

Contributions from CGI.br (Brazilian Internet Steering Committee) to the follow-up process regarding Recommendations 5A/B of the Report of the UN High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation

1. IGF MANDATE

Background and motivation

Regarding the new roles that are associated to the IGF in the IGF Plus model, we consider that going beyond the original IGF mandate is not a problem, given that the development of both technology and society are imperatives for the revision and evolution of governance models. This evolution is actually in line with paragraph 73b of the Tunis Agenda, which subjects the IGF structure to periodic review. If it has been identified that some frameworks are obsolete or pending improvements, this issue must be taken into account accordingly, so as to examine it carefully and make the proper improvements to the model. It is thus fair and reasonable to consider a change on the IGF mandate, or even a more explicit implementation of practices already envisaged by the Tunis Agenda. As an example, and even though many stakeholders prefer that the IGF remains only a space for dialogue and is not disturbed by negotiation of texts, the IGF mandate already indicates that it could make recommendations, where appropriate, but this has never been put forward in practice. A revision of the mandate may be required so as to bring concrete advancements in this direction. Anyway, the UN will need to modify the language of the IGF mandate, so as to accommodate the new roles that are envisaged for all the structures that come together with the IGF Plus model (Cooperation Accelerator, Policy Incubator, Observatory and Help Desk), even if they are not created and the MAG itself takes those responsibilities.

Actionable Items

We propose that the UN appoints a multistakeholder Working Group that, in a short time frame, but after adequate public consultation, proposes a revision of the IGF mandate.

We propose that, after adequate multistakeholder discussion and deliberation, the UN approves a new IGF mandate, in line with the new roles that have been proposed for the IGF in the IGF Plus model.

2. FUNDING

Background and motivation

Funding is an essential problem for the fulfillment and stability of the IGF mandate. Funding will become even more critical in the IGF Plus model, because of the additional roles that will be associated to the IGF, even if the new structures are not created (Cooperation Accelerator, Policy Incubator, Observatory and Help Desk). A mixed approach to funding will be probably more effective, putting together different sources to build a structure that could bring predictability for the IGF Plus activities. First of all, it is necessary to set permanent funds coming from the UN and try to leverage this source.

Additionally, new sources of dedicated and permanent funding, especially in partnership with governments and international organizations, should be prospected. While the permanent activities have to be ensured by regular funding sources, other special projects and tracks may depend on additional funding coming from a reinforced Trust Fund. A dedicated and professional fundraising structure is essential to improve the financial support to the new proposed structure of the IGF and/or its variations.

Actionable Item

We propose that the UN appoints a multistakeholder Working Group that, in a short time frame, proposes the creation of a professional fundraising structure for the IGF Plus, with associated terms of reference, including mission, goals, composition, potential sources of funding, and so on.