

IGF 2021
MAG Meeting V | 23 March 2021

Summary report

Action items & Next steps

IGF 2021 focus

- Communicate the two IGF 2021 issue areas to the community.
 - Main focus areas: i. Economic and social inclusion and human rights; and ii. Universal access and meaningful connectivity.
 - Emerging and cross-cutting issues: Emerging regulation: market structure, content, data and consumer/users rights regulation; Environmental sustainability; Inclusive Internet governance ecosystems and digital cooperation; Trust, security, stability.
- Create MAG working groups for each issue area.
 - The groups will be tasked with defining the sub-themes, issues and policy questions to be featured within each area, based on the issues submitted by the community and the draft descriptions available in the issues analysis. These materials will then be part of the call for workshop proposals.
 - Considering that the call for workshop proposals is planned to be launched on 20 April, the WGs will have three (3) weeks to develop their proposals, followed by one (1) week for the MAG to discuss the proposals and finalise the call.
 - Mailing lists will be set up for each issue area and MAG members will be invited to join. The MAG Chair and the Secretariat will follow up with detailed instructions on how the work will proceed.

IGF 2021 format

- Communicate the key elements of the IGF 2021 format to the IGF community.
 - A light preparatory phase (between 15 June and 1 December 2021), to feature intersessional work (BPFs, PNs, DCs), NRIs, training for session organisers and capacity development workshops.
 - The 16th IGF meeting (6–10 December 2021, Katowice), to be held as a hybrid meeting.
- Discussions to continue within the MAG on the details of implementing the two phases of IGF 2021. Some of the issues to be further considered include the integration of intersessional work streams and NRIs into the preparatory phase; how to effectively and efficiently run the December meeting in a hybrid format; the number and format of sessions and parallel tracks; the process for producing outcome documents/key messages.
- The MAG WG on workshop process to be reconvened and start working on the call for

workshop proposals and the criteria for evaluation.

- The group will have to finalise its work by roughly mid-April, to allow for the call for workshop proposals to be launched as planned on 20 April.

1. The fifth virtual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) in the IGF 2021 preparatory cycle was held on 23 March 2021. The meeting was moderated by Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen, MAG Chair.

Attached to this summary report are the meeting agenda and input documents (Annex I) and the list of participants (Annex II).

I. Introductions and updates from the Secretariat

2. The Chair welcomed MAG members and other participants and noted that the meeting was dedicated to finalising some key decisions related to the planning of IGF 2021, namely the focus (issues and themes) and format of the meeting.

2. Mr. Krzysztof Szubert, Host Country Co-chair for 2021, thanked MAG members for working on shaping IGF 2021 and noted that Poland is advancing preparations for the December meeting, confident that on site and online elements will blend together well to allow for a successful meeting. He also noted that a call was launched for Polish stakeholders to express interest in organising events on Day 0.

3. Mr. Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat, updated MAG members on a few issues:

- Community consultations on the new IGF website are ongoing, and comments and suggestions for MAG members are welcome.
- A calendar of MAG meetings until June has been published on the IGF website.
<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/calendar>
- A dashboard is now available for MAG members and will be updated on a continuous basis to keep members informed about ongoing tasks and activities.
<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-member-dashboard>
- The draft timeline for the IGF 2021 planning process has been updated. It includes indicative dates for key elements such as the call for workshops and other sessions, the evaluation of session proposals, the second and third rounds of Open Consultations and MAG meetings, and the drafting of the IGF 2021 schedule.
https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/11138/2394

II. IGF 2021 focus: issues and themes

4. Ms. Esterhuysen reminded participants that a working group (WG) was created at the previous MAG meeting to elaborate a proposal for IGF 2021 issues and themes, considering the [input submitted by the community](#) via the call for issues, the [analysis of proposed issues](#), and previous MAG discussions. Ms. Maria Paz Canales, MAG member, then presented the proposal elaborated by the WG, which

suggests an issue-based approach for IGF 2021, with two categories of issue areas to be reflected into the meeting programme:

- **IGF 2021 Main focus areas (outcome-focused)** – which could be allocated 60% of the IGF programme. This category includes core issues that have received strong support both during the call for issues and in MAG debates; discussions on these issues have been held at the IGF over the past years, and they need to continue to their ongoing relevance:
 - Economic and social inclusion and human rights
 - Universal access and meaningful connectivity
- **IGF 2021 Emerging and cross-cutting issues (discussion-driven)** – which could be allocated 40% of the IGF programme. This category includes issues that are now in the spotlight and have not been allocated too much time in previous IGFs:
 - Emerging regulation: market structure, content, data and consumer/users rights regulation
 - Environmental sustainability
 - Inclusive Internet governance ecosystems and digital cooperation
 - Trust, security, stability

5. During the discussions, the following issues were raised and clarified:

- When the call for workshop proposals is launched, the community will be informed about the allocation of time to each of the two categories (*Main focus areas* and *Emerging and cross-cutting issues*). MAG members will then consider this time allocation when reviewing and selecting workshop proposals. However, some level of flexibility might still be accommodated. Within the two categories, there will be no predetermined time allocation between the specific sets of issues.
- In terms of outcomes, they would be treated differently for the two categories. It is expected that the discussions under the *Main focus areas* category will be more mature, and, therefore, could generate very concrete suggestions for the way forward. The discussions under the *Emerging and cross-cutting issues* category will have their outcomes recorded as well, but they will likely be treated differently (e.g. maybe given less focus and less space). The MAG will continue discussions on this topic.
- Considering the IGF multi-year approach, some of the issues under the *Emerging and cross-cutting issues* category could become priority for the following years.
- A suggestion was made to move Emerging regulation to the *Main focus areas* category, but it did not receive much support. It was noted that, when the two categories are defined more narrowly, aspects related to emerging regulation could still be included within the first category.
- A point made in previous MAG meetings was reiterated that the IGF should not prioritise issues that are already 'implemented or in the process of implementation', but instead focus on emerging issues, which are not so widely discussed in other places. In response, it was noted that, although some issues have been discussed for long – both within and beyond the IGF – they have not been resolved and, as the community has indicated in the call for issues, they are still relevant and still need discussion. Moreover, emerging issues will be featured at IGF 201.

6. In general, there was broad support to go forward with the two categories of themes for IGF 2021, as proposed by the WG.

7. Action items & next steps

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- Create MAG working groups for each issue area.
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 - Considering that the call for workshop proposals is planned to be launched on 20 April, the WGs will have three (3) weeks to develop their proposals, followed by one (1) week for the MAG to discuss the proposals and finalise the call.
 - Mailing lists will be set up for each issue area and MAG members will be invited to join. The MAG Chair and the Secretariat will follow up with detailed instructions on how the work will proceed.

II. IGF 2021 format

8. Ms. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat, gave a recap of the [proposal](#) previously shared with MAG members on the format of IGF 2021. According to this proposal, IGF 2021 will include two main phases:

- **A light preparatory phase** (between 15 June and 1 December 2021), to be launched during the June Open Consultations and MAG meeting. During this phase, Best Practice Forums (BPFs) and Policy Networks (PNs) will run discussions on their work areas and draft output documents, and could also be invited to provide input on the IGF 2021 main focus areas. Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) and national and regional IGF initiatives (NRIs) will be invited to host substantive exchanges on the IGF 2021 priority issues or share progress on their work. This phase will also include training for session organisers (e.g. on effective moderation) and capacity development workshops on substantive issues (in cooperation with the IGF intersessional workstreams). The Guide to IGF issues and themes will be developed during this phase.
- The **16th IGF meeting** (6–10 December 2021, Katowice), to be held as a hybrid meeting and hosted during the working hours of the venue. The exact working hours are to be further discussed with the host, and floating lunch breaks could be considered, to allow some sessions to be held during the CET lunchtime slot which is convenient for many other time zones. The MAG will work with the Working Group on hybrid meetings (WG-Hybrid) to develop guidelines on issues such as the use of online platforms and treating online and onsite participants equally. With regard to the number of sessions, the aim would be to have no more than three parallel tracks that are part of the core IGF programme, but also use the ten rooms available onsite in a creative manner (for networking sessions, lightning sessions, etc.). Other issues to be considered include: (a) avoiding thematic overlaps in the programme; (b) introducing new formats (e.g. inter-institutional dialogues, learning sessions); (c) improving the process for producing outcome documents/key messages (building on the 2019 and 2020 experiences); (d) introducing a more formalised session evaluation process.

9. The proposal was endorsed as the basis for planning and running IGF 2021.

10. Action items & next steps

- Communicate the key elements of the IGF 2021 format to the IGF community.
- Discussions to continue within the MAG on the details of implementing the two phases of IGF 2021. Some of the issues to be further considered include the integration of intersessional work streams and NRIs into the preparatory phase; how to effectively and efficiently run the December meeting in a hybrid format; the number and format of sessions and parallel tracks; the process for producing outcome documents/key messages.
- The MAG WG on workshop process to be reconvened and start working on the call for workshop proposals and the criteria for evaluation.
 - The group will have to finalise its work by roughly mid-April, to allow for the call for workshop proposals to be launched as planned on 20 April.

11. Mr. Przemek Typiak, Polish government, reminded MAG members that the IGF 2021 host country would not be able to allocate resources to the preparatory phase. While focusing on the December meeting, the host country will work closely with the MAG on identifying the most suitable approaches for the format and design of the meeting, while accommodating existing resources. MAG members were also reminded to keep the host country informed about travel restrictions implemented by their countries, as this will help with the planning for IGF 2021.

III. Updates from MAG working groups

12. Updates were provided by three MAG working groups:

- WG-Hybrid invited MAG members to join the group's mailing list and the first meeting, taking place on 24 March.
- WG-Strategy is currently working on defining its next set of activities and it welcomes suggestions from the MAG on how to support its work in 2021. The group's next meeting is on 25 March.
- WG-Communications is developing a document on communications and outreach, to be shared with the MAG for comments.

13. The next MAG meeting will be held on 6 April 2020, between 20:00 and 22:00 UTC.

Annex I

Meeting agenda and input documents

Agenda

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Updates from Host Country
3. Updates from the Secretariat
4. IGF 2021 focus: issues and themes
 - a. Defining thematic tracks
- 5 IGF 2021 Format
 - a. Number of sessions
 - b. Next steps on workshop process
6. MAG working groups - reporting in
7. AoB

Input documents

- [IGF 2021 format and design proposal](#)
- [Draft IGF 2021 timeline](#)

Annex II Participants

Last name	First name
MAG Chair	
Esterhuysen	Anriette
IGF 2021 Host Country	
Szubert	Krzysztof
Typiak	Przemysław
MAG members	
Afonso	Carlos Alberto
Andriamampionona	Hariniombonana
Canales	Maria Paz
Castex	Lucien
Chair	Chennai
Charlton	Paul
Chharia	Rajesh
Chen	Joyce
Choudhury	Amrita
Chukov	Roman
Dofel	Sook-Jung
Espinosa	Amado
Fantinati	Mattia
Harsianti	Juliana
Hordyński	Ryszard
Horejsova	Tereza
Khanal	Raj Ananda

Koubaa	Khaled
Radsch	Courtney
Roach	Carol
Tungali	Arsene
Zambrana	Roberto
Representatives of former and future IGF host countries	
Gridl	Rudolf
Ilda	Yoichi
Walpen	Livia
UN DESA	
Kwok	Wai Min
Susar	Deniz
Other participants	
Ali	Alaa
Bou Harb	Zeina
Cassa	Concettina
Cohen	Frederic
Croll	Jutta
Degezelle	Wim
Faith	Afia
Kummer	Markus
Munyan	Jason
Parris	June
Podgorska	Anna
Skwarek	Wiktor
Wagner	Flavio
IGF Secretariat	

Bobo Garcia	Luis
Gengo	Anja
Masango	Chengetai
Teleanu	Sorina