

IGF 2017

MAG WG – Multi year Strategic Work Programme (WG-MWP)

The first meeting of the MAG WG- Multi year Strategic Work Programme was held on September 7th, 2017.

The meeting summary below is organized according to the agreed agenda (Annex I).

1. Intro/Logistics/Admin

List of Participants can be found in Annex II, and participants agreed to the meeting being [recorded](#).

Chair suggested postponing discussion on Co-Chairs given very limited number of meeting participants and in order to give WG members time to decide if Co-Chairs or perhaps Activity Leaders/Champions were most useful.

2. Review charter

The purpose was to align views/expectations, and identify areas where more discussion might be needed. Members reviewed rationale for this WG, beginning with a review of the agreed WG charter (excerpts from charter below):

“It was noted that more could be done to take a strategic, long-term view of the role and activities of the IGF, such as through a predictable multi-year programme of work. Even if not undertaken generally, it might be possible to reinvigorate the IGF by taking a longer-term view of particular issues, dedicating time and resources to progressing discussions and achieving concrete outcomes on these over time. A longer time horizon such as this could help to bring in new collaborators, including international agencies, and new funders. “

Expected Output:

“A “Living Programme” built with the IGF community extending out 2 – 3 years (min.) covering expected major areas of work for the IGF as well as for all intersessional activities, and including support requirements/expectations. The WG will engage broadly with the IGF community as this plan needs to reflect the needs and desires of that community. Flexibility to be built into the multi-year programme in order to support topical issues/new ideas. All intersessional activities, as well as the NRIs will be a part of building this programme in order to ensure all our efforts are maximized and integrated as appropriate and respecting our different roles.”

Discussion points raised during this WG meeting with respect to rationale/opportunities:

- a. Better continue momentum from one IGF (year) to another
- b. Enable Intersessional activities to continue year round (may need to revisit roles/Terms of Reference given the responsibility of each years MAG to determine the annual program/related activities).
- c. Allow early identification of key themes in order to develop Main

- Sessions or to leverage IGF venues re; topics of interest, outreach, increased participation, etc.
- d. Early identification of key themes could be useful also for the selection of new major policy questions to be addressed by dedicated working groups during the intersessional work, or for instance supporting current or future major policy projects, such as the Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s) (CENB)
 - e. Longer runway to enable improvements on tangible outputs
 - f. Potential to increase alignment with SDG 2030 Goals (as appropriate), and themes arising from or aligning with the SDGs could be selected in advance for the main sessions/sub-themes on a rotating basis
 - g. Develop a more robust set of activities for new topics (assuming they would be better addressed in a multi-year program/with more notice)
 - h. Better fundraising support with longer timeframe/more program notice
 - i. Increased ability to more timely identify policy gaps, .e.g WSIS+10 UNGA
 - j. Extend Partnerships with other relevant organizations given more notice
 - k. In support of several points above, the MAG could identify relevant societal (social, economic, ..) themes that are not yet adequately addressed by the IGF, which would increase the IGF's relevance and usefulness for other communities and entities, which could become new IGF partners.

3. Collect range of views on opportunities/priorities for this effort

In addition to the opportunities mentioned above, the WG was asked by a WG member to discuss “over the long term, what could be done to adapt the IGF so that the entire community can be allowed to deliberate upon and address a policy proposal and to reach a rough consensus position upon it, in the same way as Internet technical community organisations do.”

Further it was said that the Tunis Agenda says that “the IGF should make recommendations where appropriate” and there was a view expressed that this WG would be an appropriate vehicle to explore some options in order to inform the MAG/IGF community how this might be done.

A suggestion was made that the IGF consider using a format similar to that used during NETmundial and collaboratively develop an outcome that was said to be a rough consensus of the NETmundial meeting. Some WG members commented that NETmundial was more of a negotiation via a drafting team rather than a community consensus, and cited the processes in use in technical organizations, specifically the IETF, as more of a community wide consensus process. There was also a suggestion that deliberative democracy techniques might be appropriate. It was recognized that this idea could be “controversial because people don't want to risk further politicising the forum or becoming an intergovernmental negotiation format.”

A discussion followed on whether this was within the remit of this WG or was it more appropriate to bring the discussion to the full MAG. Both positions had some support and a comment was also made re the MAG's responsibility to the IGF community given the IGF is a platform, hence felt it was appropriate for this WG to address and bring to the MAG subsequently.

The Chair suggested an interim step that would have some WG members draft a high level document elaborating a bit more on the various options and evaluating

them against the Tunis Agenda in order to determine any next steps and prior to bringing any discussion more formally to the MAG. There were a few members on the call who believed that it was appropriate for this WG to draft such a document as this would help the MAG understand how this might be done. Others recommended that the WG focus more on the specific points in the WG charter as they were concerned this effort would draw resources away from that work.

Also, there was a request that as part of the discussion on Financial Sustainability of IGF and Planning that we also work to clarify and get agreement on who makes decisions regarding prioritisation of MAG work activities, MAG Chair? MAG members? Community? etc. Some are defacto related to resources and therefore influenced by UN DESA/IGF Secretariat resource allocation.

A final comment suggested a compromise could be for this WG to suggest a process and to say where it might be "appropriate" to use it or indeed that the IGF WG – Improvements might take it up. No consensus was reached.

4. Discussion on how to progress our work

A suggestion was also made to have a timeline for what we need or wish to have ahead of IGF and then do meeting planning in anticipation of those deliverables.

Earlier in the meeting there had been a discussion on linkages with the IGF WG – Improvements given both WGs want to stay closely aligned. As both WGs are still in relatively early stages, the link to the table the WG on Improvements is preparing was shared. It is being used to develop an “implementation status” based on suggestions from various sources:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TdxEe0Qit3qAMCaGeyOLO14PvUIuY3Nv5hmBsq0_OfE/edit?ts=59a5a99d#gid=0 .

5. Future meeting schedule/possible agenda items

The WG agreed to meeting every 2 weeks and a doodle poll will be sent. Heavier reliance on the WG mailing list was encouraged in order to progress work as much as possible and increase participation and transparency,

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Annex 1: Agenda

- Intro/Logistics/Admin
- Review charter. Purpose is to work towards aligning views/expectations. Identify areas where more discussion is needed.
- Collect range of views on opportunities/priorities for this effort.
- Discussion on how to progress this work
- Future meeting schedule/possible agenda items

Annex II: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

CHAIR: Lynn St.Amour

MAG MEMBERS:

Bou Harb, Zeina
Thomas-Raynaud, Elizabeth
Wagner, Flavio

OTHER PARTICIPANTS:

Lopez-Barajas, Gonzalo
Malcolm, Jeremy
Mazzone, Giacomo
Prendergast, Jim
Suto, Timea

IGF SECRETARIAT:

Garcia-Bobo, Luis
Gengo, Anja
Mazzuchi, Eleonora