

WG-MWP update to the MAG – August 29, 2018

Strengthening Cooperation to advance International Public Policy issues through the IGF Ecosystem

The MAG WG – Multi-Year Strategic Work Programme (WG-MWP) is working to address what more the IGF might do to advance International Public Policy issues within the IGF Ecosystem, specifically looking to see what options exist with respect to producing more tangible outputs from the IGF activities. There are three (3) main areas of focus, as outlined below.

1 – All these activities are complemented by a [“Proposal for an “IGF Programme Framework, based on the IGF Programme Component Document that was published by the WG and the Secretariat in 2017. It documents the current state and includes a graphical flow representation of the inputs, outputs, and supporting processes. This framework is also expected to support a more concentrated focus on IGF outputs and their dissemination, across the entire IGF ecosystem. The WG agreed it was ready for further review across the IGF ecosystem. The purpose is to get agreement on this as a general framework for IGF activities. The platform for review and commenting will be finalized with the main goal to facilitate commenting by the broad community.](#)

2 - Two pilots are being proposed to facilitate intersessional work that would work towards a form of conclusion/recommendation at the annual IGF meeting that might “recommend”: continuing the work (in a concrete manner), or the publication of conclusions or recommendations, or the instigation of a working group, or handing over a topic to another body, etc. The aim of the pilots is to learn from them and determine how best to use these experiences in future IGF cooperation processes. The Tunis Agenda will be respected, and the IGF community will be fully engaged.

2018: Methodologies for the Development of Written IGF Outputs

2019: Strengthening Cooperation within the Context of the IGF

Both pilots address the same goals: 1) working to significantly advance International Public Policy issues globally, and 2) examining what options exist with respect to producing more tangible outputs from all the excellent work across the IGF ecosystem. They are perhaps more easily understood as one pilot with two phases.

Specifically, it has been noted ‘the IGF has made good progress on many areas in the ‘Tunis Agenda on the Information Society’ but it has made less progress towards fulfilling paragraph 72(g), which requires the IGF to “Identify emerging issues, bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public, and, where appropriate, make recommendations.”

The two (2) pilots being evaluated are:

A) Methodologies for the Development of Written IGF Outputs:

this pilot would help gauge the feasibility of the IGF producing tangible output documents based on a deliberative process (physical and virtual in order to facilitate broad participation). It has been proposed that this pilot be based on already developed and published work (assumed to be broadly supported) in order to allow the pilot to focus on strategic questions such as: what constitutes the IGF community, what constitutes agreement across said community, and what level of agreement can “the IGF” claim has

been achieved.

The topics under consideration include a) Accessibility and Disability (working with the ITU and the [IGF's Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability](#) (DCAD), or b) the Norm on Protecting the Public Core of the Internet developed by the [Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace](#) (GCSC). This pilot is hoped to conclude at **IGF 2018** and was triggered by the '[Option Paper on Methodologies for the Development of Written IGF Outputs](#)' paper.

There is a proposal from an organization called [Synmind](#) – “Synergy of minds”. Their website says: “Synmind is a unique method to acquire insight into individual opinions by utilizing the Internet” which would help drive the deliberative part of the process (with expert support from the MAG). This proposal was received very recently and is under review by the WG.

Note: If the concept is supported, funding would have to be found.

B) Strengthening Cooperation within the Context of the IGF

this pilot would have the global IGF community identify and substantially help advance an international public policy issue. This activity is hoped to culminate in a tangible output at **IGF 2019**, and benefit from the result of the first pilot above. This pilot was triggered by the '[Strengthening Cooperation within the Context of the IGF: A Roadmap for 2018](#)' paper.

The next step is for the WG to support advancing these two pilots, in particular Phase 1: “Methodologies for the Development of Written IGF Outputs”, with a goal to having made a substantive step forward by IGF 2018, in order that we can pull the learnings/experiences gained into IGF 2019 preparations.

More concrete proposals for both these pilots will be advanced shortly for MAG review.

3 - Development of a multi-year strategic work programme, engaging MAG, IGF community, Intersessional activities, and NRIs.

The principle is that there are several important and complex topics that would be best advanced through a multi-year programme, which would also allow for more continuity, and support additional outreach and participation.

A poll of the IGF community was also suggested, specifically that it could address: 1- what the community thinks about multi-year planning, and what the community expects from multi-year planning, 2 – how do the various parts of the IGF community contribute to the multi-year planning, 3 what are the types of tangible outputs that we might see from such a process.

The WG has set up a drafting team to help advance a concrete proposal for advancing this work through the IGF community. The suggestion of a poll is also under review by the drafting team.

Further updates will be shared with the MAG at all important junctions. In the interim, your comments and thoughts are very much sought.

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