



**IGF Leadership Panel  
Meeting  
Geneva, Switzerland  
13-14 July 2023**

The [Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\) Leadership Panel](#) met for a two-day meeting on 13-14 July 2023 at the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG). [Mr. Vinton Cerf](#) moderated the meeting as Chair of the Panel alongside [Ms. Maria Ressa](#), the Panel Vice-Chair. Virtual participation was available for those unable to attend in person. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss in greater depth digital cooperation mechanisms that impact the IGF, the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and WSIS+20 Review processes, in particular, and how the IGF can be strengthened ahead of key meetings related to the processes in 2024 and 2025. This would include maximising opportunities at the upcoming annual IGF in Kyoto in October.

The panel has also been at work on a vision paper, titled *Internet We Want* and spearheaded by its Working Group D on “Opportunities for Substantive Contributions and Guidance”. In Geneva, members reviewed the paper to resolve open comments and editing questions, with the aim of having this finalised and presentable in the coming weeks.

In addition to its internal deliberations, the panel held a joint face-to-face session with the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) on 13 July. The MAG shares with the panel the need to prioritise the IGF’s positioning with respect to the GDC and WSIS+20. Their exchanges focused on enhanced measures for IGF funding, outcomes, and Government participation in the IGF’s annual meetings.

The panel leveraged the location of the meeting to participate in several networking events with Geneva-based organisations and permanent missions, CERN, ITU, UNCTAD and EU delegations, among them. On the morning of 14 July, the Chair and Vice-Chair held a [press conference](#) at UNOG, attended by journalists onsite and online.

Below is an overview of action items and next steps raised in relation to future activities.

**Decisions, Action Items & Next Steps**

**I. Enhancing IGF and IGF Meetings**

- Leadership Panel members together with the MAG should encourage stronger participation of the private sector, and in particular big tech and nascent AI companies, in annual IGFs.
- The Panel should also encourage the engagement of regulators in the annual IGF and processes; Panel Member Hatem Dowidar has volunteered to

strengthen this engagement.

- The Panel and MAG should consider introducing a Government track at the annual IGF, similar to the parliamentary track. The presence of Governments, in dialogue at the IGF, will be critical in light of active digital cooperation discussions around the GDC and WSIS.
- The Panel should continue to strengthen the IGF's role as a convener or "hub" for other fora and organisations.
- Members of both the Panel and MAG will think of ways of making the IGF's outcome Messages simpler and more assimilable.

## **II. GDC Engagement, including with the Secretary-General**

- The Panel as well as MAG, as multistakeholder bodies, will offer to advise the GDC process and its co-facilitators informally, since a formal "sounding board" structure will not be possible at this point.
- The Panel will look for an opportunity to intervene at the GDC ministerial meeting in New York, expected to take place 21 September 2023, during the General Debate week of the UN General Assembly.
- The Panel will also look to host a side event during the week; the Chair has offered to explore funding for this from Google.
- The Panel will request a meeting with the Secretary-General within the same timeframe.
- Members will draft talking points ahead of possible participation in the ministerial.
- Members will produce additional materials - perhaps a 'package' including an abbreviated version of the Internet We Want vision paper - for ministerial delegates.
- The Panel will also draft a report for the Secretary-General ahead of the ministerial.
- To build a strong IGF case to bring to GDC discussions, the Panel will:
  - Identify which GDC parties need to be persuaded that working with the IGF is a better tactic than creating a new mechanism (such as the 'Global Cooperation Forum').
  - Emphasise that it would be easier to expand the IGF to meet the GDC's

needs, as a new body would not just be duplicative but compete for resources and make existing bodies less effective.

- Craft a strong and persuasive Internet We Want paper that lays out a vision for which IGF would be the natural enabler (as opposed to focus on IGF as a process); this would include constructive messages for how to address Internet harms, which Maria has volunteered to draft.
  - Underline the significant convergence of the aims expressed in the GDC with those of the Internet We Want.
- The Panel will have a two-hour virtual preparatory meeting ahead of the ministerial in August.

### **III. Funding**

- The Panel should consider setting out KPIs in relation to an IGF funding strategy.
- The Panel will draft a funding summary 'rationale' as soon as possible.
- Members and those to whom they are doing donor outreach should take into account the timing of funding, and the need for funds to be received at the beginning of the IGF's annual cycle (January) for planning purposes.

### **IV. Leadership Panel Meetings in Kyoto**

- The Panel will meet at the IGF in Kyoto for two working sessions of 90 minutes each, possibly to be held at the start and end of the IGF week.
- The Panel will also have a one-hour working session with the MAG.
- Members will look to have a private meeting with Government officials, along the lines of their meeting with EU delegations in Geneva.
- The Panel will likely have two public-facing sessions: one to present the *Internet We Want* paper, and the other as a listening session with IGF stakeholders.

**Annex I – Agenda**

<b>Date &amp; Time</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
<b>Wednesday 12 July (Optional)</b>		
13:15 – 14:00	Room H-307 (Building H, UNOG)	<b>IGF DONORS MEETING</b>
18:30 – 19:30	WMO Attica, Headquarters of World Meteorological Organization – WMO	<b>Reception for MAG and LP Members Hosted by Switzerland in collaboration with GIP/Diplo Foundation</b>
<b>Thursday 13 July</b>		
08:00 – 09:00	Offices of the EU Delegation to UN in Geneva	<b>BREAKFAST MEETING WITH DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE EU PERMANENT MISSIONS TO THE UN IN GENEVA</b>
09:30 – 09:45	Room XXIII (Building E, UNOG)	<b>JOINT SESSION OF LEADERSHIP PANEL &amp; MAG</b> <b>Welcome &amp; Opening Statements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome from LP Chair</li> <li>• Welcome from LP Vice-Chair</li> <li>• Statement from MAG Chair</li> </ul>
09:45 – 10:15	Room XXIII (Building E, UNOG)	<b>JOINT SESSION OF LEADERSHIP PANEL &amp; MAG</b> <b>Planning IGF 2023</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting in from MAG on Key Decisions Taken</li> <li>• Briefings on Special Tracks in Formation (High Level, Parliamentary, Youth)</li> <li>• Discussion on Maximising LP Presence in Kyoto</li> <li>• Meeting(s) of LP &amp; MAG in Kyoto</li> </ul>
10:15 – 11:00	Room XXIII (Building E, UNOG)	<b>JOINT SESSION OF LEADERSHIP PANEL &amp; MAG</b> <b>IGF Strategic Outlook</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IGF in Context of Ongoing &amp; Upcoming Processes: GDC, the LP-MAG Sounding Board Proposal, Addressing “Interoperability of Governance”</li> <li>• IGF in Context of Ongoing &amp; Upcoming Processes: WSIS+20</li> <li>• Discussion on Collaborative Approaches for Strengthening IGF, including through LP Working Groups &amp; with MAG Liaisons</li> </ul>
11:15 – 11:25	Room III (Building A, UNOG)	<b>LP PLENARY SESSION</b> <b>Opening &amp; Adoption of Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief Introductory Remarks from Chair &amp; Vice-Chair</li> <li>• Adoption of Agenda</li> </ul>
11:25 – 12:25	Room III (Building A, UNOG)	<b>LP PLENARY SESSION</b> <b>Discussion on GDC</b>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion on GDC Developments &amp; Reflections on Related Morning Session with MAG</li> </ul>
12:25 – 12:45	Room III (Building A, UNOG)	<b>LP PLENARY SESSION</b> <b>Reporting in</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting in from Working Groups A, B, C &amp; D</li> </ul>
13:00 – 14:00	Satellite Restaurant	<b>Lunch with ITU</b>
14:30 – 17:00	CERN (Route de Meyrin, Meyrin)	<b>Visit to CERN</b>
18:00 – 19:00	Permanent Mission of Poland to the UN in Geneva	<b>Reception Hosted by the Government of Poland</b>
19:30 – 21:30	Ambassador’s Residence	<b>Dinner Hosted by Swiss Ambassador to the UN in Geneva</b>
<b>Friday 14 July</b>		
9:30 – 10:00	Room B-128 (Building B, UNOG)	<b>LP PRESS CONFERENCE</b>
10:30 – 11:15	Room III (Building A, UNOG)	<b>MEETING WITH UNCTAD</b> <b>About UNCTAD &amp; Cooperation with IGF</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• History of IGF &amp; CSTD</li> <li>• IGF-CSTD Reporting Relationship</li> <li>• Looking ahead to GDC &amp; WSIS+20: IGF-UNCTAD Cooperation</li> <li>• UNCTAD at IGF</li> </ul>
11:15 – 12:00	Room III (Building A, UNOG)	<b>LP PLENARY SESSION</b> <b>Outlining Specific LP &amp; Working Group-related Deliverables, on -</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Messaging to GDC Ministerial</li> <li>• Meeting Coordination with Secretary-General</li> <li>• Internet We Want</li> <li>• Funding</li> </ul>
12:30 – 14:00	Permanent Mission of France to the UN in Geneva	<b>Reception on the Occasion of Bastille Day Hosted by French Permanent Mission</b>
14:30 – 17:30	Room III (Building A, UNOG)	<b>LP PLENARY SESSION</b> <b>Ways Forward</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advancing Strategic Objectives, including in Context of GDC &amp; WSIS+20 and through Geneva Networking</li> <li>• Specific Engagement of LP at IGF 2023 Kyoto</li> <li>• Upcoming Strategic Engagements in Other Fora</li> </ul>
17:30 – 18:00	Room III (Building A, UNOG)	<b>LP PLENARY SESSION</b> <b>Closing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recap &amp; Next Steps</li> <li>• Closing Remarks from Chair &amp; Vice-Chair</li> </ul>

## **Annex II – Attendance**

### **Panel Members**

Mr. Vinton Cerf, Chair  
Ms. Maria Ressa, Vice-Chair  
Ms. Huria Ali  
Ms. Karoline Edtstadler  
Mr. Hatem Dowidar  
Ms. Lise Fuhr  
Ms. Maria Fernanda Garza  
Mr. Paul Mitchell  
Mr. 'Gbenga Sesan  
Mr. Alkesh Kumar Sharma  
Mr. Krzysztof Szubert  
Mr. Lan Xue  
Mr. Hiroshi Yoshida

### *Panel Support Persons*

Ms. Renata Dwan  
Ms. Johanna Resch  
Mr. Wiktor Skwarek  
Ms. Timea Suto  
Ms. Anna Walch

### *Regrets*

Mr. Amandeep Singh Gill  
Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves

### **IGF Secretariat**

Ms. Céline Bal  
Ms. Anja Gengo  
Mr. Chengetai Masango  
Ms. Eleonora Mazzucchi