

IGF 2023

Second Open Consultations and MAG Meeting 10 – 12 July 2023

Summary of action items & next steps

The second Open Consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) meeting in the IGF 2023 preparatory cycle was held on 10-12 July 2023, online and onsite at the headquarters of the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG), Austria. The traditional three-day meeting was followed on 7 March by a working session between the MAG and IGF Leadership Panel (LP), both also held at UNOG. Mr. Paul Mitchell moderated the meeting as MAG Chair. The Host Country was represented by Mr. Yoichi Iida, Deputy Director General for G7 and G20 Relations, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government Japan.

This summary provides an overview of action items and next steps raised in relation to future actions and activities, as well as main decisions made. For a detailed record of the discussions, [recordings are available here](#).

10 July 2023

Briefing on the current state of preparation for IGF 2023 by the Host Country and IGF Secretariat

- The Host Country launched the [official IGF 2023 website](#).
- Information about visa application and accommodation will soon be published on the website.
- Participants were informed that the hotel near the venue, the Grand Prince Hotel, has been reserved for VIPs, only.

Exchange about the IGF contribution to the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and WSIS+20

Update on the planning process for the GDC

The GDC co-facilitators received the sounding board proposal submitted by the LP and the MAG. While they cannot change the formal process of the GDC, they welcome a close collaboration with the IGF community. Participants were informed about the co-facilitators' presence in Geneva in September, and in Kyoto at the annual IGF.

- The MAG and the LP should align and prepare for the GDC Ministerial event to take place in September in New York.

Update on WSIS+20 Consultations

Interventions to provide updates on the process were made by UNDESA, ITU, UNCTAD/CSTD and UNESCO, organizations that are implicated in the WSIS+20 Consultations. ITU with its dedicated working group provides a platform to enable multistakeholder discussion and to take stock of achievements of the past 2 years. UNDESA and UNCTAD/CSTD collect, and coordinate input received from all stakeholders. The WSIS+20 Consultations Roadmap will be discussed at the upcoming UNESCO General Conference later this year.

- Series of issues papers and policy briefs will start being published as of October 2023.

How can the IGF contribute to these processes?

- It was suggested to identify IGF focal points to liaise with the relevant persons of the preparatory bodies of these processes.
- The MAG Working Group on Strategy will discuss useful documentation for the GDC ministerial event. The broader IGF community is invited to take part in the Strategy calls.

IGF continuous improvements: What to do in 2023?

The IGF Secretariat collected input and feedback from the IGF stakeholders on how to improve IGF outputs and outcomes. It was suggested to:

- Build on the Addis key messages;
- Format the key messages similarly to the LP's messages;
- Make language of key messages simpler to increase the reach;
- Mainstream key messages by further involving the media into the discussions;
- Ensure the key messages are conveyed around the UN system;
- Provide an answer to the GDC issue papers; and
- Show that the IGF deals with broader issues than Internet governance.

Intersessional Event

Six (6) working groups from the broader intersessional work community and from the National, Regional, Subregional and Youth Initiatives (NRIs) presented key input from their work in connection with the IGF 2023 subthemes. The presentations intend to provide expertise to the MAG when shaping the IGF programme and main sessions.

The summary document of the active working groups, including their presentations, is available [here](#):

Discussion about the international Internet governance processes and initiatives

Nine (9) interventions were made by organisations with ties to Internet governance and seeking to deepen their cooperation with the IGF.

- IGF should further these relationships and organise future consultations with the organisations where there is more space for rounds of exchange among them.
- The IGF Secretariat welcomes any suggestions on how to improve output and outcomes

11 July 2023

Final Workshop Review and Approval

The IGF Secretariat presented the status of received proposals per session type after basic screening. As previously indicated, the number of session submissions considerably increased. The selection of final session proposals will follow stricter rules.

Four (4) evaluation groups were actively reviewing workshop proposals prior to the MAG meeting. They presented their selection of workshops.

- The list of workshops under the sub-theme *AI and emerging technologies* might include few additional sessions (to the number of sessions recommended by the IGF Secretariat).
- The list of selected workshop proposals will be shared with the MAG for final consideration.

- The workshop acceptance letters will be sent the week after the MAG meeting. Workshop submitters will be reminded to consider the gender balance when finalizing the workshop preparations.

The IGF Secretariat collected suggestions from the working groups on how to improve the evaluation process for the IGF 2024.

- Comments should inform workshop submitters about the reasons of the proposal rejection, also to increase transparency during the evaluation process.
- Fields indicating whether a session submitter is a newcomer, and the gender of speakers and co-organizers will be made mandatory.
- When evaluating, working groups have been reminded not to exclude automatically workshop proposals with a lower quality of writing, as this disproportionately affects submissions from the Global South.

Planning Main Sessions

After the workshop review and approval, the MAG focused on the planning of main sessions, identifying topics and session facilitators. The MAG ensured to avoid organizing main sessions with similar topics than other Plenary sessions.

It was decided to:

- Position the IGF strategically when determining the main session and overall IGF programme;
- Avoid following strictly the eight IGF sub-themes and encourage merging topics;
- Move across themes by avoiding breaking the main sessions into subgroups, but rather by keeping the planning and conversations amongst all session facilitators.
- Organize a main session on *Artificial Intelligence* and give the topic more prominence in the overall IGF programme;
- Have two separate sessions on the *Future of Digital Cooperation* and the *Global Digital Impact*, as the IGF is well place to offer a discussion on the issue papers released for the Ministerial meeting in September.

The topics of the other main sessions would be around *Cybersecurity, Trust & Safety Online* and *Sustainability & Environment*.

- It was further noted that there are no dedicated sessions for topics on *Gender and Human Rights & Freedoms*.
- The IGF Secretariat will liaise with the organizers of the UN Open Forum to possibly change the format. It was noted that this session resembles a reporting session and should be more interactive. This session could be included in the *Opening Statements from Stakeholders*.

12 July 2023

Other IGF 2023 Programme Elements

The IGF Secretariat introduced the topics of:

- The High-Level leaders tracks on:
 1. Understanding 'Data Free Flow with Trust' (DFFT)
 2. Evolving Trends in Mis- & Dis-Information
 3. Looking ahead to WSIS+20: Accelerating the Multistakeholder Process
 4. Access & Innovation for Revitalising the SDGs
 5. Artificial Intelligence
- The Parliamentary track on *Shaping Digital Trust*;
- The NRIs main session on *Data Governance*. The MAG was invited to join preparations to develop the main session together and enhance cooperation.
- The Youth track and newcomers' track.

A preliminary version of the Plenary Hall schedule was shared with the MAG.

The IGF Secretariat took note of restricting town hall session submissions. It was proposed to remove town hall sessions from next year's programme.

Roundtable Exchange with Facilitators of the IGF 2023 Intersessional Activities

Facilitators of the IGF intersessional activities (the Policy Networks on meaningful Access, on Internet Fragmentation, on Artificial Intelligence, the Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity and the Dynamic Coalitions) presented to the MAG the status of their current work.

- The DC co-facilitator M. Kummer introduced the DC main session proposal on the DC's contribution to the *Internet We Want*. Considering the MAG discussions around the main sessions, M. Kummer proposed to the MAG to select a DC main session topic should need be.

13 July 2023

Joint Session of Leadership Panel & MAG

The MAG discussed cooperative working mechanisms with the Panel around both IGF 2023 planning and contributions to wider processes, such as the GDC and its upcoming Ministerial meeting in September. The session was co-led by the respective chairs of the MAG and LP, Mr. Paul Mitchell, and Mr. Vinton Cerf.

While the GDC co-facilitators did not formally accept the creation of the suggested sounding board, the Leadership Panel saw the opportunity to encompass some formalities by reaching out to its own network.

- The LP will support the MAG's efforts by using its networks to spread the IGF key messages and convey IGF observations to various Stakeholders; and by sharing IGF content with other UN entities.
- The unique multistakeholder aspect is reflected, among others, in the successful creation and maintenance of NRIs. LP members were encouraged to attend the NRI main session at the IGF.
- The WG on Strategy will develop an IGF document ahead of the GDC ministerial meeting and the visit of the co-facilitators in Geneva.
- The IGF Secretariat will schedule a meeting between the LP and the MAG at the IGF in Kyoto.