

2nd Open Consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting
20-22 May 2015

Summary report

I. Introduction

1. The second Open Consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group Meeting in the IGF 2015 preparatory process took place on 20-22 May 2015 at the ILO headquarters, in Geneva, Switzerland. The purpose of the three-day meeting was to continue efforts towards the preparations for the IGF 2015 annual meeting. Some of the primary goals of the meeting were to take questions and comments from the broader IGF community during the open consultations; work towards selecting the main/focus sessions that will be held during IGF 2015 and to finalise the intersessional work methodology.

2. Ambassador Jānis Kārklīņš from Latvia moderated the meeting as chair of the MAG and Mr. Chengetai Masango represented the IGF Secretariat. Ambassador Benedicto Fonseca Filho, Director of the Department of Scientific and Technological Affairs, Ministry of External Relations, Brazil served as honorary co-chair of the meeting.

3. Per usual IGF practice, to ensure full transparency and openness to the multistakeholder community the Open Consultations and the MAG meeting was open to observers, who were also encouraged to actively participate. The meeting was webcasted on the IGF website. Live text streaming as well as online participation was available for all interested stakeholders. Over 130 registered participants attended the three-day session and many more joined online.

II. Open Consultations - Preparations for IGF 2015

4. The MAG and other stakeholders present at the meeting started discussions on the preparations for the IGF 2015 meeting, with a significant number of issues being addressed, ranging from the structure and programme of the meeting to intersessional work. Much of the time spent during the first day of open consultations was focused on listening to the views of the broader IGF community both present in Geneva and participating online as to how the MAG could programme the 2015 IGF to satisfy all stakeholders.

5. The IGF 2015 Host Country (Brazil) made a short presentation on logistical aspects related to the IGF 2015 meeting, including: transportation; the venue; provision of free visas, etc. The Host Country website was introduced, and all participants were encouraged to browse and preview it before it went live shortly after. Some participants expressed concerns regarding if provisions have been made for peoples with disabilities. It was noted that the provisions have been made, both with the participant's hotels and the IGF venue itself.

6. The host country briefed participants on some of the already planned events for 'Day Zero' (9 November). It was reported that the GigaNet Conference; a Next Generation Internet Conference, a Stanford University polling event, and a NetMundial related event; among others, were already being planned. While the participants supported the events, some concerns were raised that no High Level Meeting (HLM) was taking place in or around the IGF 2015 meeting, as it was traditionally used as a means to convince senior government ministers to attend the IGF.

7. In regards to the planned NetMundial event it was noted that the host country was conducting consultations both within the government and in coordination with CGI in order to have a better understanding of the format and the content of the day zero event. Participants were assured that all comments made during the meeting would be forwarded and will be part of the decision-making in regard to the final shape and format of this event. The Host Country also assured stakeholders that they were undergoing wide and targeted outreach to attract high-level decision makers and government officials to the meeting, and were still considering holding some sort of high-level multistakeholder event on day zero as had become the recent tradition of the IGF for day zero.

8. Concerns regarding remote participations were addressed, and the Secretariat and host country pledged to work on enhancing remote/online participation for the 2015 IGF. Remote/online participation will be a top priority at the 2015 IGF and will be coordinated by MAG member Ms. Virginia Paque together with other volunteers and by the host country organizing team.

III. Briefings on Related Initiatives

9. The participants were briefed on some related Internet governance initiatives and heard briefings from representatives from the European Commission, Council of Europe, UNCTAD, and UNECA. Briefings and presentations also came from the Global Internet Policy Observatory, Global Forum on Cyber Expertise and the NMI. All of these organizations and initiatives pledged their ongoing support to the IGF.

IV. IGF and NMI Liaison

10. Building on a discussion that was held on the NMI and the invitation that the initiative submitted to the IGF to take a liaison seat on the Coordination Council of this initiative, many of the MAG members supported strengthening relations between the IGF and the NMI. Three proposals were made: one proposal was for the MAG chair to act as the MAG representative on the NMI Coordination Council, while the other suggested the IGF Secretariat Programme and Technology Manager to act as liaison with the NMI, the final proposal was that the Chair would appoint a MAG member to take this liaison seat.

11. Many noted that the NMI is a welcomed initiative, and the IGF should be present and contribute to influence the direction of the initiative, especially given the fact that it is supposed to contribute to strengthen the IGF. Others suggested that the invitation should be accepted. However while consensus was reached

that the 'interim' tag would be removed from the current liaison seat taken by the IGF, no consensus was made on who should take the NMI liaison seat. The MAG will further deliberate this online. There was positive agreement between representatives present from the NMI and MAG members that the NMI could and would pursue contributing to the inter-sessional activities of the IGF.

V. Discussion on Main Sessions and workshops

12. Discussions were held on such issues including the number of main sessions, formats, relations with sub-themes and workshops, engagement of participants etc. The MAG agreed that intersessional work should be reflected in the main sessions. It was also agreed that the orientation main session would be moved to Day Zero of the IGF 2015 with the other 'pre-events'. Day one would start with the traditional Setting the Scene session, and a session titled IGF at 10. This session would look at the evolution of the IGF, and the role of governments in the process. These sessions would then be followed by the Opening Ceremony. Day two of the IGF 2015 will mainly focus on the WSIS+10 issues. Day three will be around the intersessional activities on Best Practice Forums, and Policy Menus. While the final day the intersessional activity of Dynamic Coalitions, open microphone session and the traditional closing ceremony. The thematic session topic will be agreed by the MAG post further deliberations online.

13. **Annex I** reflects the rough consensus of the MAG after the 3 days of meetings on a draft timetable for the 2015 IGF. It was agreed that further discussions would take place on line and at future virtual MAG meetings to finalize the themes and topics of the main sessions and to finalize the overall programme.

14. The majority of the second and third days of the Open Consultations and MAG meeting were spent on the further evaluation and selection of workshops that will take place in João Pessoa. The discussions were informed by the evaluations completed prior to the meeting by the MAG. The Secretariat provided a statistical analysis and ranking of the workshops based on these evaluations. More than 240 proposals were received by the Secretariat. The top 60 ranked based on MAG scoring prior to the meeting were automatically accepted, the next 60-70 were semi-automatically accepted (checked if anyone had objections), and the rest were selected through MAG members highlighting the ones they wanted to keep followed by discussions.

15. Workshops were selected based on their evaluations and qualitative scoring conducted by the MAG, together with further analysis and selection which strived to provide a stakeholder balance, in terms of workshop organizers and workshop panellists. Priority was also given to first time workshop organizers and newcomers to the IGF, as well as workshops that focused on new and emerging topics. Some workshops on similar topics will be invited to merge with others. However some members raised concerns that workshop mergers should be used as a measure of last resort.

16. The MAG spent a considerable amount of time going through workshop proposals one by one, and allowed MAG members to speak for or against such proposals with a collective effort to create the broadest and most complete programme to satisfy all stakeholders in the IG ecosystem.

V. Discussion on Intersessional Activities

17. The second half of the second day of the Open Consultations and MAG meeting were spent discussing the various inter-sessional activities including the Policy Options For Connecting The Next Billion initiative, the Best Practice Forums and the work of the Dynamic Coalitions. Briefings were given by the various MAG coordinators of these work streams and it was agreed by the MAG and other stakeholders that these inter-sessional activities should carry on and that work would continue in the various working groups online moving forward. Emphasis will be given to including the National and Regional IGF initiatives in the inter-sessional activities. **Annex II** below represents the agreed upon methodology for the Policy Menus for Connecting the Next Billion initiative.

18. At the end of the meeting the MAG had made great progress in achieving their desired goals. The workshop selection process was more or less complete and the Secretariat was assigned to finalize the selection based upon the input from the MAG. There was agreement that further programming work and discussions on the substance and schedule for the 2015 IGF would continue online on the MAG mailing list, the inter-sessional work mailing list, etc. There was some discussion about the feasibility of holding a 3rd MAG meeting and/or a working session for the inter-sessional working groups at UNESCO headquarters in September. The MAG agreed in principle that this could be a good idea but also agreed to discuss this further online and at future virtual meetings depending upon how other related work streams such as the WSIS review and the inter-sessional work carried on over the coming weeks and months.

Annex I

DRAFT/TENTATIVE 2015 Main Sessions/ Focus Sessions Timetable

Tentative Timetable	Day 0 9 Nov.	Day 1 10 Nov.	Day 2 11 Nov.	Day 3 12 Nov.	Day 4 13 Nov.
09:30-11.00	PRE-EVENTS	Setting the Scene: Topical Insight and Debate Related to the Subthemes of IGF 2015 [45min-60min, early coffee break]	[WSIS+10]	[Thematic Session 1: Topic to be determined]	[Dynamic Coalitions]
11.00-11.30	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
11:30-13:00	Orientation Session	[IGF at 10; Evolution of IGF+Role of Gov.] [120-135 min]	[WSIS+10]	[Thematic Session 1: Topic to be determined cont.]	[Thematic Session 2: Topic to be determined]
13:00-14:30	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK

14:30-16:00	High Level Leaders Meeting (14.00-18.00)	OPENING CEREMONY/ OPENING SESSION	[WSIS+10 cont. - depending on participation from UNGA, otherwise thematic session]	[Intersessional; BF +PM]	[Thematic Session 3: Topic to be determined]
16.00-16.30	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break
16.30-18.00	High Level Leaders Meeting (14.00-18.00)		[WSIS+10 cont. - depending on participation from UNGA, otherwise thematic session]	[Intersessional; BF +PM cont.]	Open Mic+ CLOSING CEREMONY

Annex II

NEW: IGF 2015 INTERSESSIONAL PROGRAM

Call for Public Input: Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion

Introduction

The [report](#) produced by the UN CSTD working group on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) called for the development of more tangible outputs to “*enhance the impact of the IGF on global Internet governance and policy*”. In order to enrich the potential for IGF outputs, the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) is developing a new intercessional program. This program is intended to complement and include the input of other IGF activities, such as Regional and National IGF’s, the Dynamic Coalitions and the Best Practice Forums. The outputs from this program are intended to be a dynamic resource, serve as inputs into other pertinent fora, and evolve and grow over time.

The topic “*Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion*” was chosen for the 2015 intercessional work after an earlier public consultation during the preparatory process for IGF 2015 in Joao Pessoa, Brazil. In order to continue the valuable intersession work, a theme the 2016 IGF program of activities is expected to be determined during/immediately following the next IGF in November 2015 by the global IGF community. The theme is intended to reflect topical issues and to increase support to the Regional and National IGF’s, Best Practice Forums, and Dynamic Coalitions. As such, we invite the Regional and National IGFs to incorporate this theme into their programs in order to provide their input into the discussion and related documents.

Theme: Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion

Technological advancement in connectivity expanded broadband access and mobile penetration in recent years. Three billion people were connected to the Internet by the end of 2014. In spite of the progress achieved, more effort is necessary in order to connect the next billion and to address the digital divide.

The identification of strategies to improve connectivity is timely due to the ongoing process of reviewing the outcomes of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS+10) and the discussion of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Collaboration between governmental and non-governmental actors is key to meet this challenge and the multistakeholder nature of the IGF – and the Regional and National IGFs – makes it a privileged space for discussion.

Modality

In order to compile “*Policy options for Connecting the Next Billion*”, rounds of online public consultations will be conducted. Following the example of the [IGF Best Practice Forums](#), an open and bottom-up process is envisioned to collect input.

Draft outputs will be produced and further discussed, both online and during the IGF 2015 (10-13 November, João Pessoa, Brazil). The output will also be shared with relevant fora (e.g. WSIS+10, UNCTAD, UNESCO, etc.), and the goal is for it to provide a resource for anyone looking for ways to increase connectivity – one of the main goals of the WSIS. The output may serve as input to the community in order to help select a proposed theme for 2016 intercessional work.

Timeframe

- 27 May – open-ended: Launch public call for background contributions on the theme of “*Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion*”. Contributions will be gathered and ultimately incorporated in the output through an iterative review process.
- 15 July: Invitation to the IGF community to join an open editorial group that will review the inputs and draft compilation document.
- 15 July - 11 August: First draft “*Policy Options*” open for public comment through web platform
- 3 Sept. (date tbc) – 13 Sept: Draft reviewed by open editorial group
- 14 Sept. - 6 Oct.: Second draft open for public comment through web platform
- 2 Nov.: Final draft output published on IGF website
- 10 - 13 Nov: Presentation and discussion of the “*Policy Options*” during IGF meeting
- Post-IGF: “*Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion*” incorporates input from IGF Brazil, published and shared with relevant fora (WSIS+10, UNESCO, UNCTAD, OECD, etc.). Documents/work spaces continue to evolve (based on support and value).

Guidelines for background contributions

All stakeholders are invited to send contributions as soon as they are ready on the theme “*Policy Options for Connecting the Next Billion*” to avanderspuy@unog.ch and gutterman@un.org. Contributions from national and regional IGFs, Best Practice Forums, Dynamic Coalitions, and IGF workshops are particularly welcome, prior or after their event.

Format: Contributions must be sent to be supported by links to studies, reports, references, statistics, etc. and are expected to be of reasonable length in order to maximize readability.

Inputs of any format will be incorporated, but a suggested format could include **bullet points addressing the following questions:**

1. Definition of the issue “*Connecting the Next Billion*”
2. Was the policy a government policy, industry policy (either collective best practice or corporate policy), civil society collaboration, or technical policy?
2. Regional or national specificities observed regarding connectivity (e.g. Internet industry development)
3. Existing policy measures, and private sector or civil society initiatives

addressing connectivity

4. What worked well in the development of the policy, and what impediments were encountered, what was the experience with implementation
5. Unintended consequences of policy developments/interventions, good and bad
6. Unresolved issues where further multistakeholder cooperation is needed
7. Insights gained as a result of the experience
8. Proposed steps for further multistakeholder dialogue/actions

All formats are welcome, and additional templates may be developed to aid contributions if this is deemed helpful.

MAG Coordinators: Amb. Benedicto Fonseca Filho (lead), Virat Bhatia, Lynn St. Amour, Baher Esmat, Avri Doria and Constance Bommelaer.