Informal Meeting of the IGF Best Practice Forum (BPF): Cybersecurity

Summary Report

17 January 2017

1. An informal meeting of the IGF Best Practice Forum (BPF) on cybersecurity was held on 17 January 2017. The meeting was facilitated by Markus Kummer and moderated by Maarten Van Horenbeeck. The primary purpose of the call was to take stock of the 2016 BPF process, including the substantive session[1] of the BPF held during the 11th IGF annual meeting on 8 December in Jalisco, Guadalajara, Mexico. The informal meeting also aimed to look ahead to possible work for the BPF to carry out in 2017, subject to the continuation of the BPF. While the BPF was conceived as a multi-year project, it was noted that the 2017 IGF MAG, once constituted, would make a decision on the continuation of the BPF cybersecurity work at its first face-to-face meeting of 2017, sometime in early March.

2. A recording of the meeting can be accessed here (***PASSWORD: IGF2017***):

   Streaming recording link:
   https://intgovforum.webex.com/intgovforum/ldr.php?RCID=12265a4d1b149868d33249614f1e894f
   Download recording link:
   https://intgovforum.webex.com/intgovforum/lsr.php?RCID=59d4596ed4877a728155318910dbbc7a

3. It was suggested that participants of the BPF could come up with some concrete suggestions and ideas for the 2017 work to put forward to the consideration of the MAG. It was said that the 2017 work could be more closely linked with other IGF initiatives such as work of the National and Regional IGFs; IGF Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s); IGF Dynamic Coalitions, etc. It was also suggested that the 2017 work could also be linked with the 2017 meeting/work of the UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE)[2] on Cybersecurity.

4. One potential way forward for the work that was suggested was to engage with National and Regional IGFs (NRIs) to learn about their concerns/issues related to cybersecurity. The work of IGF Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion(s) – Phase II, particularly the work focused on the SDGs, could also be

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[1] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2016-day-3-room-9-bpf-on-cybersecurity

[2] https://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/informationsecurity/

examined. The work could see how cybersecurity best practices could help achieve each of the SDGs. This could also help with a reading of the outcomes of the UN GGE by the BPF, and a multistakeholder perspective of the IGF could be useful.

5. There was a short summary of the BPF pre-event – 'Creating Spaces for Multistakeholder Dialogue in Cybersecurity Processes'[3] - that took place on 5 December. It was noted that during this meeting and throughout the week of the IGF, many stakeholders noticed and mentioned the wide array of different cybersecurity initiatives and processes that existed, all with differing levels of participation and degrees of multistakeholder participation opportunities. It was noted that the BPF work and platform in 2016 was useful in its ability to bring together the various cybersecurity processes and initiatives.

6. In regards to engaging with the GGE, it was noted that perhaps some individual members of the GGE might be able to engage with the IGF, to report out on the findings of the GGE work and to engage with the broader multistakeholder IG community.

7. The International One Conference[4] 2017, set to take place on 16 and 17 May 2017 in the Hague, the Netherlands, was mentioned as a possible conference for the BPF to engage with. The GCCS[5] conference in Hyderabad, India later in the year was also noted as a potential opportunity for the BPF to present its work and engage with that community. It was also noted that the BPF should continue to engage with the work of the Freedom Online Coalition[6] (FOC) on an ongoing basis.

8. There was agreement that moving forward, the BPF should both aim to produce tangible outputs and also provide a broad multistakeholder platform (comparative advantage unique to the IGF) for engagement which increases existing and builds new synergies amongst other cybersecurity initiatives and processes. There was also agreement that the BPF should continue to work towards engaging with the IGF NRIs in meaningful ways. There was a suggestion that a virtual meeting could be held between the BPF Cybersecurity group and the NRIs to support this work.

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[3] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2016-day-0-room-10-bpf-on-cybersecurity-creating-spaces-for-multistakeholder-dialogue-in

[4] https://www.ncsc.nl/english/conference

[5] https://www.thegfce.com/news/news/2016/12/20/india-host-of-fifth-gccs

[6] https://www.freedomonlinecoalition.com