



**2nd IGF Open Consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting  
12-14 June 2017  
Headquarters of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Geneva,  
Switzerland**

**Summary Report**

1. The [2nd Open Consultations and MAG Meeting](#) of the 2017 IGF preparatory cycle took place from 12 to 14 June 2017 at the headquarters of the ITU in Geneva, Switzerland. A virtual meeting platform (Adobe Connect), live transcription and simultaneous webcasting were made available to both in-room and online participants. A new electronic queuing system to take the floor, developed by the IGF Secretariat, was also in place and applied equally to in-room and online participants. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Lynn St. Amour, with Ambassador Thomas Schneider, Vice-Director of the Federal Office of Communications of Switzerland, co-chairing as representative of the IGF 2017 Host Country. Mr. Chengetai Masango represented the Secretariat.
2. The [agenda](#) for the three-day meeting focused on advancing preparations for the [2017 IGF](#), in particular reviewing and making a final selection of [workshop proposals](#) for the programme, reviewing [main session proposals](#) and discussing developments in the work by [intersessional groups](#) and [IGF National and Regional Initiatives \(NRIs\)](#). [Transcripts and archived webcasts](#) from the three days of proceedings can be accessed via the IGF website and [IGF YouTube channel](#).
3. The first 'Open Consultations' day of the meeting opened with remarks from the MAG Chair. Ms. St. Amour was followed by Mr. Houlin Zhao, Secretary-General of the ITU, who in his welcome to the MAG highlighted the special relationship between the ITU and IGF and the significance of the IGF annual meeting returning to Geneva. Mr. Zhao touched on the [WSIS Forum](#) happening in parallel to the MAG meeting, as well as the ITU's own efforts to address emerging Internet governance issues, most notably artificial intelligence, with the ITU having just concluded a week-long 'A.I. for Good' summit. Ambassador Schneider briefed participants on the state of IGF preparations from the host country side, noting Swiss authorities have been very active in their outreach to Governments, intergovernmental organizations and other stakeholders within 'International Geneva'. The newly-launched [IGF 2017 host country website](#) was also presented. Mr. Michael Møller, Director-General of the UN Office at Geneva (UNOG), delivered the final welcoming remarks, which emphasized the need for deeper and more collaborative discussions on Internet as a critical resource and driver of development. Mr. Møller expressed that the IGF's multistakeholder approach to global Internet governance, in which all views are represented, must be nurtured and is as critical as ever in light of today's "global trust deficit".
4. The IGF Secretariat gave a brief programming overview, highlighting [workshop proposals received](#) as well as its [preliminary analysis](#) of the proposals. As an indicator that interest in the IGF remains strong, the Secretariat reported it

had received the highest number of proposals in its history, at 268. The MAG has also rated many proposals highly, which may reflect that the quality of submissions has improved. The Secretariat explained it had 'cut off' the proposals at the 72 top-graded ones (or with a score of 4.04 or above) on the basis of space in the programme, with up to 80 slots available, and that the rest of these would be filled through the MAG's deliberations. It was also noted in this regard that the final selection should strive to be narrow, so as to leave sufficient programming time for increased open forum and 'new format' sessions. Thematic tagging done by proposers revealed that cybersecurity, gender issues, human rights and Internet for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) continue to be popular topics, with some new tags such as 'Artificial Intelligence' and 'Capacity Building' also proving popular. Regional distribution, as well as the tags selected, remained roughly the same among top-graded proposals as in the overall submissions pool.

5. A quick review was then done of all [main session proposals](#) put forward by the MAG, including those with an intersessional or NRI focus. Some in the room noted positively that the titles for the sessions reflected new and more cutting-edge issues. It was further mentioned that [calls for open forums, Day 0 and Dynamic Coalition \(DC\) sessions](#) were still open, until 29 June and 21 July.

6. The 2017 Best Practice Forums (BPFs) on Cybersecurity, Gender & Access, and Local Content each gave an update on the progress of their work, which generally focused on launching the calls for or gathering inputs among their contributors. It was said that the third phase of the ['Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion\(s\)' initiative \(CENB III\)](#) would focus on specific, key SDGs this year. The synchronicity with, and the possibility of feeding into, the IGF main sessions was referenced by BPF and CENB facilitators. The Secretariat focal point for the NRIs also [briefed the MAG](#), reporting on the incredible growth of the NRIs network and joint projects by the initiatives, such as an ['NRIs Toolkit'](#) which has been translated into several languages. The briefing was followed by updates given by individual NRI representatives, including those of Kenya, Nigeria and Colombia, as well as of the Asia Pacific, Latin American and Arab regional IGFs.

7. A short briefing was given on [IGF DCs](#) and on the progress of their coordinated work to date. As reported in a ['Briefing Doc'](#) earlier shared with the MAG, DCs continue to meet monthly and have harmonized several of their procedures in a collaborative, bottom-up way. They maintain their independence and participate in various fora outside the IGF, as well as produce outputs beyond those agreed on annually in coordinated meetings. DCs have also decided to co-organize another main session this year. The [MAG working groups](#) chartered for 2017 – on Communication and Outreach, IGF Improvements, Multiyear Strategic Work Programme, New Session Formats and Workshop Review and Evaluation – further gave updates on their activities. Although not formally a working group, an action-oriented group on remote participation has been formed and will work closely with the IGF Secretariat leading up to the annual meeting to ensure online participation options are fully maximized.

8. The MAG discussed at some length how to improve participation by Governments and the private sector at IGF 2017. It was said by many that Internet governance issues carry with them a jargon that can be difficult for

some stakeholders to understand, that the costs of attending an IGF, even for private sector participants, could be prohibitive, and also that the strong connection between Internet and development needed to be made clearer. Swiss host country representatives shared that they are formatting high-level events, notably an IGF opening and main session, so as to be more compelling and to have broader appeal, both for the speakers in the sessions and the IGF's participants. It was also mentioned that the President of Switzerland and the UN Secretary-General would be invited as speakers. Other proposed main sessions this year will cover issues that are more current and topical, which was said to be a positive step for increasing the participation of all stakeholders.

9. The community heard interventions from a number of organizations and institutions on their Internet governance-related agendas. Among them were the Council of Europe, ICANN, the Federal Telecommunications Institute of Mexico, the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), the University of Pennsylvania, Missions Publiques, and new initiatives such as 'Project Connect', a collaboration between UNICEF and Oneweb, Internet Sans Frontières, and a Latin American gender and cybsersecurity forum. Finally, Microsoft discussed its proposal for a 'Digital Geneva Convention' and the Diplo Foundation briefed on its 'Art@IGF' digital art project.

10. The MAG meeting formally opened on the morning of Day 2 and was open to observers. The second day focused exclusively on workshop selections. The [Secretariat's analysis of MAG evaluations](#) served as a starting point and basis for the discussions, with the MAG agreeing to proceed to consideration of proposals which were felt to be under-represented among the top 72 accepted into the programme. Members noted that, in particular, proposals from Governments, IGOs and the private sector seemed to be insufficient, as well as from Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, and below expectations for the Asia Pacific region. Some themes, such as IPV6, it was also said should be better represented. While it was mentioned that the source of imbalance was not necessarily the [evaluation process](#), as overall proposals reflected similar stakeholder, regional and thematic breakdowns, and the process has much improved this year, it was agreed members should briefly re-examine the submissions and pick out worthy proposals as so-called 'wild cards' for reconsideration by the MAG. Some of these had already been identified in the week leading up to the meeting. It was also said a closer analysis next year could take into account not just the regional and stakeholder origins of the proposers but also of the proposals' constituent speakers.

11. Day 3 of the meeting, also open to observers, marked the finalization of the MAG's workshop discussions. Re-examining the submissions pool, an additional eight proposals were accepted into the programme, among them a number from MENA, the Asia Pacific region, including one from a Small Island Developing State (SID), and from Government stakeholders. Another two were waitlisted. 23 were categorized as 'conditionally accepted', with several diverse conditions identified by MAG members as necessary for the proposals to meet. These frequently included the need to diversify speakers, in terms of gender, stakeholder group and region, to make formats more interactive, and in some cases to render an interesting topic clearer. Among the conditionally accepted

were some workshops designated for mergers. Conditionally accepted proposals at times had specific MAG members as champions or supporters, and the members in question agreed to advise the respective proposers on the changes to be made. The proposers in this category will be informed of this through individual emails with details on the circumstances of the MAG's evaluation. The [selection results](#) in full have been published on the IGF's website.

12. During the afternoon of Day 3, Host Country opening and ceremonial plans were discussed. Swiss Government representatives stressed that the opening session would not be a series of speeches as in previous years, which have tended to run overtime and did not fully engage participants. They have suggested instead a thematic discussion among high-level speakers, tentatively titled, 'What rules for our global digital polity?' This would be followed on the second day of the IGF meeting with another high-level thematic session on the 'impact of digitization on politics, public trust and democracy'. These proposals found broad support among MAG members, as thoughtful efforts to raise the profile of the IGF. Swiss Government representatives also assured that the high-level sessions would be fully representative and include experts and speakers from civil society. Also departing from cases in previous years, these high-level sessions would not be closed-door and would take place as part of the regular programme (as opposed to on Day 0), when all IGF participants can attend.

13. Day 3 of the meeting ended with an overview of the [main session proposals](#) under consideration by the MAG. There were seven thematic proposals, including on cybersecurity, gender, data, digitization of work, and international cooperation, as well as two put forward by NRIs and DCs respectively. These were examined against a '[main sessions grid](#)' identifying the approximate number of slots. Members made several suggestions in order to fit the main sessions to the grid – notably to merge those with similar themes as well as to shorten requested durations.

14. The MAG meeting concluded with consensus to take forward in virtual meetings the selection of main sessions. There had also been a brief discussion on the possibility of dedicating space on each day of the programme to NRI-focused sessions, but this had not been fully explored and was inconclusive. It was agreed that that discussion would also take place in virtual meetings, which will be held at regular intervals leading into the IGF.

## List of Participants

<b>Chair</b>	
Ms. Lynn St. Amour	Internet Matters
<b>Host Country Co-Chair</b>	
Mr. Thomas Schneider	Ambassador, Vice-Director, Federal Office of Communications of Switzerland
<b>MAG Members</b>	
Ms. Abdulla, Rasha	Associate Professor at the American University in Cairo
Mr. Bello, Pablo	Secretary General, Association of Inter American Telecom Enterprises (ASIET)
Ms. Bou Harb, Zeina	OGERO Telecom, Ministry of Telecommunications, Lebanon
Mr. Casasbuenas, Julián	Director, Colnodo
Mr. Donkor, Wisdom	Information Technology Manager, Technical Lead for Ghana Open Data Initiative, National Information Technology Agency
Mr. Fernández González, Juan Alfonso	Advisor, Ministry of Communications, Cuba
Ms. Franz, Liesyl	Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of the Coordinator for Cyber Issues at the Department of State, USA
Ms. Gatto, Raquel	Regional Policy Advisor, ISOC
Mr. Ilishebo, Michael	Officer, Zambia Police Service
Mr. Ji, Haojun	Counsellor, Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Kee Jac sm	Association for Progressive Communications
Shita Laksmi	Universitas Multimedia Nusantara
Mr. Lo, Mamadou	Ministry of Communication and Technology, Indonesia
Mr. Lee, Xiaodong	Chief Executive Officer, China Internet Network Information Center (CNNIC)
Mr. Ndicho Bambo, Samuel	Foreign Service Officer, Ministry of External Relations, Cameroon
Ms. Mahmutovic, Aida	Programme Manager, Oneworld - Platform for Southeast Europe (OWPSEE) Foundation
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Ms. Miller, Cheryl Ann	Director of International Public Policy and Regulatory Affairs, Verizon
Mr. Mochizuki, Kenta	Lawyer, Yahoo Japan Corporation
Ms. Nguyen, Carolyn	Director, Technology Policy, Microsoft Corporation
Mr. Olugbile, Segun	CEO, Continental Project Affairs Associates

Mr. Pérez Galindo, Rafael	Head of Unit, Directorate for Information Society Services, Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism, Spain
Mr. Rhijn van, Arnold	Senior Policy Advisor/Project Manager, Telecommunications Market Directorate, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Netherlands
Mr. Sabir, Sumon Ahmed	Chief Strategy Officer at Fiber@Home Limited
Mr. Szubert, Krzysztof	Strategic Advisor, Ministry of Digital Affairs
Ms. Tamanikaiwaimaro, Salanieta	President, South Pacific Computer Society
Ms. Thomas Raynaud, Elizabeth	Senior Policy Executive, Digital Economy and Project Director at International Chamber of Commerce (ICC)
Mr. Valdez, German	Executive Secretary, Number Resource Organisation
Mr. Wagner, Flávio	Board Member, Brazilian Internet Steering Committee (CGI.br)
<b>Former IGF Host Country Representatives</b>	
Ms. Arida, Christine	Director of Telecom Services and Planning Division, National Telecom Regulatory Authority, Egypt
Mr. da Fonseca, Carlos	Head, Division for the Information Society, Government of Brazil
Mr. Sardjoeni, Moedjiono	National ICT Council Executive Team Member, Indonesia
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Mr. Hibbard, Lee	Council of Europe
Ms. Lopatina, Elenea	Council of Europe
Ms. Scialpi, Valentina	European Commission
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Mr. Peter Micek	Access Now
Mr. Alyse Kathryn Rankin	Access Now
Mr. Peter Olugbeng Adeleye	African Centre for Citizens Orientation

Ms. Fabienne FOSSUO KENGNE	CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEREST LAW
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Ms. Diana Haidee Gomez Gallardo	Federal Telecommunications Institute of Mexico
Mr. Nigel Hickson	ICANN
Mr. Justin Caso	IEEE
Ms. Karen McCabe	IEEE
Mr. Miguel Ruiz	ISOC
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Ms. Kaspar, Lea	Programme Lead, Global Partners Digital
Mr. Ho Chi Ping, Patrick	Deputy Chairman and Secretary-General at China Energy Fund Committee
Mr. Kenyanito, Ephraim Percy	Digital Program Officer, Article 19 Eastern Africa
Mr. Mansoor Ansari, Omar	President, TechNation Afghanistan
Mr. Mohammed, Muataz	Head of Monitoring and Response, Sudan Computer and Emergency Response Team
Ms. Paque, Virginia (Ginger)	DiploFoundation
Mr. Wanawit, Akhuputra	Deputy Executive Director, Electronic Transactions Development Agency, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology, Thailand
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Ms. Sorina Teleanu	DiploFoundation
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