

IGF 2021
MAG Meeting IV | 9 March 2021

Summary report

Action items & Next steps

Intersessional work

- A meeting to be set up for the MAG Chair, the Secretariat, and MAG members involved in PNs and BPFs to discuss issues related to dedicated web resources (e.g. webpages, mailing lists) and the starting of work.

IGF 2021 issues and themes

- A working group (WG) is formed to elaborate a proposal for IGF 2021 issues and themes.
 - Considering the prioritisation of clusters done by MAG members and the discussions at the 9 March meeting, the group is tasked with coming up with a proposal on the focus areas for IGF 2021 by **Friday 19 March** at the latest.
- Once the focus areas are identified, MAG WGs will be formed for each area and work on how to frame the call for sessions proposals (e.g. focus areas description, breaking down areas into specific issues, etc.).
- Ideally, the issues and themes for IGF 2021 to be finalised by the end of March, so that a call for session proposals could be launched by the end of April.

IGF 2021 format and design

- MAG members to send written comments on the proposal regarding the format and design of IGF 2021.
- WG-Hybrid to make an initial proposal on hybrid elements.
- Comments from MAG members and input from the WG-Hybrid to be integrated into a consolidated proposal.

Other issues

- The Secretariat and the MAG Chair to develop a work plan providing MAG members with details on the expected activities for the rest of the year.
- WG-Hybrid to give an initial report at the next MAG meeting (23 March).
- MAG members were invited to keep the host country informed about travel restrictions implemented by their countries.

1. The fourth virtual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) in the IGF 2021 preparatory cycle was held on 9 March 2021. The meeting was moderated by MAG Chair Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen.

Attached to this summary report are the meeting agenda and input documents (Annex I) and the list of participants (Annex II).

I. Introductions and updates from the Secretariat

2. The Chair welcomed MAG members and other participants and noted that the meeting was dedicated to advancing discussions on the focus and format of IGF 2021, building on previous work. Mr. Przemek Typiak, Polish government, expressed the IGF 2021 host country's readiness to contribute to finalising decisions on these matters.

3. Mr. Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat, updated MAG members on a few issues:

- Community consultations on the new IGF website have started. MAG members, Dynamic Coalitions (DC), national and regional IGF initiatives (NRIs) and other groups are invited to a series of online meetings where they can provide input to be considered in the development of the new IGF website. An [online survey](#) was also available until 9 March.
- The consultations on paragraph 93(a) in the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (closed on 8 March) have resulted in over [80 contributions](#). The Secretariat is compiling the input and will prepare a summary report.
- A [call was launched for NRIs to apply for funding](#) to support their in situ or hybrid meetings in 2021. The deadline for application is 15 March.

4. Ms. Esterhuysen and Ms. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat, gave an update on **IGF 2021 intersessional work tracks**:

- Considering MAG input, the Secretariat and the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) have reviewed the proposals for Best Practice Forums (BPFs) and Policy Networks (PNs) in the light of available programmed resources, and concluded that two PNs and two BPFs can be supported in the IGF 2021 cycle.
 - The PN on environment (PNE), to also integrate the proposed BPF on environmental data. The Secretariat is working on establishing the multistakeholder working group to coordinate the PNE and hopes this will be announced by the end of March. Discussions will also be held with proponents of the BPF on environmental data to see how the work they have proposed can be launched within the PNE.
 - The PN on meaningful access (PNMA), to also integrate the proposed BPF on local content and BPF on committed actions to make access to the Internet sustainable and affordable for everyone.
 - The BPF on cybersecurity.
 - The BPF on gender and rights.
- A consultant to support the PNE is expected to be on board by early April, while contracting the consultants for the other workstreams will require some additional four–six weeks.
- Ms. Esterhuysen suggested that a meeting is set up with the Secretariat and MAG members involved in the BPFs and PNs to discuss issues related to web resources for these work tracks (e.g. dedicated pages, mailing lists, etc.).

5. Ms. Esterhuysen noted that a work plan will be developed for MAG members to have an overview of the expected activities in the lead up to IGF 2021. This will be built on the [existing timeline](#) for the IGF

2021 planning process, while also offering more details on when the MAG is expected to work on issues such as programme development, session evaluation, etc. This timeline will also depend on how soon the MAG can finalise its decisions on IGF 2021 themes and format.

II. IGF 2021 issues and themes

6. Building on the [input submitted in response to the call for issues](#) and the discussions held at the [22–24 February Open Consultations and MAG meeting](#), the MAG Chair and the Secretariat have prepared an additional analysis of issues for MAG prioritisation. This analysis includes seven main clusters, descriptions of each cluster, and a list of specific issues fitting within the clusters. Before the meeting, MAG members had been invited to prioritise the seven clusters (i.e. indicate the clusters they think IGF 2021 should focus on) and submit additional comments on the analysis.

[IGF 2021 | Analysis of proposed issues for MAG prioritisation](#)

Includes seven main clusters:



- Consumer rights and protection
- Economic and social inclusion and human rights
- Emerging regulation: market structure, content and data
- Environmental sustainability and climate change
- Inclusive Internet governance (IG) ecosystems and digital cooperation
- Trust, security and stability
- Universal access and meaningful connectivity

7. Ms. Sorina Teleanu, IGF Secretariat, briefly presented the results of the clusters prioritisation done by MAG members:

- The top focus areas resulting from MAG members prioritisation were (in no particular order): *Economic and social inclusion and human rights; Emerging regulation: market structure, content and data; and Universal access and meaningful connectivity* (see the table above). Following closely were *Trust, security, stability and Inclusive IG ecosystems and digital cooperation*.
- Suggestions were also made to merge some clusters. For example: *Trust, security and stability with Emerging regulation; Inclusive IG with Emerging regulation; Universal access and meaningful connectivity with Economic and social inclusion and human rights; Inclusive IG with Trust, security and stability; Economic and social inclusion and rights with Environmental sustainability and climate change; Consumer rights with Emerging regulation; merge clusters into three broad ones, namely Digital cooperation, Digital economy and New technologies.*

8. As an overall approach for IGF 2021, Ms. Esterhuysen suggested that the meeting has a limited set of focus areas (e.g. up to three) for most sessions to tackle, as well as an additional component allowing discussions on the rest of the areas. During the discussions, there was general support for a maximum

of three focus areas (although there were also suggestions for two or four areas). Reflecting on the results of the prioritisation exercise, MAG members raised the following key points:

- Additional suggestions for potential mergers/combinations: integrating *Consumer rights* within *Emerging regulation*; treating *Economic and social inclusion and human rights* and *Universal access and meaningful connectivity* in a collective way.
- A call was made to approach further merging with caution, as this could result in too much generalisation.
- Several comments were made with regard to the importance of also including *Trust, security and resilience* among the focus areas. One suggestion was to include such issues under *Emerging regulation*, next to content and data. Another suggestion was to combine *Trust* with *Universal access*.
- It was highlighted that the focus themes, once selected, should be framed in such a way that they are both specific and inviting perspectives from all stakeholder groups.

9. The discussions also revealed four distinct sets of proposals for possible focus areas for IGF 2021:

- Proposal 1 (supported by several MAG members): (1) *Economic and social inclusion and human rights* and *Universal access and meaningful connectivity* (either combined or as stand-alone); (2) *Emerging regulation*; (3) *Environmental sustainability*.
- Proposal 2: Have two focus themes that seem to be the most interesting for the community (e.g. *Economic and social inclusion and human rights* and *Universal access and meaningful connectivity*) and one third theme framed as 'In the spotlight', for issues that have been less tackled at the IGF so far, but there is now more interest to address them (e.g. *Emerging regulation*).
- Proposal 3: (1) *Economic issues*; (2) *Inclusion, human rights and consumer rights*; (3) *Regulation* (as a track that could be particularly interesting for policymakers).
- Proposal 4: Have one broadly-framed theme that would allow the community to submit proposals for sessions addressing topics they think fit under the theme (for instance, *Emerging regulation*, which is broad enough to include even issues like environmental sustainability or security; or *Digital rights*).

10. Action items & next steps

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- Once the focus areas are identified, MAG WGs will be formed for each area and work on how to frame the call for sessions proposals (e.g. focus areas description, breaking down areas into specific issues, etc.).
- Ideally, the issues and themes for IGF 2021 to be finalised by the end of March, so that a call for session proposals could be launched by the end of April.

III. IGF 2021 format and design

11. Ms. Esterhuysen gave an overview of a proposal developed together with the Secretariat on the IGF 2021 hybrid process implementation.

- The proposal – shared with MAG members before the meeting – outlines three possible scenarios for IGF 2021: A – in the absence of travel restrictions, a full face-to-face event; B – some travel restrictions in place, allowing a limited face-to-face event and considerable online participation; C – no possibility for a face-to-face event, calling for a fully online IGF.
- As the planning for IGF 2021 proceeds, the focus will be on scenario A, but in such a way that a shifting to scenarios B or C will be easy to manage.
- It is proposed that the IGF 2021 process include two components:
 - A **preparatory phase** (between June and November) which includes build-up sessions on the IGF 2021's main focus areas, development of the intersessional work, and a series of capacity development activities. This phase is to be kept light, with a few sessions that are well organised and inclusive, while also factoring in the fact that the IGF 2021 host country will not be able to offer financial support.
 - The **16th IGF meeting** (6–10 December), to be held in a hybrid format, maximising online participation.



[IGF 2021 hybrid process implementation](#) | Proposal for MAG consideration

12. During the discussions, MAG members raised the following main points:

- Some concerns were raised that scenario A might not be realistic, especially as the availability of vaccines varies around the world and many employers are not allowing staff to travel in 2021. In response, it was noted that the proposal is structured in such a way that if scenario A does not materialise, the planning for scenarios B or C will not require the MAG to go back to the drawing board and restart from zero.
- Regarding the working hours for the December meeting, calls were made to look into how to optimise them in such a way that they consider both local constraints in Katowice and the need to enable as much participation from other time zones as possible. The host country indicated that it might be possible to discuss some changes in the working hours for IGF 2021 in order to accommodate some other time zones, but that further discussion is needed on this issue.
- A call was made to enable transcription and interpretation for the preparatory phase as well, as a way to demonstrate inclusiveness. In response, it was again highlighted that the host country cannot be expected to cover such costs. However, some alternative forms of support could be identified; for instance, if some sessions in the preparatory phase are held on the margins of regional IGFs, they might be able to allocate some resources for transcription.

13. Overall, support was expressed for having a preparatory phase which is relatively light, inclusive, focused on priority themes (as a build-up to the December event), and implemented together with intersessional work streams and NRIs. The main event is to be planned as a hybrid meeting, maximising participation opportunities. The implementation details are to be defined, with input in particular from the MAG Working Group on hybrid meetings (WG-Hybrid) and the host country.

14. Mr. Adam Peake, MAG member, gave a short update on WG-Hybrid and invited MAG members to contribute to the group's work, for instance by sharing examples of good and bad practices in running hybrid events. The group was invited to give an initial report on its work at the upcoming MAG meeting.

15. Action items & next steps

- MAG members to send written comments on the proposal regarding the format and design of IGF 2021.
- WG-Hybrid to make an initial proposal on hybrid elements.
- Comments from MAG members and input from the WG-Hybrid to be integrated into a consolidated proposal.

16. MAG members were invited to keep the host country informed about travel restrictions implemented by their countries, as this will help with the planning for IGF 2021. Providing short monthly updates, for instance, would be welcomed.

17. Concluding the meeting, Ms. Esterhuysen noted that the MAG is getting closer to being able to make a public announcement about the focus and format of IGF 2021, and thanked MAG members for their contribution to finalising the decisions on these elements. The next meeting will be held on 23 March.

Annex I

Meeting agenda and input documents

Agenda

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Updates from the Secretariat – 5 min
3. IGF 2021 focus: issues and themes – 45 min
 - a. Defining thematic tracks
4. IGF 2021 Format – 45 min
 - a. Number of sessions
 - b. Next steps on workshop process
 - c. Guidelines for hybrid meetings: next steps
5. AoB

Input documents

- [Analysis of proposed issues for MAG prioritisation](#)
- [Proposal for a hybrid meeting](#)

Annex II Participants

Last name	First name
MAG Chair	
Esterhuysen	Anriette
IGF 2021 Host Country	
Typiak	Przemysław
MAG members	
Afonso	Carlos Alberto
Alzaki	Hazar
Andriamampionona	Hariniombonana
Astbrink	Gunela
Canales	Maria Paz
Castex	Lucien
Charlton	Paul
Chharia	Rajesh
Chen	Joyce
Choudhury	Amrita
Espinosa	Amado
Fantinati	Mattia
Harsianti	Juliana
Hordyński	Ryszard
Horejsova	Tereza
Karim	Attoumani Mohamed
Khanal	Raj Ananda
Ofianga	Mary Rose

Peake	Adam
Radsch	Courtney
Zambrana	Roberto
Representatives of former IGF host countries	
Gridl	Rudolf
Walpen	Livia
UN DESA	
Kwok	Wai Min
Representatives of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and European Commission	
Frank	Nicola
Other participants	
Amessinou	Kossi
Bou Harb	Zeina
Cassa	Concettina
Degezelle	Wim
Faye	Makane
Ilda	Yoichi
Jallow	Adama
Munyan	Jason
Mustafina	Sabira
Parris	June
Prendergast	Jim
Skwarek	Wiktoria
Suto	Timea
Wagner	Flavio
IGF Secretariat	
Bobo Garcia	Luis

Gengo	Anja
Masango	Chengetai
Teleanu	Sorina