

**IGF 2021
MAG Meeting IX | 4 May 2021**

Summary report

Action items & Next steps

Call for session proposals

- Secretariat to make it clear – in the context of the call for session proposals – that the community can also apply for Day 0 sessions at IGF 2021; a link to the application form for Day 0 sessions to be added to the page for call for session proposals.
- MAG members to share with their communities information about:
 - The [IGF 2021 call for session proposals](#), the [call for IGF Village booths applications](#), and the [remote hubs registration](#)
 - The [IGF 2021 participation poll](#)

Call for remote hub proposals

- A discussion to be held, organised by the Secretariat and involving at least WG-Hybrid, on how the IGF 2021 hubs would function and how they would implement the hybrid elements envisioned for the IGF. Consideration to be given to developing a document that provides guidelines to remote hubs on how to respond to the hybrid nature of IGF 2021.

Workshop evaluation process

- WG-Workshop process to continue work on updating the criteria and form for evaluating workshop proposals, taking into account the specificities of this year's IGF (format, focus, etc.).
- WG-Hybrid and WG-Workshop process to get together and discuss the criteria for evaluating the hybrid elements outlined in the session proposals.

Intersessional activities

- MAG members are encouraged to follow the activities of the various IGF intersessional workstreams (BPFs, PNs, DCs) and consider contributing to them, as appropriate.
- Consultants and MAG members involved in intersessional workstreams to get together and discuss how to distribute information about the activities and meetings of the various streams in a consistent, standardised, and clear manner.
- Secretariat and MAG Chair to meet with, and reach out to, intersessional activities to invite them to, on a voluntary basis, respond to the IGF 2021 main focus areas and cross-cutting issue areas.

MAG working groups

- WG-Outreach to get in touch with the Secretariat and discuss issues related to outreach and promotion for the call for session proposals.
- MAG members are invited to contribute to the work of MAG WGs.

Second Open Consultation and MAG meeting

- The Open Consultations will be held on 21 June, followed by the first day of the MAG meeting on 22 June. The second day of the MAG meeting will be on 30 June, allowing a gap before the MAG makes its final decisions on workshop selection. The IGF calendar is to be updated to reflect these dates.

Other issues

- The IGF calendar available on the IGF website to be constantly updated with information about relevant meetings (of the MAG, MAG WGs, BPFs, PNs, DCs, NRIs).
- ❖ **The current tasks for MAG members (and related documents) are also available in the [MAG dashboard](#).**

1. The ninth virtual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) in the IGF 2021 preparatory cycle was held on 4 May 2021. The meeting was moderated by Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen, MAG Chair.

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

I. Introductions and updates from Host Country and Secretariat

2. The Chair welcomed participants and gave an overview of the meeting's agenda. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was to take stock of the progress made so far in preparing IGF 2021, discuss next steps, and review the intersessional work streams.

3. Mr. Przemek Typiak, Polish government, informed the MAG that the preparations for the Katowice IGF were going ahead as planned. He also thanked MAG members for sharing updates regarding the COVID-19 situation in their countries and regions (e.g. travel restrictions, vaccination) and encouraged them to keep doing this over the upcoming months.

4. Mr. Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat, outlined a series of updates and reminders:

- MAG members can request financial support to cover Internet connection costs for the June MAG meeting; interested MAG members are invited to send an email to the Secretariat with the estimated costs.
- The [IGF 2021 participation poll](#) is still open and the IGF community is invited to indicate whether they plan to travel to Katowice in December. So far there have been some 200 responses, and most respondents indicated that they plan to attend IGF 2021 in person. MAG members are

encouraged to share the poll within their networks; the responses will help both the Secretariat and the Host Country in the planning process.

- [All consultants](#) have been contracted to support IGF 2021 intersessional work.
- With the [call for session proposals](#), the [call for IGF Village booths applications](#), and the [remote hubs registration](#) now launched, MAG members are encouraged to share the calls as wide and as far as possible, and encourage the community to submit their requests as early as possible (as opposed to waiting for the last day before the 26 May deadline).
- Regarding the second Open Consultations and MAG meeting, the following approach will be taken, considering previous discussions and the poll shared with MAG members: the Open Consultations will be held on 21 June, followed by the first day of the MAG meeting on 22 June. The second day of the MAG meeting will be on 30 June, allowing a gap before the MAG makes its final decisions on workshop selection. The IGF calendar is to be updated to reflect these dates.

5. In response to concerns about insufficient clarity regarding Day 0 sessions at IGF 2021, it was agreed that the Secretariat will make it clear – in the context of the call for session proposals – that the community can also apply for this type of sessions. A link to the application form for Day 0 session is to be added to the page for call for session proposals. These are mostly intended to be 1–2h long sessions, but special requests can also be made for sessions of longer duration, and the Secretariat will do its best to accommodate such requests.

II. Debrief and taking stock of what has been achieved so far in 2021

6. Ms. Esterhuysen noted that, despite the challenges met this year (with no face-to-face MAG meeting), significant progress has been made with regard to the IGF 2021 planning process, as the overview below indicates:

- [Nine virtual MAG meetings](#) and around 20 MAG working group meetings were held.
- The [Call to take stock of IGF 2020 and suggest improvements for IGF 2021](#) was open until 20 January. The input is reflected in a [synthesis document](#).
- The [IGF 2021 Call for thematic inputs](#) closed on 31 January. The [list of received input](#) and an [analysis](#) are available.
- An [open consultation on stocktaking input](#) was held on 9 February.
- The [IGF 2021 First Open Consultations and MAG meeting](#) were hosted on 22–24 February.
- A decision was made on the approach to IGF 2021: A ‘hybrid IGF’ – hybrid character for all sessions to maximise inclusivity; a preparatory phase and an annual forum; a goal of having no more than five parallel tracks during the December event.
- A decision was made to allow some types of sessions (e.g. networking sessions and Day 0 events) to be held in languages other than English (building on a recommendation by the MAG Working Group on Language).
- Launch of a new intersessional activity: the [Policy Network on Environment \(PNE\)](#).
- Decisions were made on two Best Practice Forums (BPFs) ([cybersecurity](#) and [gender](#)) and a second [Policy Network on Meaningful Access \(PNMA\)](#), which also includes local content (previously covered by a BPF).

- [Four MAG working groups](#) are active this year: Hybrid meetings (WG-Hybrid); Strategy (WG-Strategy); Outreach and communications (WG-OE); and Workshop process (WG-Workshop process).
- Work was launched on developing a paper on Dynamic Coalitions (DCs).
- A decision was made on an issue-driven approach for IGF 2021 (recommended by WG-Strategy). The MAG identified [main focus areas and cross-cutting areas](#).
- The [IGF 2021 Call for session proposals](#) is open until 26 May.

III. Workshop evaluation process

7. Ms. Esterhuysen reminded MAG members that, by 26 May, the MAG needs to be ready to start evaluating workshop proposals. It is in this context that the WG-Workshop process has been working on preparing the criteria and form for evaluation. Mr. Roberto Zambrana, MAG member, then explained that the WG is in the process of adjusting the evaluation form and criteria considering the specificities of this year's IGF (format, focus, etc.). A document consolidating input received from WG members is to be developed and circulated for further feedback. MAG members were invited to contribute to WG-Workshop; the more they participate in shaping the evaluation process, the easier it will be later on to use the tools developed by the group.

IV. Updates from intersessional workstreams

8. Mr. Wim Degezelle, IGF Secretariat, gave an update on [BPF Cybersecurity](#), which this year will focus on the use of norms to foster trust and security. The BPF has identified three workstreams for the year (two streams focusing on the subject matter and a third one dedicated to outreach): (a) *Norms mapping – Workstream 1* will take a deeper look at the drivers of cyber norms, with the goal to understand what ideas, concerns, incidents and other events have triggered norms, and how existing norms are tied to actual problems; (b) *Norms testing – Workstream 2* will identify significant historical cybersecurity events and discuss if a norm was or would have been successful in mitigating adverse effects; (c) *BPF outreach – Workstream 3* has a supporting role, focusing on identifying and engaging new stakeholders in the BPF, as well as enhancing synergies and cooperation with other IGF initiatives and the IGF programme. The BPF held a kick-off meeting on 29 April and has scheduled four update meetings throughout the year (details are available on the [BPF webpage](#)). Additional calls and discussions will be organised at a workstream level and announced on the [BPF mailing list](#). Moreover, the BPF is forming key groups to work with the workstream leads, and is inviting interested stakeholders to express their interest in contributing to research and drafting activities. A call in this regard will be launched soon and shared with the MAG.

9. Ms. Amrita Choudhury, MAG member, explained that the [BPF on Gender and digital rights](#) will focus on exploring the concept of gendered disinformation, its relation with online gender-based violence and hate speech, and its immediate effects on women's and gender-diverse groups' existence online and their freedom of expression. Mr. Degezelle then presented the BPF's work plan. A pre-kick-off phase – in the first and second weeks of May – will include a consultation on the working definition of gendered disinformation, and will explore community needs and available resources. During the second or third week of May, a BPF kick-off call will be held, to be followed by several expert panel discussions (most likely throughout June). Other work elements will include: a call for inputs (early June), interviews and

additional information and engagement (including outreach to national, regional and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs)) (June – September); and processing and discussing the received input and compiling draft findings (September – October).

10. Ms. Tereza Horejsova, MAG member, informed the MAG that the [PNE](#) held its first meeting and discussed the network's goals to explore a series of issues at the intersection between environment and digitalisation, and to formulate concrete and actionable policy recommendations. The PN also intends to explore cooperation with other initiatives. Collaborative online tools are being used to collect input from members of the network before the next meeting, expected to take place in about two weeks' time. MAG members were invited to consider joining the PNE.

11. Ms. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat, spoke about the [PNMA](#) and explained that several meetings had been held to understand how the previous BPF on Local content and the proposed BPF on sustainable and affordable Internet would be integrated within the PNMA; an agreement has been reached in this regard and this is now reflected in the PNMA description. Work is being done on confirming the composition of the PN's multistakeholder working group, and it is expected that the group's first planning meeting will be held in approximately two weeks' time. A consultant for PNMA has been contracted.

12. Ms. Sorina Teleanu, IGF Secretariat, gave an update on the work carried out within the [Dynamic Coalition Coordination Group \(DCCG\)](#) on developing a DC paper intended to document DCs, their work, and their contribution (current and potential) to the broader IGF processes. The goal is to have the paper finalised by the end of October 2021; before that, a draft version will be made available for public comment. So far, work has been done on drafting the paper's first chapter (an introduction into DCs) and an [online survey](#) was launched to collect input from DCs. By the 2 May deadline, 14 DCs (out of the 22 active coalitions) have responded to the survey. Their responses are now being processed and the resulting analysis will be discussed at the upcoming DCCG call, to be held on 13 or 14 May. Later on, another survey will be launched to collect broader input (from MAG members and the IGF community) regarding DCs and their role within the IGF ecosystem. Mr. Markus Kummer, DCCG co-facilitator, further explained that the work ahead will be more challenging, as the goal is to develop a series of recommendations on how to improve DC work and their integration into the overall IGF processes; input from the MAG and the community will be very important in this regard. Ms. Jutta Croll and Mr. Adam Peake, DCCG co-facilitators, expressed thanks to the DCs which responded to the survey and noted that one of the goals behind the DC paper is to identify ways to strengthen DCs' involvement in the work of the IGF throughout the year.

13. Ms. Gengo gave an update on NRIs. The Secretariat is currently in the process of recognising several new NRIs: a sub-regional IGF for Southeast Asia, and national IGFs for Vietnam and Ethiopia. The gathering of input regarding [NRIs' participation in the IGF 2021](#) meeting is undergoing and the deadline has been extended until 26 May. The input will then be used to identify the topics for NRIs collaborative sessions and the main session; proposals in this regard are expected to be ready before the June MAG meeting. The Secretariat is also looking into how NRIs could be included into the IGF 2021 preparatory phase.

14. Ms. Esterhuysen suggested that the consultants and MAG members involved in intersessional workstreams get together and discuss how to distribute information about the activities and meetings of the various streams in a consistent, standardised, and clear manner. Moreover, it was suggested that the Secretariat and the MAG Chair meet with, and reach out to, intersessional activities to invite them to, on a voluntary basis, respond to the IGF 2021 main focus areas and cross-cutting issue areas. MAG members were encouraged to follow the intersessional work streams and contribute to those they are interested in.

V. Updates from MAG working groups

15. Ms. Horejsova and Mr. Peake gave an update on the work carried out by WG-Hybrid. The group has so far concentrated on providing input for the call for session proposals, with the goal to ensure that the hybrid element of IGF 2021 is clearly communicated. Now the group is looking into collaborating with WG-Workshops to ensure that MAG members have clear criteria to work with when assessing whether the session proposals correspond to the format of the meeting. The WG is also looking into getting in touch with various organisations that have implemented or are planning hybrid meetings (at the national, regional or international levels), to learn from their experiences.

16. During the discussions, a suggestion was made to look at the notion of a hybrid IGF from a macro level, and allow some level of flexibility in whether certain sessions are fully virtual or fully onsite; this, was said, could help ensure that people can participate in a way that is most meaningful to them (as opposed to being very strict with regard to the idea that sessions must combine online and onsite elements). It was agreed that this issue needs to be further discussed, for instance in a joint meeting between WG-Hybrid and WG-Workshop process, so that the two groups can come up with sensitive criteria for evaluating the hybrid elements outlined in the session proposals. Moreover, it was suggested that a discussion is held, organised by the Secretariat and involving at least WG-Hybrid, on how the IGF 2021 hubs would function and how they would implement the hybrid elements envisioned for the IGF. Consideration is to be given to developing a document that provides guidelines to remote hubs on how to respond to the hybrid nature of IGF 2021.

17. Ms. Livia Walpen, Swiss governments (former IGF Host Country), spoke about WG-Strategy, which is now in the process of discussing what type of activities to undertake this year. The group is developing a questionnaire to collect views from MAG members in this regard. The WG is meeting every two weeks. Ms. Esterhuysen added that there is an issue she would like to bring to the group's attention at its next meeting: ensuring that the IGF is better connected with global processes and debates such as the Science, Technology and Innovation Forum and the discussions on the implementation of the Roadmap for digital cooperation.

18. WG-Outreach did not have an update to share. The group was encouraged to get in touch with the Secretariat and discuss issues related to outreach and promotion for the calls for session proposals.

VI. AoB

19. During the AOB section of the meeting, several additional points were raised:

- A suggestion was made to further look into language diversity issues, to enable more types of IGF activities to be held in languages other than English, while being mindful of the fact that significant resources would be needed in this regard.
- The former WG-Languages has worked on a document with suggestions on how to potentially integrate language diversity principles into the work of the WG-Outreach.
- Work is being carried out on preparing the IGF 2021 parliamentary track in an open and inclusive manner.
- A call was reiterated for the IGF calendar to include information on all meetings being held in the IGF context (e.g. meetings of the MAG and of intersessional work streams).

20. The next MAG meeting will be held on 18 May, from 20:00 UTC.

Annex I

Meeting agenda

Agenda

1. Welcome from the Chair
2. Updates from Host Country
3. Updates from the Secretariat
4. Debrief and taking stock of what we have achieved so far in 2021
5. Workshop evaluation process (WG-WSP to brief)
6. Updates from intersessional workstreams
7. Report back on the DC Survey
8. Updates from MAG working groups
9. AoB

Annex II Participants

Last name	First name
MAG Chair	
Esterhuysen	Anriette
IGF 2021 Host Country	
Typiak	Przemysław
MAG members	
Andriamampionona	Hariniombonana
Afonso	Carlos Alberto
Attoumani	Karim
Canales	Maria Paz
Castex	Lucien
Chair	Chenai
Chalmers	Susan
Charlton	Paul
Chen	Joyce
Chharia	Rajesh
Choudhury	Amrita
Espinosa	Amado
Fantinati	Mattia
Horejsova	Tereza
Peake	Adam
Radsch	Courtney
Roach	Carol
Zambrana	Roberto

Representatives of former and future IGF Host Countries	
Iida	Yoichi
Walpen	Livia
Wildner	Heiko
Representatives of intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and European Commission	
Grau	Velimira
Other participants	
Amessinou	Kossi
Carvell	Mark
Cassa	Concettina
Cohen	Frederic
Croll	Jutta
Faith	Afia
Goulden	Anna
Hickson	Nigel
Kenneth	Merrill
Kummer	Markus
Merrill	Kenneth
Munyan	Jason
Mustafina	Sabira
Parris	June
Skwarek	Wiktor
Tungali	Arsene
Wagner	Flavio
Wallis	Ben
IGF Secretariat	
Bobo Garcia	Luis

Degezelle	Wim
Gengo	Anja
Masango	Chengetai
Teleanu	Sorina