IGF 2023

First Open Consultations and MAG Meeting | 7 & 8-10 March 2023

Summary of action items & next steps

The first Open Consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) meeting in the IGF 2023 preparatory cycle was held on 8-10 March 2023, online and onsite at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), headquarters of the UN Office at Vienna (UNOV), Austria. The traditional three-day meeting was preceded on 7 March by a session with the co-facilitators of the UN Global Digital Compact (GDC) process and a working session between the MAG and IGF Leadership Panel (LP), both also held at UNOV. Mr. Paul Mitchell moderated the meeting as MAG Chair. The Host Country was represented by Mr. Yoichi Iida, Deputy Director General for G7 and G20 Relations, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Government Japan.

This summary provides an overview of action items and next steps raised in relation to future actions/activities, as well as main decisions made. For a detailed record of the discussions, recordings are available.

7 March 2023

Session with GDC Co-Facilitators

Together with LP Members, the MAG participated in an open discussion with the co-facilitators of the GDC process, Ambassadors of Rwanda and Sweden to the United Nations in New York, Mr. Claver Gatete and Ms. Anna Karin Enestrom.

- Ambassador Gatete called for another opportunity in the coming months for this type of exchange, with longer duration. This takes into consideration upcoming GDC milestones in 2023: the closure of the public consultations period at the end of March; a reflection paper on eight potential topics at the end of June; and a GDC ministerial meeting in September.

- The co-facilitators called for cooperation and contributions from the MAG and LP, many ideas for which – in particular, a joint IGF MAG/LP contribution – are under consideration.

- The co-facilitators will participate in IGF 2023 in Kyoto, Japan.

Session with IGF LP

The MAG discussed cooperative working mechanisms with the Panel around both IGF 2023 planning and contributions to wider processes, such as the GDC and WSIS+20 Review in 2025. The session was co-led by the respective chairs of the MAG and LP, Mr. Paul Mitchell, and Mr. Vinton Cerf.

- The Secretariat will facilitate a system for exchange of relevant documents between the two groups.

- The two groups should define a concrete strategy and timeline for their shared work objectives.

- The LP will share its draft of general Common Messages/Talking Points points with the MAG.

- The joint GDC submission from MAG and LP, with the Addis Ababa Messages at its centre, should use simplified language without losing essential meaning. The Messages should aim to offer "the Internet we all want" from the perspective of what stakeholders need.

- The LP is to share the final draft of the adjusted Addis Ababa IGF Messages with the MAG, which could be a first test of "recipient reaction".

- The Messages should be transmitted to the GDC consultative process and beyond. On the latter, the groups could map target audiences and fora, enlisting NRIs, DCs and other intersessional work streams could help to create a database for these. In particular, collaboration with NRIs could help map local stakeholder groups.

- The groups agreed to discuss a proposal from the Swiss Government:
  - *The IGF could propose the creation of a multistakeholder drafting group of the GDC which would prepare the document together with the co-facilitators. This would be similar to Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG) process between phases 1 and 2 of WSIS.*
  - *To IGF could be established as periodic follow-up and evaluation platform of the GDC following its adoption.*

8 March 2023 (Day 1 - Open Consultations)

Open exchange with Leadership Panel on IGF 2023 strategic objectives

IGF stakeholders were invited to a dialogue with members of the LP, including its Chair, Vint Cerf, on strategic approaches to IGF activities over the current cycle.

- Referring to one of the LP working groups' project on outlining an "Internet We Want", the Panel Chair noted that the overarching emphasis for IGF should be on the "Internet You Want" or perhaps the "Internet We Need".

- It was suggested that the IGF, while remaining an important contributor to the GDC, not lose sight of opportunities to be present and active in other processes.

- It was agreed that the presence of high-level UN officials at IGF would be pursued by the LP, MAG and Secretariat, as key to its impact; in connection with this, it was suggested that it would be important to gather the views of many UN system entities, including "non-traditional UN agencies", on wider processes and on IGF policy topics.

- It was agreed MAG liaisons to the LP's four working groups would be identified.

Open consultations on IGF 2023 planning

- The MAG should consider a fully integrated programme that ties themes clearly to high-level, parliamentary and main sessions.

- In light of the centrality in the programme of the outcome Messages, these could perhaps begin to be produced ahead of the meeting.

- An intersessional meeting ahead of IGF 2023, involving Best Practice Forums (BPFs), Policy Networks and Dynamic Coalitions (DCs), could be considered.

- It was agreed that further discussions would be held on the use of MAG public versus private lists to meet calls for transparency.

Updates from Internet-governance related organisations

Twenty-two (22) interventions were made by organisations with ties to Internet governance and seeking to deepen their cooperation with IGF, including seventeen (17) from intergovernmental entities.

- IGF should further these relationships and consider organising future consultations with the organisations where there is space for rounds of exchange among them.

9 March 2023 (Day 2 - MAG Meeting)

Continued discussion from Day 1: IGF 2023 strategic objectives

- It was suggested IGF focus on substantive matters related to the GDC and WSIS+20 mechanisms, rather than on process issues related to how the respective outcomes would be produced.

- It was reiterated that the WSIS+20 process should be high on the list of IGF priorities given that it will determine the IGF's mandate renewal.

- The MAG and LP should consider another joint session following the GDC ministerial meeting in September.

IGF 2023 programme themes, structure and flow

- *Internet we want – Inclusive & Trustworthy*, among a list of proposed meeting themes or titles suggested by the Japanese Host Country, was agreed on as a starting formulation.

- It was felt that while calls had been issued to focus the programme with fewer subthemes, a list of specific subthemes, regardless of number, would help session proposers identify the topics relevant to them and, eventually, help participants to

navigate the meeting agenda.

- As with the 2022 programme, it was said some alignment of the subthemes with the GDC process should be maintained.

- It was agreed that the outcome Messages should be guiding the structure for the subthemes.

- The Secretariat would revisit specifications surrounding who could submit proposals for certain session types – such as open forums and town halls – in order to close submission "loopholes".

- It was decided that rules governing in which sessions MAG members could be speakers or moderators would be dropped, with the MAG entrusted to make good faith efforts to limit as much as possible their speaking roles in workshops and main sessions. Nevertheless, the ban on MAG members submitting workshop proposals would still apply.

- It was suggested that "academia" be highlighted as a distinct stakeholder group in IGF processes. The Secretariat and UNDESA colleagues would investigate this possibility.

10 March 2023 (Day 3 - MAG Meeting)

IGF 2023 - Strategic vision for future IGFs

MAG members discussed the approach to WSIS+20, GDC and other relevant processes. They were invited to address other high-level strategic priorities for the 2023 cycle and beyond, based on exchanges with the LP and LP open dialogue with stakeholders

- The Secretariat and UNDESA committed to ensuring closer cooperation with the UN Secretary-General's Tech Envoy Office (UNTEO) on the road to both GDC and WSIS+20.

- The GDC co-facilitators, UNTEO and Chair of the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) will be invited to next face-to-face MAG Meeting to brief members.

- It was agreed coordinated "crisp messaging" should come out of IGF to GDC on the eight (8) thematic areas; this could be discussed on the MAG public mailing list

- The MAG Working Group on Strategy agreed to coordinate with Ms. Marielza Oliveira, the UNESCO representative on the MAG, on UN process-related issues.

- MAG Member, Ms. Bruna Santos, volunteered to draft an initial concept note with thoughts on the "processes-related" main session at IGF 2023.

Continued discussion on IGF 2023, programming and intersessional work

MAG Liaisons to the LP

- Liaisons to LP Working Groups were established as follows and will attend the groups' online calls:

- Group A "Awareness raising & Outreach" – Mr. Lito Ibarra
- Group B "Inputs to the IGF and liaison with the MAG" – MAG Chair, Mr. Paul Mitchell
- Group C "Funding" – Mr. Chris Buckridge
- Group D "Exploring areas for substantive contribution and guidance provided by Leadership Panel" – Ms. Bruna Santos

Intersessional Work

- A call will be arranged between the Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet Standards, Safety and Security (IS3C) dynamic coalition to discuss their synergies, as IS3C has a working group on AI.

- MAG Member, Ms. Alisa Heaver, will consider a role as MAG liaison to DCs. A deputy or co-liaison might also be considered in this regard.

National, Regional, Subregional & Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs)

- Ms. Heaver agreed to attend open IGF Youth Track meetings to propose a youth capacity development programme on technical knowledge of the Internet.

- The Secretariat's NRI focal point will take to youth coordinators a suggestion for cooperation between themselves and Schools on Internet governance (SIGs).

- The NRI focal point will suggest liaison function from the youth community to the MAG.

- MAG Member, Ms. Joyce Chen, was invited to attend youth meetings to discuss possible mentorship.

MAG Working Groups

- The MAG Working Group on Workshops Process (WG-WSP) will review the workshop proposal form based on feedback during this meeting – specifically including a minimum requirement for one person who is not male to be present as a speaker in the proposal, as well as the MAG's clearly stated aspiration for gender balance.

- WG-WSP will share workshop evaluation criteria with the full MAG for feedback.

- A plenary MAG virtual meeting will be held before the evaluation period.

Themes & Subthemes

- The agreed overarching theme of the meeting will be *The Internet We Want - Empowering All People*.

- A list of eight (8) subthemes will be used as a basis for soliciting proposals, as follows:
    - AI & Emerging Technologies
    - Avoid Internet Fragmentation
    - Cybersecurity, Cybercrime and Online Safety
    - Data Governance and Trust
    - Digital Divides and Inclusion
    - Global Digital Governance and Cooperation

- - Human Rights and Freedoms
  - Sustainability & Environment

- "Economy" as a topic will be highlighted and explained under "Sustainability & Environment".

- Topics under subthemes will be selectable by proposers.

Other
- MAG Member, Mr. Lito Ibarra, and other new members will form a small onboarding group to prepare new members in 2024.

- A poll will be sent to members on the Second Open Consultations and MAG Meeting with the following dates as options: 5-7 July; 10-12 July; 12-14 July.