

IGF2021 - Issue Teams

1. Introduction

Issue-driven IGF

In response to input from the IGF community and from proposals relating to the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation calling for a more focused IGF, the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) has opted for using an issue-driven approach to design the IGF 2021 programme.

The IGF 2021 programme content will be based on two baskets: a main focus area basket with two focus areas, and an emerging and cross cutting issue basket with four issue areas. **This is intended to enable a more focused IGF** (through the main focus areas), **while at the same time keeping the IGF open for new and emerging issues and giving participants choice** (through the emerging and cross-cutting issues).

IGF 2021 Main focus areas

- [Economic and social inclusion and human rights](#)
- [Universal access and meaningful connectivity](#)

IGF 2021 Emerging and cross-cutting issue areas

- [Emerging regulation: market structure, content, data and consumer/users rights regulation](#)
- [Environmental sustainability and climate change](#)
- [Inclusive Internet governance ecosystems and digital cooperation](#)
- [Trust, security, stability](#)

A better integrated IGF

The United Nations Secretary-General's [Roadmap for Digital Cooperation](#), para 93, envisages a strengthened IGF, including by better integrating programme and intersessional policy development work to support other priority areas outlined in the report.

2. Issue teams

2.1 Introduction

The MAG launched a call for issues late in 2020. Over 230 responses produced a set of issues, which were then clustered and prioritised by the MAG, to finally come to the selected focus and cross-cutting issue areas.

“Issue Development Teams”¹, consisting of a few MAG members, were formed to, together with the secretariat, develop a narrative for the focus and issue areas. The narratives are an essential introduction accompanying the call for session proposals.

2.2. Proposed role of the Issue Teams during the IGF preparatory phase

“Issue Teams are the MAG’s eyes and ears for their issue area.”

- Issue Teams are expected to explore the ‘IGF community at large’² and, from the perspective of their issue area, actively look for synergies and linkages.
- Issue Teams are expected to serve as focal points for their issue area, collecting information on how the issue is being addressed within the larger IGF community.

Deliverables: Issue Teams can structure and present the information they receive³ to provide an overview of issues presented across the IGF community and can suggest concrete proposals of how initiatives could feed into each other.

Possible actions, in cooperation with the secretariat

- Outreach to intersessional activities
- Wiki-pages per issue area,
- IGF preparatory phase sessions

Note: The MAG’s session selection process is separate and independent from the work of the Issue Teams. Once the results of the selections process are available, Issue Teams are expected to include the different session descriptions in their quest for linkages.

¹ MAG members have traditionally worked in teams to develop text and policy questions related to IGF thematic content for the call for session proposals. In 2021, based on the MAG Working Group Strategy’s [proposals](#) on strategic improvements to the IGF and operational measures in 2021, these teams were called “issue development teams”. The work of these teams was compiled into the [IGF 2021: Pre-meeting Guide to Focus and Issue Areas](#) by the IGF Secretariat working with the MAG chair.

² People and institutions from all stakeholder groups all over the world who participate in global and regional and national IGFs, youth IGF initiatives, BPFs, DCs, PNs etc.

³ For example pointers to meeting summaries and recording of relevant NRI sessions, DC outputs, etc.

2.3. Issue Team members⁴ and facilitation

While issue teams are chaired or co-chaired by MAG members, they are open to other interested persons, in particular people and institutions active in IGF intersessional activities. MAG members and the Secretariat can also actively reach out to members of the IGF community to join these issue teams.

2.4. Issue Teams and the preparation of sessions at the IGF annual forum

The work of the Issue Teams during the preparatory phase is a crucial starting point for feeding diverse perspectives and experiences into the preparation of the IGF main sessions. They will also constitute the Main Session Organising Teams for their issue area.

In the past, MAG-led Main Session Organising Teams successfully managed to bring expertise, high-level policy makers, stakeholder representatives to the IGF annual event. The key innovation being introduced (in 2021) is for these Issue Teams to **also** organise activity during the preparatory phase, and, complement organising of Main Sessions with the equally important effort to get the viewpoints from across the IGF community to inform the IGF Main sessions.

⁴ Current composition of the issue teams

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/11xVsSVZSxioMoBr9Wyx15afgPeC7n-o5ZYPio0rhbS4/edit>