

IGF 2020

MAG call 26 October 2020 'From the BPF on BPFs to the BPF Process 2021'

Summary

1. On 26 October 2020, 13:00 UTC, the IGF 2020 Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) held an extraordinary meeting to discuss the findings and recommendations that came out of the 'BPF on BPFs', which was initiated by the MAG to review past Best Practice Forums (BPFs) to enhance future BPF work. The meeting was moderated by MAG Chair Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen.

Documents and links:

- BPF on BPFs MAG approved Terms of Reference
https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/3405/2213
- BPF on BPFs Report - Reviewing past BPFs to enhance future BPF work
https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/3405/2212
- BPF on BPFs - Overview of recommendations
https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/3405/2272
- Draft IGF Best Practice Forums Definitions, Procedures, and Modalities
https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/3405/2270

- BPF on BPFs webpage
<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-on-bpfs>
- The meeting's recording can be accessed at
<https://intgovforum.zoom.us/rec/share/q3EBr98B4g0erHZA4-8m9xpLJqbJWM3o4PDxrWw8ehvlupPYIVJT0zdkZ3tbgKzE.7MwNuY2BQKziB6kO>
Access Passcode: aR3GG*D5

2. The Chair welcomed MAG members and clarified that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the BPF on BPFs final outcomes¹, reflect on the learnings, and endorse the report and recommendations that will then be provided to the new MAG responsible for preparing the IGF in 2021.
3. Mr. Markus Kummer, facilitator of the BPF on BPFs, presented the draft 'BPF Definitions, Procedures, and Modalities' that were developed in line with the BPF on BPFs own recommendation to consolidate existing draft BPF modalities in one document ahead of the next cycle.

¹ The draft BPF outcomes were presented to the MAG at its 11 August 2020 virtual meeting and published on the IGF website with an opportunity for MAG members and the IGF community to review and provide feedback. The final version of the BPF on BPFs report was published on 29 September 2020.

4. The suggestion by Mr. Carlos Alfonso to rephrase the text pertaining to BPF proposals to allow the community to suggest BPF topics received support. Ms. Sylvia Cadena shared that she was preparing a proposal for a BPF in the 2021 cycle, and welcomed the modalities document as a useful tool. It was clarified that a topic is considered to be 'mature' enough for a BPF when controversy has made room for a sufficient degree of understanding and the topic lends itself to writing up common good practices, or when there is sufficient buy-in from different stakeholder groups that a topic is relevant and important and it allows itself to exchanging practices and sharing solutions.
5. Mr. Markus Kummer provided an overview of the recommendations to enhance future BPF work that are compiled in the BPF on BPFs report, and invited MAG members to comment.
6. Ms. Concettina Cassa noted that BPFs might need help with reaching out to key institutions and expert organisations. She also suggested that BPFs procedure short documents with key takeaways and recommendations (max 2 pages) in addition to their reports. Mr. Wim Degezelle, penholder of the report, stressed the importance of stakeholder engagement in BPF work so that the community takes ownership of the BPF and the MAG and IGF secretariat can focus on their role as steward and support of the BPF process. Mr. Ben Wallis said to support the recommendation to allow BPFs to apply for 2-year terms, but suggested to limit BPFs to maximum two two year terms. Mr. Carlos Alfonso warned against imposing end dates to BPF terms without taking into account the relevance and importance of a topic at that moment. Ms. Sylvia Cadena suggested stimulating BPFs to reflect on, and formulate proposals if appropriate, for the BPF work to continue after the BPF term within or outside the IGF.
7. Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen concluded that there was consensus to endorse the modalities document, thanked MAG members for their feedback on the recommendations, and acknowledged the authors and all involved in the BPF on BPFs for their work.

Annexe: Suggested Amendment to the draft BPF Definitions, Procedures, and Modalities

(old text)

Proposals for BPF topics

MAG members can propose topics for the BPF intersessional program. MAG members that wish to propose a BPF should submit a proposal ahead of the first face-to-face (or equivalent) MAG meeting of the year. Proposals can be for new topics or topics that build on previous BPF work.

(new text)

Proposals for BPF topics

Topics for the BPF intersessional program should be submitted or seconded by at least one MAG member. BPF proposals should be submitted ahead of the first face-to-face (or equivalent) MAG meeting of the year. MAG members submitting or seconding a proposal are expected to take on the role of MAG Facilitator should the MAG select the topic for a BPF. Proposals can be for new topics or topics that build on previous BPF work.