Proposal for IGF 2019 intersessional pilot: to ensure swifter implementation of Internet standards and protocols

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For years, the security of the Internet in combination with the safety of all end-users has been a high priority topic on the agenda of the IGF. This proposal presents the MAG the option for an intersessional pilot for 2019 that takes on this topic from diverse angles, serving several purposes that could strengthen cooperation within the IGF. The proposal takes into account the discussions within the MAG working group on Multiyear Strategic Work Program recently presented to the MAG.

Through the years, the technical community has presented industry and manufacturers with solutions that, at a minimum when implemented, can significantly help to secure their products and services and help to shield all users, i.e. consumers, organisations, businesses, etc., from harm, misuse and crime. Examples are e.g. DNSSEC, DMARC, the OWASP top 10, anti-spam and spoofing measures, anti-routing hijack measures, etc. For some reason implementation of these standards and protocols is slow. Years and even decades are no exception. The Internet of Things makes this topic even more urgent. At the same time the stakeholders that could assist in speeding implementation up seem to be unaware of the existence of these solutions. Politicians are reluctant to get involved: they lack the technical knowledge or do not see the importance of the issues. A major incident might put end users / consumers seriously at risk and in parallel initiate calls for regulation. Without basic knowledge, such regulation can end up being ineffective or unnecessary over-regulation.

In workshop #40, 2018 on Internet mega-trends' impact on the Internet's architecture the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) reached out to all other stakeholders by presenting on its work by not only showing the implications of the trends for the IETF's work but also the trends' implications for other stakeholders. The meeting led to two, in this context, relevant, tangible outcomes. Two politicians offered to work with IETF to reach out to colleague politicians at national, regional and global level while IETF realised it had never engaged with consumer organisations.

This pilot proposes to look into the implementation of Internet standards and protocols from three angles:

1) Identification of reasons for the slow implementation of Internet standards and protocols, esp. in regard of safety and security;

2) Engagement of and between different stakeholders and bring them into this discussion and thus to the IGF itself, among them politicians, policy makers, industry representatives, the technical community, consumer and child welfare organisations;
3) The formulation of practical recommendations for speedy implementation.

The pilot foresees intersessional work so that information is provided to and by all stakeholders leading up to a report for the MAG, the IGF community and far beyond. It foresees in the outreach to the Dutch Parliament, the European Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union and to consumer organisations. These experiences will be shared for others to use in their respective countries and regions. Thematically it will be necessary to limit the work to designated topics, by focusing on one Internet protocol, e.g. route hijacking and one generic topic, e.g. IoT security. In a session at the IGF in Berlin the input and conclusions are finalised. A report will be presented to the incoming MAG in the weeks after Berlin for publication. Combining the IGF experience and network of Wout de Natris with the political experience and network of Lousewies van der Laan, will ensure, maximum engagement of all relevant stakeholders.

The proposers of this pilot expect to have a basis of funding in place to start the work on this pilot and will work on enhancing this basis after the MAG agreed to this pilot proposal. The work in this pilot can be carried out in a budget and workload neutral way to the IGF Secretariat, with the exception of potential use of the Webex infrastructure and assistance in reach out to NRIs, etc.

We kindly ask the MAG to consider the following:

- For the pilot to take place within the context of the IGF;
- With, if and where necessary, assistance by MAG members in reaching out to respective stakeholder communities;
- An opportunity at the IGF in Berlin to present the results and finalise the findings;
- A timely decision, creating a timespan allowing for the work to be carried out successfully and;
- To publish the report within the IGF context.

Should you wish more information, we are of course available to provide it.