

# IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) Virtual Meeting X 29 May 2019

# Summary Report

1. The tenth Virtual MAG Meeting of the 2019 IGF preparatory cycle took place on 29 May. Ms. Lynn St. Amour moderated the meeting as Chair of the MAG, with Mr. Chengetai Masango representing the IGF Secretariat. The agenda (**ANNEX I**) focused on reviewing preliminary lists of IGF workshops under consideration for approval, as well as short reviews of the tentative overall schedule template for the meeting and the draft agenda of the face-to-face MAG meeting, taking place next week, on 5-7 June, in Berlin.

2. The meeting began with brief remarks from the MAG Chair, the Secretariat and IGF 2019 host country representative. The Chair introduced the discussion on workshops, giving an overview of the process change this year and the evaluation by theme, which will eventually feed into the three thematic tracks and 'topping and tailing' structure of the programme. She emphasised to members that the evaluation work and preliminary selection of workshops that they have undertaken over the last few weeks, well ahead of the face-to-face meeting, will allow the MAG to make progress on other significant items when they meet in Berlin. The Secretariat issued a reminder to participants to register for the Berlin meeting within 2 June. Although onsite registration is possible, pre-registration online was strongly encouraged. Representing Germany, which is hosting the upcoming MAG meeting at the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy, Mr. Rudolf Gridl anticipated there would be interesting interventions, including from a representative of the German Parliament who will speak to the special parliamentarians' session planned for the annual meeting.

3. The MAG group tasked with evaluation of proposals under the 'Digital Inclusion' theme first gave its report. After having met virtually to discuss the top 16 ranked proposals, and having seen comments in the grading phase that pointed to suggestions to merge some proposals, the group had indeed decided on a number of mergers. This would allow space for a wider diversity of topics, as well as the addition of worthy proposals with speakers from under-represented regions and stakeholder groups. In addition, the group had designed a flow chart to tentatively sequence the workshops in a logical way according to the issues they cover. The question had been raised of one particular proposal, ranked highly in terms of substance but that caused doubt as it appeared to promote commercial products. It was agreed that the MAG, collectively, would take the time to examine the proposal and continue to discuss it offline.

4. The evaluation group on 'Safety, Security, Stability & Resilience' reported on its process. It said that although it had also seen a number of suggestions for merger within its proposal pool, it had been somewhat restrained in moving forward with these, as it felt it was not necessarily beneficial to the overall track. In filling up to 20 slots, and building on the list of top 16, it looked at underrepresented issues that would more broadly reflect the pillars of the Security theme. Topics such as the 'Internet of Things' and 'Hate Speech' were moved forward into the selection list. The group also flagged a

specific proposal on children's rights and data use it felt dealt more with the Data Governance theme. It relayed this to the representative of that group, which quickly examined the workshop's rank and whether it would fill any representational gaps in its own selection list. It was agreed it could be taken under consideration, but more likely that it might be among a group of generally cross-cutting proposals that the MAG will ultimately decide to give space to when it meets face-to-face.

5. The Data Governance group then briefed on its evaluation process. It shared that upon review, it would tentatively approve the top 16 ranked, finding there were no significant duplication issues, and that the scores confirmed the group's qualitative preferences and the integrity of the ranking process. It had focused its efforts on filling the four remaining slots and in doing so, had looked at which regions (e.g. Eastern Europe and Latin America) and stakeholder groups (e.g. Private Sector and Government) were under-represented. After a calculation of the total minutes its selected proposals would cover, it also found that three additional slots could free up, if there was indeed space in the schedule and agreement to allocate additional slots. On a provisional basis, it had identified three proposals for those slots, as well as some scheduling recommendations for the Secretariat.

6. Reflecting on the reports and the discussion on mergers, the Chair advised that any recommendations and decisions on these should come from the working groups themselves, as they would have the best substantive overview of their thematic tracks. And although she suggested the Security group, in particular, consider carefully the possibility of mergers as a way of reducing redundancy in the programme, she underlined that the purpose of a merger should be to strengthen the workshops going forward. In general, she added, mergers should aim to focus and sharpen topics under the themes, not necessarily broaden the theme for the sake of broadening. From a procedural standpoint, the Secretariat explained it would handle the communication with the merger workshops in question, communicating to them, at first, their status (whether they were approved and the merger was suggested by the MAG, or whether their approval was conditional on the merger), establish the deadline by which they should merge, convey the MAG's rationale for recommending the merger, and ultimately put the proponents in touch with the MAG members if needed. In the past, some MAG members have effectively coached proposers through the merger process and may volunteer to do so again. The Chair also strongly advised taking a second look at the policy questions among the selected proposals and thinking about whether the proponents should be given any specific recommendations regarding these, as they form the substantive 'backbone' of the thematic tracks. Finally, a message to the community outlining these changes in approach and the assessment of this year's proposals might be considered.

7. The scheduling template, presented to the MAG by the Secretariat, was briefly discussed. It gave a visualization of the thematic structure and number of slots members had been discussing, including the 'top and tail' scheme, which, it was agreed, would need to be better elaborated at the face-to-face meeting. Appreciation was expressed for the additional 'breathing room' this schedule allows, with significant intervals between sessions, as compared to the denser schedules of previous years.

8. In a quick review of the agenda for the upcoming face-to-face meeting, the suggestion had been made for the rearranging of some items on the first Open Consultations day, also taking into account any potential conflict with the parallel Internet & Jurisdiction conference in Berlin. Although this could continue to be considered offline, it was felt overall that the schedule should remain as is, given the close timing of the meeting. It was also noted that in future, the MAG should have a wider-ranging discussion on how to maximize open consultations.

9. The next meeting of the MAG will take place face-to-face at the offices of the German Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy in Berlin, from 5 to 7 June. Further virtual meetings are scheduled in the <u>calendar</u>.

## <u>Annex I</u>

#### Draft Agenda IGF 2019 MAG Virtual Meeting Wednesday, May 29, 2019. 14:00 UTC

- 1. Adoption of agenda (5 min)
- 2. Chair's introduction and welcome (10min)
- 3. Updates from the IGF Secretariat (10 min)
- 4. Reports from the MAG Workshop Evaluation Groups (50 min)
- a. Digital Inclusion
- b. Safety, Security Stability & Resilience
- c. Data Governance
- 5. Discussion on Draft IGF2019 Scheduling template (20 min)
- 6. Discussion on Draft F2F Agenda (15 min)
- 7. A.O.B (10 min)

### List of Participants

	MAG Chair			
Ms.	St. Amour	Lynn	Internet Matters	
MAG Members				
Mr.	Afonso	Carlos	Nupef Institute	
Ms.	AlHashimi	Hana	Government of the United Arab Emirates	
Ms.	Chair	Chenai	ICT Research Africa	
Mr.	Charlton	Paul	International Telecommunications and Internet Policy Directorate, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)	
Ms.	Chung	Jennifer	Dot Asia	
Ms.	Croll	Jutta	Stiftung Digitale Chancen	

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