2018 IGF WG: Fundraising (WG-FUN)

Background:

The purpose, expected work programme and associated budget of the IGF is well captured in the United Nations Trust Fund Project Document Internet Governance Forum (Phase III). For ease, key paragraphs are captured below.

> "The Internet Governance Forum is one of the most significant outcomes of the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), which was held in two phases in Geneva, 2003, and in Tunis, 2005. The IGF mandate stems from a request in paragraph 67 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, for the Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene a new forum for multistakeholder Internet policy dialogue. A Secretariat was established in 2006 and related Trust Fund was set up under the responsibility of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), to provide a support structure for the IGF including the preparation of its yearly meetings. **The Secretariat, which is located at the United Nations Office of Geneva (UNOG) is funded through extra-budgetary contributions from representatives in all stakeholder groups.**
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> The initial mandate was for five years, from 2006 to 2010. Recognizing the importance of the Forum to fostering the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet, as well as its role in building partnerships among different stakeholders, the United Nations General Assembly decided to renew the mandate of the IGF under the patronage of the Secretary-General for a further five years, from 2011 to 2015 (resolution 65/141 of 20 December 2010). In December 2015, in the framework of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) high level meeting on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS, the IGF Mandate was extended for a further ten years.
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> The purpose of this project document is to continue to support the implementation of the mandate as set out in paragraphs 72 to 80 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. The project document will also help facilitate continued improvements to the IGF, including working modalities and increasing participation from developing countries and enhanced linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's), in line with the resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 16 December 2015 (A/70/125). The project document describes the work programme and activities to be undertaken by the Secretariat effective 1 January 2017, for the remainder of the 10-year mandate (2016 to 2025) with the commencement of the next 10 year cycle of the IGF mandate."

The level of program activity and specificity contained in the IGF Project Document
Is expected to be of significant help attracting additional funders.

How is the IGF funded?

> "The Internet Governance Forum Secretariat is funded through donations from various stakeholder groups. While host countries bear the majority of the costs associated with holding the annual IGF meeting, the IGF Secretariat's activities are funded through extra-budgetary contributions paid into a multi-donor Trust Fund administered by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). All contributions are administered and accounted for in accordance with United Nations Financial Rules and Regulations and other applicable directives, procedures and practices. The IGF project's expenditures are contained in the biennial Financial Report and audited Financial Statements of the United Nations. Contributions from all stakeholders are welcome, including in-kind donations."

Additional information (financial statements, presentations, pledge documents, etc,) are available at the link above.

2017 Contributions by Stakeholder Group – Total: $755K USD

Technical Community:	43%
Government:	28%
Private Sector:	21%
Multistakeholder Initiative (IGFSA):	8%

IGF Project Document Budget

The approved IGF Project Document calls for **tripling** the resources and budget from the current annual expense running rate of approx. $900K USD to approx. $2.8M USD. The current annual running rate for financial contributions is $755K USD meaning at current expense and contribution levels the IGF needs to use its reserves to fund current operations. And, very importantly, this low level of financial support leaves the IGF Secretariat severely under resourced against the expectations of its stakeholders.

Objectives/Goals:

The goal of this Fundraising activity is to secure resources to support the budget in the Project Document of approx. $2.8M/year. The preference is for financial commitments (preferably multi-year), but the strategy may also include project partnerships, secondments, internships, in-kind donations, additional volunteer efforts, etc.

Expected Output:

Obtain a set of fundraising activities to fully meet the IGF Project Document Budget.

Critical Components of Success:

The cornerstone of any fundraising strategy for the IGF is based on the contributions of the IGF overall. In turn, the success of the IGF is based on continuing improvements, greater visibility of the IGF and its activities, and increased impact. To accomplish this, improvements must be made in programme related practices and in supporting operational processes. There are several Working Groups (WGs) proposed that would help advance these areas if approved by the MAG, specifically the WG - IGF Improvements (WG-IMP), WG – Multiyear Strategic Work Programme (WG-MWP).

Intersessional activities are incredibly important to the success of the IGF. They are central to creating IGF "outputs" (one of the biggest areas cited as needing improvement) and they complement and strengthen the IGF Annual Meeting. In 2017 there were the following intersessional activities:

     1- a major policy program: [Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s) (CENB)](#)
     2- [Best Practice Forums (BPFs)](#)
     3- [Dynamic Coalitions (DCs)](#)

Further, there is a complementary and extensive network of National, Sub-Regional, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) which inform the global IGF and its activities, as well as carry and extend the work of the global IGF to the local level. While NRIs are organic and independent in their organization, we have a shared objective as all NRIs must adhere to the core values and principles of the IGF. They are an essential part of the success of the IGF, and have doubled in number from over 2 years ago. The current number of NRIs is just over 100.

We need to continue extending the reach and impact of all the intersessional activities, the National, Sub-Regional, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs), as well as the Annual IGF Meeting.

One of the most critical components of success is the MAG itself. The MAG can play an invaluable role in outreach and in generating contacts or new leads. The [MAG Terms of Reference](#) list the following as a responsibility of MAG members: "Explore new fundraising opportunities for contributions to the IGF trust fund;"

Implementation Plan:

Each fundraising activity will have a designated leader, a timetable and implementation plan.

Timeframe:

Some targeted fundraising activities are already underway, but more needs to be done – as a priority. A draft fundraising plan to be shared with the MAG by the end of September.

Membership:

This group will be open to MAG members and other members of the IGF community. The group needs to include active participants from all stakeholder groups.

The WG will be co-chaired by the MAG Chair and at least one individual from another stakeholder group.

Relationship to other IGF efforts:

Will work synergistically with all IGF efforts in order to feature all the IGF activities and maximize interest and prospects.

Modalities:

- Will seek feedback from the full MAG on fundraising activities, as well as seek MAG members support in reaching out to potential contributors
- WG will be fully transparent and mailing lists/face-to-face and virtual meetings will be open to all MAG members.
- Proceedings will be publically available on the IGF website
- Will provide periodic updates to the full MAG
- Will work to ensure resource requirements are understood and have support from all necessary parties