

Proposed Approach for the Multistakeholder High-level Body (MHLB)



Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Introduction

This proposed approach for an IGF Multistakeholder High-Level Body takes into account the various written inputs received and online consultations that have taken place to date over the last year. It seeks to implement Paragraph 93 (a) of the Secretary-General's Roadmap on Digital Cooperation which calls for :

Creating a strategic and empowered multistakeholder high-level body, building on the experience of the existing multistakeholder advisory group, which would address urgent issues, coordinate follow-up action on Forum discussions and relay proposed policy approaches and recommendations from the Forum to the appropriate normative and decision-making forums;

The final decision and determination of the body's attributes will be made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Proposed MHLB purpose

- Advises the Secretary-General in addressing urgent issues, coordinating follow-up actions on Internet Governance Forum's discussions and exchanging proposed policy approaches and recommendations from the Forum with other forums.
- Acts as an informational bridge between the IGF discussions/outcomes and other relevant bodies and spaces.

Proposed MHLB's key functions

- Receives MAG reports and promotes the IGF and its outcomes
- Supports the stakeholder engagement and outreach of IGF processes
- Supports IGF fundraising efforts
- Exchanges IGF outcomes from the Forum with other high-level decision-makers and the appropriate policy and decision-making fora and facilitates the feeding of input of these decision-makers and fora to the IGF's agenda-setting process

Individual member responsibilities

- Attend the MHLB meetings
- Participate actively in the annual IGF meeting, particularly the High-Level sessions
- Familiarise with the IGF's intersessional work and all IGF relevant updates communicated by IGF Secretariat
- Advise on emerging and urgent issues for the MHLB's consideration as Forum priorities
- Support raising awareness about the IGF and engage stakeholders in its processes
- Explore new fundraising opportunities for contributions to the IGF trust fund
- Communicate official IGF outcomes and update the MHLB on outcomes and decisions of other processes and initiatives

Membership

Chair rotating from among members

Small body

Ministerial-level
or above
representatives
from Governments

CEO-level (or
deputy-level)
representatives
from private
sector, technical
community & civil
society

At-large
members
(prominent
persons who do
not fall under
above
stakeholder
groups)

Recommended: 2-year term

Selection:

- At same time with MAG selection
- Following a public call for nominations
- Decision by UN SG, Upon recommendation from IGF Secretariat/UNDESA & Office of the Envoy on Technology

Ex-officio

Three [3] senior representatives
(Minister or head of agency) of
the current, previous, and
upcoming IGF host countries

Chair of IGF's Multistakeholder
Advisory Group

Secretary-General's Envoy on
Technology

Meetings

Three times a year

- After the first open consultations and MAG meeting, when the themes of that year's IGF annual meeting have been finalised, usually hosted in March.
- After the IGF annual meeting, when all the outputs have been finalised, which could be hosted in January.
- During the IGF annual meeting, when Group members will take part in the high- level track, main sessions etc., usually hosted in late November/December.
- Additional meetings can be scheduled on an as-needed basis.
- Outcomes of the Group discussion will be communicated to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General.
- Meetings held under the Chatham House Rule.
- They follow pre-approved agendas prepared by the Secretariat together with the Group itself prior to each meeting.

Secretariat support & Funding

The proposed MHLB will be supported by the IGF Secretariat (an additional staff member is needed).

Funding will come out of the IGF Trust Fund for which additional donations will need to be sourced from donor entities that support this process.

The funding will be in line with what is currently provided for the MAG (e.g. travel support for members from the global south).

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Thank You

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