compile an instructive "legislative pack", with the Secretariat to investigate existing legislative databases in research and academic institutions.
- The Panel could look at the potential inclusion of the tech investment community in IGF activities and in the annual IGF, in particular.

IV. Future Meetings of the Panel & Participation in Kyoto

- Members should plan to meet among themselves three times at the Kyoto IGF for 1.5-hour sessions each, at the beginning, middle and end of the IGF week.
- They should plan to meet in dedicated face-to-face sessions with the MAG, as well as with parliamentarians present.
- They should meet in an open session with IGF stakeholders, as they did in 2022.
- They should pursue a request to meet with the Secretary-General in person if he is in attendance in Kyoto and virtually if not.
- Members should plan their individual participation in specific sessions or tracks and consider how they could lend visibility or support these.
- Members should consider a physical meeting surrounding the planned face-to-face meeting of the MAG in June in Geneva. Alternatively, a physical meeting in New York could also be considered. A poll will be conducted to assess more precise dates.
- Either in connection with this meeting, or in the same general timeframe, they should pursue a potential pre-Kyoto meeting with the Secretary-General (either face-to-face or virtual).

V. Other



- Outreach events with the business community, to drive their support on the road to the IGF in Kyoto, are planned by Ms. Garza and her team. One specific opportunity mentioned is a biannual meeting of chambers of commerce in Geneva, on 21-23 June, where connections could be made with SMEs.
- At the suggestion of the Secretariat, Panel Members should volunteer themselves as individual “champions” of specific IGF intersessional activities or tracks, for instance, of issue-based Best Practice Forums (BPFs), Policy Networks, or Dynamic Coalitions (DCs); the existing Youth Track; an in-formation Gender Track; or the Parliamentary Track. This could be in connection with their participation at sessions in Kyoto.

Annex I – Agenda

Monday, 6 March 2023

10.00 –12.00 Working Session: Welcome and exchange of views

- Developments since IGF 2022
- Other recent developments
- Outreach-Activities (report / participation of Leadership Panel members in conferences, etc.)

12.00 –14.00 Lunch hosted by State Secretary Florian Tursky

14.00 –15.30 Working Session: Common messages/IGF 2023

Discussion of the Common messages

16.30 – 18.30 Visit to the Institute of Science and Technology Austria (ISTA)

- Welcome by ISTA President Hetzer and Managing Director Schneider
- Exchange with Faculty members

Tuesday, 7 March 2023

09.00 – 09.30 Press conference

09.30 – 10.00 Arrival of other participants and Doorstep

10.00 – 11.30 Working Session: Strategic recommendations

Focus of the IGF 2023 and beyond

11.40 –12.00 Guided Tour through the Austrian Parliament

12.00 –13.15 Lunch with Members of the Austrian Parliament

14.00 –15.00 Exchange with UNOV / UNODC DG Ghada Waly on cyber crime related issues

15.00 –15.45 Exchange between MAG, Leadership Panel und GDC co-facilitators (open to observers)

15.50 –17.30 Exchange with members of the MAG (closed meeting)

17.30 –18.30 Working Session: Wrap up / next steps

Optional Part: Wednesday, 8 March 2023

10.45 –13.00 IGF 2023 strategic objectives – open exchange with Leadership Panel

Annex II – Attendance

Panel Members

Mr. Vint Cerf, Chair

Ms. Huria Ali

Ms. Karoline Edtstadler

Ms. Maria Fernanda Garza

Mr. Paul Mitchell

Mr. 'Gbenga Sesan

Mr. Alkesh Kumar Sharma
Mr. Krzysztof Szubert

Panel Support Persons

Ms. Meni Anastasiadou
Mr. Ross Creelman
Mr. Johannes Dopsch
Ms. Saba G. Kassaye
Ms. Isabelle Hassler
Mr. Bernhard Neufingerl
Ms. Maarit Palovirta
Ms. Johanna Resch
Mr. Wiktor Skwarek
Ms. Anna Walch
Office of Mr. Yoshida (MICT, Japan)

Regrets

Mr. Hatem Dowidar
Ms. Lise Fuhr
Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill
Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves
Mr. Lan Xue
Ms. Maria Ressa, Vice-Chair
Mr. Hiroshi Yoshida

IGF Secretariat

Mr. Chengetai Masango
Ms. Anja Gengo
Ms. Eleonora Mazzucchi