

CHARTER FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON IGF STRENGTHENING AND STRATEGY

Revised draft based on inputs of call of 4 June, 2020 and subsequent suggestions - 2 July 2020

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PURPOSE AND APPROACH

The Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group (IGF MAG) has established a Working Group on IGF strengthening and strategy, referred to as the IGF-strategy working group. **Its purpose is to develop proposals of actions implementable in the short and medium term on how to strengthen the IGF and position it strategically in the evolving digital cooperation landscape.**

The WG-strategy's starting point is two-fold:

- I. The mandate outlined for the IGF in the Tunis Agenda (2005) and how the IGF can best fulfill it, approached with a forward-looking perspective, taking into account that the IGF is halfway through its 10-year renewed WSIS +10 mandate.
- II. Broader discussions on digital cooperation, in particular the UN Secretary General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation launched on June 11, 2020 which identifies priority topics that broadly overlap with the issues discussed so far with regard to IGF improvements. The Roadmap expresses strong support for the "IGF +" model identified in the HLDPC report and foresees specific improvements to the IGF which the UNSG commits to implement (paragraphs 93-94).

Its approach will be to improve the IGF by responding to identified gaps in the functioning of the IGF, focusing on those improvements which can be implemented by the MAG/IGF itself, while, at the same time analysing and responding to suggestions in the SG's Roadmap, and liaising between the Roadmap process and the IGF MAG and Secretariat.

SCOPE OF WORK

This working group's scope of work will be primarily concerned with the following aspects of IGF strategy and strengthening:

1. A focused agenda conducive to producing more tangible outcomes and better follow-up on proposed actions and recommendations emerging from IGF-based discussions.
2. IGF recognition, visibility, information and communications and outreach.
3. Increased participation from governments, parliamentarians and leadership from other stakeholder groups.
4. IGF accessibility and inclusiveness in particular to actors from developing countries.
5. Capacity development.
6. Long-term financial sustainability.

Please refer to Annex I to get more details on the questions raised by the Working Group.

PROPOSED WG ACTIVITIES IN 2020

Activities will respond to the two starting points' identified in the purpose of the WG:

I. IGF strategy and strengthening in response to the IGF's mandate as stated in the Tunis Agenda:

1. Identify, propose and where possible implement strategic actions to strengthen the IGF building on the experience of the MAG. This can include producing discussion papers on specific IGF "challenges" such as:
 - a. Having a more focused agenda for the Forum based on a limited number of strategic policy issues (Roadmap 93b).
 - b. IGF "outcomes", how these can be understood and what is meant by strengthening them. .
2. Provide input into the specifications for the new IGF website
3. Organise a series of IGF-based online discussions on emerging issues in internet governance in partnership with other institutions in the lead-up to IGF2020.

II. The UN Secretary General's Roadmap on Digital cooperation:

4. Act as a liaison group for the IGF MAG with initiatives emerging from the UNSG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, in particular with reference to paragraph 93 which proposes ideas for "making the Internet Governance Forum more responsive and relevant to current digital issues."¹. This can include:
 - a. Drafting a short statement in response to the Options Paper being prepared by the co-champions of Recommendation 5 A/B of the HLPDC report.
 - b. Developing a proposal for how to operationalise the "strategic and empowered multi-stakeholder high-level body" (93a)

¹ <https://undocs.org/A/74/821> paragraph 93.

- c. Organising a series of online discussions on the specific ideas contained in paragraph 93 of the Roadmap..

FOR FURTHER REVIEW

5. Oversee a series of short research papers that analyses and documents delivery on the IGF's mandate. These can be linked to the IGF being midway through its WSIS+10 ten-year mandate in 2020.

MEMBERSHIP

This group will be open to MAG members and other members of the IGF community. The WG will be co-chaired by Anriette Esterhuysen (MAG Chair) and Concettina Cassa (MAG member). At its inception call WG members emphasised the need to recruit more members from the global South. People supporting the working group as at 11 June 2020, include:

Anriette Esterhuysen (IGF MAG CHAIR); Chengetai Masango (HEAD OF IGF SECRETARIAT); Concettina Cassa (Agid, MAG Member); Susan Chalmers (NTIA, MAG Member); Giacomo Mazzone (EBU); Jorge Cancio (Swiss Government, former MAG Member); Jyoti Panday (Internet Governance Project); Ben Wallis (Microsoft, MAG Member); Paul Blaker (UK Government); Raul Echeberria (past MAG member); Raquel Gatto (former MAG member); William Drake (University of Zurich, past MAG member); Wolfgang Kleinwaechter (EuroSSIG); David Souter; Matthew Shears (past MAG member), Timea Suto (ICC, MAG member), Peace Oliver Amuge (WOUGNET).

To be invited: Wai Min Kwok; Deniz Suzar; Jovan Kurbalija; Yu Ping; Jason Munyan.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The set of inputs for this Working Group includes:

- 1) [The CSTD WG on IGF Improvements Report](#) (2012)
- 2) [IGF Retreat](#) (2016)
- 3) [The Multiyear Strategic Work Programme Working Group](#)
- 4) [The MAG Working Group on IGF Improvements](#)
- 5) The UN General Assembly "WSIS+10" Resolution of 2015 (see below)
- 6) [The UN SG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#)
- 7) UN HLPDC: Following up on rRecommendation 5 A/B - [Contributions](#)

Annex 1 - Further Discussion Points Raised in the Course of Formulating the WG's Charter

1. What should we put in place to facilitate and capture IGF outputs that address public policy issues worldwide? Are recommendations a good option? What are the other possible options?
2. What can be done to strengthen cooperation among IGF stakeholders and the international IG community?
3. What activities and services can the IGF provide to attract the international IG community so that it becomes a stronger platform for deliberation and cooperation?
4. How do we improve the interaction among IGF and Governments to have a follow up of the IGF outputs at legislative level?
5. Can the IGF host or establish a policy observatory that can help support "state of art" policy implementation worldwide, and help in assessing the impact of these policies?
6. How can the IGF build on the active involvement of INGOs currently invited and formally present in MAG meetings, and use this relationship in order to establish the IGF as a continuous process implementing an ongoing set of activities?
7. How do we improve the interaction among IGF and Governments to achieve follow up on IGF outputs at national level, including to the point of informing national policy-making?
8. How to strengthen cooperation with the WSIS follow up process and with other IG related activities conducted in other relevant fora?

Some questions relate specifically to the MAG:

1. Should new categories of members be added to the MAG? For instance would it be good to have parliamentarians represented on the MAG? If so, how could this be operationalised?
2. Should the balance of different stakeholder groups in the MAG be adjusted, e.g. to move away from the largest group of members being drawn from the governmental sector?
3. How does the current MAG relate to the 'enhanced' advisory group referenced in the USG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation? Should this WG make recommendations to the SG in this regard?
4. How the implementation activities of the working group should be handled? Does the implementation process need to be approved by the MAG?

The following questions relate directly to the IGF's institutional capacity and identity and the United Nations Secretary General's [Roadmap For Digital Cooperation](#):

1. How do we make the IGF financially and institutionally sustainable?
2. What actions IGF could put in place to implement the IGF + model suggested in the HLPDC report? What is missing in IGF+ model?
3. Which could be the most effective form of relationship between the IGF and the UN SG and in the context of the Roadmap, and the Tech Envoy? E.g. through closer involvement of the USG in the MAG? Through the Tech Envoy having a structural relationship with the MAG? Or through other forms? Should this relationship be direct or indirect?

Further questions noted by WG members relate to the IGF mandate which asks it to, inter alia, "72 a. Discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet; b. Facilitate discourse between bodies dealing with different cross-cutting international public policies regarding the Internet and discuss issues that do not fall within the scope of any existing body; c. Interface with appropriate intergovernmental organizations and other institutions on matters under their purview."

AND, "g. Identify emerging issues, bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public, and, where appropriate, make recommendations."

Another challenge faced by the IGF concerns enabling a more mutual dialogue between the internet and other public policy themes. Discussion at the IGF of themes such as environment, development, rights, employment, and education takes place primarily from an internet perspective and is insufficient in contributing to them as issues in their own right, but with linkages to the internet.