

The International Institute for Sustainable Development's (IISD) Response to the MAG Questionnaire.

(a) Has the work of the MAG been consistent with the mandate set out in the Tunis Agenda and subsequent decisions?

The MAG is an innovative and important mechanism in its defined role of assisting the secretariat in planning the IGFs. IISD however believes that the MAG could be improved by focusing and developing its role.

While the MAG's composition should continue to reflect the multistakeholder character of the IGF, it is also important that it should be effective and constructive. Functionality should not be sacrificed for composition and size. A smaller group would be more manageable and dynamic, as well as enabling equal participation between stakeholder communities.

The MAG could also do more than simply act as a conference arrangements committee. It could, for example, seek proactively to engage the IGF with other UN and international fora in public policy areas affected by the internet.

(b) How best to nominate non-governmental members for the MAG?

IISD is concerned that the IGF should reach out to include those stakeholders in the internet who do not currently play a significant part in its work - in particular, IISD would like to see more engagement from civil society organisations whose work is primarily outside the internet field, and from businesses which make extensive use of the internet (as well as those inside it). Thus, the MAG should encourage and include the representation of those who can speak for the interests and concerns of those currently non-participating groups in internet governance and public policy.

Civil society representation should not be determined, allocated or nominated by any one group within civil society and should be inclusive of both civil society organisations and individuals. Nor should it be determined by UN officials, acting alone or on the recommendation of any specific group within civil society. A nominating committee of the kind which is found elsewhere in internet governance may be appropriate. This could be introduced on an experimental basis for the next two years and then evaluated. .

There should be turnover in MAG membership, in order to ensure that the MAG is reinvigorated regularly by new ideas and by the inclusion of new perspectives. No MAG member should serve more than three years or return to membership before a further two years has elapsed after three years' participation.

(c) How best to nominate the MAG Chair?

IISD believes that the MAG membership should elect its chair from among its whole membership. IISD does not believe that there should be formal rotation between stakeholder communities, as this may encourage the stakeholder group whose turn it is to select a candidate who is then merely ratified by the membership in general. However, it does believe that election should be for one year only, without re-election.

(d) How best to organize open consultations?

The present cost of the consultations (to the Secretariat and to participants) is very high for what amounts to a conference arrangements forum. Mechanisms for broader consultations should be explored which might reduce the costs of participation while ensuring the engagement of more substantive and proactive discussions of issues between IGFs. This may mean giving less importance to physical meetings in Geneva.

The IGF would also benefit from more dialogue about its structure and meetings with organisations that are not currently engaged with the IGF but whose work is affected by the internet.

(e) How best to link with regional meetings?

Regional meetings should not be subservient to the global IGF. Their value is in the way they speak to their regions. Their uniqueness, nuances and output orientation mean that they are different from the global IGF, in its present form. Regional meetings can and should contribute to the discussions in the consultations and the MAG, but should not be seen as feeder events. They should, however, have the same multistakeholder character as the global IGF.

(f) How best to link with international processes and institutions?

It is important that the IGF has more contact with other international bodies, within and outside the UN system. While this role may be unfeasible for the MAG in its present form, a multistakeholder structure that includes representation from other domains primarily outside the internet field could help to bridge this gap.