Potential for Increasing Collaboration between the Internet Governance Forum and the World Economic Forum

This draft document is written to be shared with IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group to open a dialogue on the potential for enhancing collaboration between the respective networks represented by the two organizations.

It has been drafted by Derek O'Halloran World Economic Forum - Head, Digital Economy and Society System Initiative, Member of the Executive Committee, and Lynn St.Amour, Chair UN Internet Governance Forum's Multistakeholder Advisory Group and Co-Chair of the World Economic Forum's Digital Economy and Society System Initiative.

This will be presented during the IGF Open Consultation Session on related Internet Governance activities, and this paper is to kickstart a discussion within the MAG.

Draft Discussion Document:

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a global multistakeholder platform for the discussion and advancement of public policy issues pertaining to Internet Governance. Convened under the auspices of the United Nations Secretary General, it's agenda and activities are driven through open, bottom-up participatory processes.

The World Economic Forum (Forum) is the International Organization for Private-Public Cooperation. It is a mission-driven organization engaging political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas. Its activities are shaped by the stakeholder theory, which asserts that an organization is accountable to all parts of society.

The organizations and their respective networks have increasingly collaborated in recent years on matters relating to the Internet and its impact on economy and society. The two Fora represent highly complementary networks and capabilities. Both fora work towards an inclusive, trustworthy and sustainable digital future that puts the human at the center. Enhanced collaboration may be beneficial in accelerating progress towards shared goals and positive outcomes.

Existing Collaboration:

Collaboration between the two organizations is already underway. In addition to collaborations on multiple topics and discussions at the last several IGF Annual Meetings, further cooperation has been undertaken in the ongoing work of both networks around shared objectives.

The IGF and the World Economic Forum have collaborated on Internet for All for several years. Our work together includes participation of the IGF secretariat in the Internet for All Global Steering Committee, participation of IGF NRI leads in Internet for All country programs, and presentation of sessions by the Internet for All team at Day-0 of IGF annual meetings. We have also made an effort to bring members of our communities into each others' fora. Topical areas of collaboration to date have included digital skills (focus of several sessions) and generating

locally relevant content (country level work, especially in South Africa). These could form the central focus of enhanced collaboration going forward. The issue of trust has a major impact on internet inclusion: do people have the skills necessary to feel comfortable navigating the online world, is the internet governed in a way that makes it safe for people to use, etc..

The Forum has been very active in consensus-building in the area of Internet of Things (IoT) policy development, especially through continued engagement with the work of the IGF's Dynamic Coalition on IoT. The Forum brought together leading experts to develop a cybersecurity best practices document in the Safety & Security Protocol for Industrial IoT, the DC IoT was a key stakeholder in helping shape this norm-setting standard. Maarten Botterman, serving as chair of the DC IoT, contributed significantly to the document drafting and negotiation, with drafts released for public comment at the IGF 2017 in Geneva and periodically through the DC IoT listserv before and afterwards. In turn, the Forum's IoT and Connected Devices team is contributing to the security sections of the IoT Good Practices Paper that will be the focus of the DC IoT's work in the coming year. With deepening engagement of the overlapping networks of experts of the Forum and the DC IoT, the multi-stakeholder constituency strengths of each have resulted in broader credibility and complementary relevance. As the Forum pilot initiatives evolving from the IoT Protocol get implemented, the opportunities for collaboration and improvement will expand over time.

Additional Topics of Shared Interest:

Building on these collaborations and informal discussions between individuals involved across both networks, ideas have emerged for further collaboration that would build on the complementary networks, strengths and capabilities of both organizations. There is alignment in terms of the topics and issues across both communities; common themes can be seen throughout the *IGF 2018 Chair's Summary* emerging from the thirteenth meeting of the Internet Governance Forum, *The Internet of Trust*, in November 2018 and the publication from the Board of Stewards of the System Initiative on Shaping the Future of Digital Economy and Society at the World Economic Forum, *Our Shared Digital Future: Building an Inclusive, Trustworthy and Sustainable Digital Society*.

Leveraging the framework of shared goals in the latter document, some potential areas for collaboration could be

 - IoT (expand on current collaboration) and/or explore collaborations on IoT for Sustainable Development Project which aims to encourage the use of the Internet of Things (IoT) to accelerate progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- Access and Adoption - expand on current collaboration

- Platform for Good Digital Identity (opportunity to engage 'more deeply' with user views and multiple stakeholders in the development of shared principles, norms, standards. See WEF's Insight report.

These issues are offered as indicative examples. Work is also progressing on trustworthy data innovation, cyber security, AI, drones and digital literacy.

Possible Mechanisms for Collaboration:

There are multiple ways in which we could envisage further cooperation between the two fora/networks. The following list represents some ideas to open dialogue / brainstorming; it is not intended to be either fixed or comprehensive:

Enhanced Information Sharing – A regular flow/ update of information on the project landscape across the different WEF networks and IGF network and activities. Enhanced visibility would provide members of both networks with opportunities to learn of relevant activities and opportunities for collaboration, whether on an individual or institutional basis.

Connecting Private Sector Decision-makers & Civil Society on topics/in regions – Decision makers often wish to get input from civil society/ representative voices; conversely civil society often wishes to engage business or government leaders.   In this respect, the networks are complementary.

Forum Provides Visibility for Successful / Scalable / Repeatable Projects – the Forum's network and media platforms could be useful to amplify or accelerate successful activities from across the IGF network

Provide Platform for Input on Draft Deliverables of Working Groups – in either direction

The Forum media and social media reach as a platform for dissemination of successful pilots

IGF Platform as a collaborative 'sounding board' through various online and offline consultation processes.

Support Visibility and Understanding of IGF and its Role – amongst relevant members of the World Economic Forum network, in particular among the business community and conversely ***support visibility and understanding of the WEF and its role*** while increasing access to Civil Society's views on Internet Governance.

Our ASK:

We would like to hear your thoughts or reactions, e.g.:

- Supportive?
- What would be a useful collaboration in your mind?
- What topics would you prioritise?
- What challenges or risks would need to be managed?