**IGF 2021 Main Session Template**

1. **Title: Digital Cooperation- Quo vadis?**
2. **Date: 8th December 2021**

1. **Duration: 90 minutes**
2. **Associated Programme Themes**

1. **Brief Description/Objective: Reflection and discussion on the future of digital cooperation**

The Internet’s contribution to social, cultural and economic growth and opportunity is recognised; as are myriad concerns that it has raised; yet key questions of governance, accountability, misuse and access still remain. As the Internet cannot be dealt with from an one-dimensional perspective, a collaborative, equitable and inclusive inclusive Internet governance is imperative and requires well-structured coordination and consolidation that, however, is challenging.

In 2020 the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation proposed a shared agenda for addressing many of the challenges posed by the digital world, building on the recommendations of the High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation titled “The Age of digital Interdependence”. Very recently the UNSG has published his “Our Common Agenda”, which includes digital cooperation as a key topic. It builds on the Roadmap and proposes a potential “Global Digital Compact” as part of a Future Summit to be held in 2023. In parallel to such universalist, multilateral and multistakeholder efforts stemming from the UN, the last years have witnessed the emergence of many views and perspectives, and different reports, studies and proposals, which call for different approaches to Internet Governance that factor in growing geopolitical tensions.

Against this background the debate on examing the advancing global digital cooperation agenda and proposals haves to continue and be sustained.

In addition, there is also a need for further engagement on the evolution of the IGF itself as a widely distributed and inclusive platform for deliberating on equitable and inclusive Internet governance processes and ecosystems, and on various digital policy issues.

1. **Policy Questions**

**Assessing Internet governance approaches and mechanisms and fostering democratic equity and inclusiveness:** What are the main strengths and weaknesses of existing Internet governance approaches and mechanisms? Is the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for digital cooperation succeeding in fostering and consolidating cooperation and promoting a less fragmented more holistic approach? What can we expect from the "Global Digital Compact", proposed in the Secretary-General’s Common Agenda?

**Advancing global digital cooperation:** New models on future digital cooperation: what is new and different to what we already have on orientation/roadmap? Which changes do we need in order to advance digital cooperation? What is needed in order to make a new model a success? What is the role of the UN system in any digital cooperation architecture? What are the directions we have from the WSIS in this regard?

How can the IGF "adapt, innovate and reform" itself to advance global digital cooperation? And what role should the IGF play (and how) in advancing global digital cooperation?

1. **Session Agenda**

Format: moderated panel discussion

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Agenda** | **Duration** | **Topics / Remarks** | **Speakers** |
| (a) | 10 Minutes | **Introductory remarks** by moderator, introducing topic “digital cooperation” and speakers |  |
| (b) | 20 Minutes | **Q&A between moderator and interviewee:**    Person/Organization/Entity that championed the Roadmap and is involved with the new plans under the Common Agenda (should be somebody from the Tech Envoy Office)    Private Sector engagement and perspective on current digital cooperation    NGO/CSO/Academia perspective on current digital cooperation proposals    Representative of the “Like-minded club of countries” approach (e.g. Tony Blair Institute, Council of Foreign Relations, etc.) |  |
| (c) | 30 Minutes | Discussion (also with questions from audience)    Questions: what is new?  What is different?  What will ensure democratic equity and inclusion in Internet and digital governance?  Which changes do we need in order to advance digital cooperation? What is needed in order to make a new model a success? What is the role of the UN system in any digital cooperation architecture? |  |
| (d) | 25 Minutes | Discussion    Question:Having discussed the changes that we need for digital cooperation:how can the IGF be used to support digital cooperation? How can the IGF "adapt, innovate and reform" itself to advance global digital cooperation? And what role should the IGF play (and how) in advancing global digital cooperation? |  |
| (e) | 5 Minutes | Last statement by each speaker (e.g. if you had one wish, what would you immediately change in the digital cooperation?) and closure by moderator |  |

\*\*(suggest moving the content below into the table above for easy reading and understanding.)

1. **10 minutes: Introductory remarks** by moderator, introducing topic “digital cooperation” and speakers

2. **20 minutes Q&A between moderator and interviewee:**

* Person/Organization/Entity that championed the Roadmap and is involved with the new plans under the Common Agenda (should be somebody from the Tech Envoy Office)
* Private Sector engagement and perspectives on current digital cooperation
* NGO/CSO/Academia perspective on current digital cooperation
* universalist/multistakeholder view:
* Representative of “Like-minded club of countries” approach
* Common Agenda/Global Digital Compact

3. **30 Minutes:** Discussion (also with questions from audience)

Questions: what is new? What is different? What will bring the change that accelerates and strengthens digital cooperation?

4. **25 Minutes:** Discussion

Question:Having discussed the changes that we need for digital cooperation:how can the IGF be used ~~in order~~ to support digital cooperation; what will be the role of IGF in the future?

5. **5 Minutes:** Last statement by each speaker (e.g. if you had one wish, what would you immediately change in the digital cooperation?) and closure by moderator

1. **Chair and Moderators**

Moderator: Andreas Proksch, former Director General GIZ

1. **Speakers**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Title** | **Organization** | **Status** |
| MF Spatolisano |  | UN Secretary General’s Tech Envoy Office |  |
| Vint Cerf |  | Google |  |
| Ms. Vera Songwe | Executive Secretary | UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) | TBC |
| Ms. Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana | Executive Secretary | UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) | TBC |
| Nnenna Nwakanma |  | Web Foundation |  |
| Anita Gurumurthy |  | IT for Change |  |
| Dr. Elke Siehl |  | Director General, GIZ |  |
| Milton Mueller |  | Academia |  |
| Wolfgang Kleinwächter |  | Academia |  |
| Anriette Esterhuysen |  | MAG Chair |  |

1. **Rapporteurs:** Sook-Jung Dofel

Pre-meeting (in advance of the meeting):

(a) To update the web page content

(b) To update email information (about the event)

(c) To update participants lists

(d) Other arrangements:

(i)

(ii)

(iii)

During Meeting:

(a)

(b)

(c)

Post-Meeting (for updates and future improvements):

(a)

(b)

(c)

1. **Plan for participant engagement/interaction**

The participants on-site and online can engage during the discussions. The moderator can open the floor for questions and remarks from the live audience and read out questions that come up in the chat.

1. **Facilitators**

1. **Desired results/output. Possible next steps for the work**

Ideas on how to advance digital cooperation are discussed. Outputs, in particular with regard to policy question on UN and IGF’s future role, will be used for further discussion within the IGF.

1. **Annex Documents and Sources**

1. **Links to SDGs**

1. SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH
2. SDG 9:  INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
3. SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES
4. SDG 11:  SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES
5. SDG 17:  PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS