

United Nations Nations Unies

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Dear Colleagues,

As you commence the First Open Consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting, I would like to extend my congratulations once again on your appointment and reiterate that the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), as entrusted by the Secretary-General, will continue providing you all necessary support as you start the preparations for the 16th meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

I also take this opportunity to thank the continuing members of the MAG as well as the former MAG members for your ongoing commitment to the IGF and the values it embodies. We hope to continue counting on your support for the various workstreams of the IGF as we make renewed efforts to fulfil the IGF's mandate.

Indeed, it is very much due to your guidance that the 2020 virtual IGF has achieved its objectives, despite the challenging circumstances arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. The successful outcomes of the 2020 virtual IGF have now been assembled in its summary report and I would like to encourage you to disseminate it broadly.

As the international community also tackles the complex and multi-faceted challenges presented by the digital transformation, including its opportunities and risks, the IGF is expected to play a growing role in advancing an open, affordable, accessible, inclusive, transparent and universal Internet.

In this regard, I hope the MAG will continue the ongoing efforts to strengthen the IGF. These include, but are not limited to the following:

- Elaborating and adopting a focused, strategic programme with clear action-oriented outputs while avoiding duplication of activities;
- Strengthening the intersessional activities and promoting coherence and synergies between MAG's activities and other relevant processes and initiatives;

Members of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group

- Strengthening the cooperation of the IGF with other institutions – to this end UN DESA is committed to do its share of work for deepening the linkages of the IGF with other UN agencies and programmes;
- Stepping up our joints efforts in supporting active engagement of high-level stakeholders and parliamentarians, as well as those not traditionally present in the IGF discourse;
- Developing effective online mechanisms to ensure those who cannot travel to Katowice can still effectively participate remotely;
- Strengthening the ongoing cooperation between the Host country – the Polish Government – the MAG and the United Nations, to ensure an efficient organization of the 2021 IGF and its successful outcomes;
- Ensuring continuous and inclusive consultations and inputs from all stakeholders from all parts of the world.

Furthermore, I encourage the MAG to work with UN DESA to find a host for the 2024 IGF, which remains open, and to mobilize funding in support of the IGF’s critical functions and the enhanced participation from the Global South.

In closing, I wish to reiterate our deep appreciation for the effective and the passionate leadership of the MAG Chair Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen, and the committed efforts of all of you as MAG Members. As I highlighted in my letter to the MAG of 18 June 2020, by working together, we will meet the increased expectations to build the IGF as a more effective, relevant and inclusive platform to inform and advise global, regional and national polices on Internet governance.

Under the personal leadership and guidance of the Secretary-General, let us further strengthen our collaboration to advance the implementation of the Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and to enhance the broader impact of the IGF.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,



LIU Zhenmin
Under-Secretary-General