2019 IGF WG: Fundraising (WG-FUN)

Background:

The purpose, expected work programme and associated budget of the IGF is well captured in the United Nations Trust Fund Project Document Internet Governance Forum (Phase III). For ease, key paragraphs are captured below.

"The Internet Governance Forum is one of the most significant outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), which was held in two phases in Geneva, 2003, and in Tunis, 2005. The IGF mandate stems from a request in paragraph 67 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, for the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene a new forum for multistakeholder Internet policy dialogue. A Secretariat was established in 2006 and related Trust Fund was set up under the responsibility of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), to provide a support structure for the IGF including the preparation of its yearly meetings. **The Secretariat, which is located at the United Nations Office of Geneva (UNOG) is funded through extra-budgetary contributions from representatives in all stakeholder groups.**

The initial mandate was for five years, from 2006 to 2010. Recognizing the importance of the Forum to fostering the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet, as well as its role in building partnerships among different stakeholders, the United Nations General Assembly decided to renew the mandate of the IGF under the patronage of the Secretary-General for a further five years, from 2011 to 2015 (resolution 65/141 of 20 December 2010). In December 2015, in the framework of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) high level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS, the IGF Mandate was extended for a further ten years.

The purpose of this project document is to continue to support the implementation of the mandate as set out in paragraphs 72 to 80 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. The project document will also help facilitate continued improvements to the IGF, including working modalities and increasing participation from developing countries and enhanced linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), in line with the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2015 (A/70/125). The project document describes the work programme and activities to be undertaken by the Secretariat effective 1 January 2017, for the remainder of the 10-year mandate (2016 to 2025) with the commencement of the next 10 year cycle of the IGF mandate."

The level of program activity and specificity contained in the IGF Project Document is expected to be of significant help attracting additional funders.

How is the IGF funded?

> "[The Internet Governance Forum Secretariat is funded](#) through donations from various stakeholder groups. While host countries bear the majority of the costs associated with holding the annual IGF meeting, the IGF Secretariat's activities are funded through extra-budgetary contributions paid into a multi-donor Trust Fund administered by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). All contributions are administered and accounted for in accordance with United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations and other applicable directives, procedures and practices. The IGF project's expenditures are contained in the biennial Financial Report and audited Financial Statements of the United Nations. Contributions from all stakeholders are welcome, including in-kind donations."

Additional information (financial statements, presentations, pledge documents, etc,) are available at the link above.

2017 Contributions by Stakeholder Group – Total: $755K USD

Technical Community:	43%
Government:	28%
Private Sector:	21%
Multistakeholder Initiative (IGFSA):	8%

IGF Project Document Budget

The approved IGF Project Document calls for **tripling** the resources and budget from the current annual expense running rate of approx. $900K USD to approx. $2.8M USD. The current annual running rate for financial contributions is approx. $700K – $800K USD meaning at current expense and contribution levels the IGF needs to use its reserves to fund current operations. And, very importantly, this low level of financial support leaves the IGF Secretariat severely under resourced against the expectations of its stakeholders.

Objectives/Goals:

The goal of this Fundraising activity is to secure resources to support the budget in the Project Document of approx. $2.8M/year. The preference is for financial commitments (preferably multi-year), but the strategy may also include project partnerships, secondments, internships, in-kind donations, additional volunteer efforts, etc.

Expected Output:

Obtain funds to fully meet the IGF Project Document Budget. This is our only goal this year. The work will be centered on identifying potential donors, approaching (pitching) those donors and following up as appropriate to secure contributions to the UN IGF TRUST FUND.

Critical Components of Success:

One of the most critical components of success is the MAG itself. The MAG must play a central role in outreach and in generating contacts or new leads. The [MAG Terms of Reference](#) list the following as a responsibility of MAG members: "Explore new fundraising opportunities for contributions to the IGF trust fund;"

Timeframe:

Some targeted fundraising activities are already underway, but more needs to be done – as a priority.

Membership:

This group will be open to MAG members and other members of the IGF community.

The WG will be co-chaired by the MAG Chair and at least one individual from another stakeholder group as agreed by members of the WG.

Relationship to other IGF efforts:

Will work synergistically with all IGF efforts in order to feature all the IGF activities and maximize interest and prospects.

Modalities:

- Will seek feedback from the full MAG on fundraising activities, as well as seek MAG members support in reaching out to potential contributors
- WG will be transparent and mailing lists/face-to-face and virtual meetings will be open to all MAG members.
- Proceedings will be publically available on the IGF website
- Will provide periodic updates to the full MAG
- Will work to ensure resource requirements are understood and have support from all necessary parties