

**First IGF 2020 Open Consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) Meeting  
United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), Switzerland**

**Consultation on the follow-up on the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Digital  
Cooperation convened by the MAG Chair supported by the Government of Switzerland  
14 January 2020, 15:00 – 18:00 p.m.**

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During the [First Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\) Open Consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group \(MAG\) Meeting of the 2020 IGF preparatory cycle](#) that took place from 14 to 16 January 2020 at the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), Switzerland, part of the first day's agenda was dedicated to a consultation on the follow-up to the<sup>1</sup> [Report of the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation \(HLPDC\)](#) and specifically to its Recommendation 5 and the "Internet Governance Forum Plus" model proposed therein.

Invitations to the consultation were sent to all permanent missions of UN member states to the UN Office at Geneva. Champions and key constituents involved in follow-up on the HLPDC's recommendation on mechanisms for digital cooperation (Recommendations 5A and 5B) were also invited. Members of the IGF MAG and of the broader community that traditionally attends the IGF were in attendance.

The consultation was moderated by the newly appointed Chair of the MAG, Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen. Ambassador Thomas Schneider from the Government of Switzerland made welcoming remarks and UN Under-Secretary-General Fabrizio Hochschild, responsible for coordinating the report's follow-up process, delivered keynote remarks (remotely). Representatives of the Government of Germany as one of the three co-champions of follow-up on Recommendation 5, as well as the Government of Switzerland as one of the key constituents to this recommendation, also shared their insights.

The [agenda](#), [transcript](#) and [webcast](#) of this meeting are available on the IGF website.

### **Summary of key discussion points**

1. The IGF MAG Chair introduced the consultation, noting its dual purpose: to gather input on the achievements of the 2019 IGF and ways in which the IGF can support global digital cooperation, and to provide updates and reflection on follow-up on the HLPDC report. It was explained that the consultation will give particular consideration to the IGF Plus model contained in the report but that the other two proposed models (Distributed Co-governance Architecture and Digital Commons Architecture) should also be examined and contain elements which could easily be integrated into

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<sup>1</sup> **Recommendation 5A:** *We recommend that, as a matter of urgency, the UN Secretary-General facilitate an agile and open consultation process to develop updated mechanisms for global digital cooperation, with the options discussed in Chapter 4 as a starting point. We suggest an initial goal of marking the UN's 75th anniversary in 2020 with a "Global Commitment for Digital Cooperation" to enshrine shared values, principles, understandings and objectives for an improved global digital cooperation architecture. As part of this process, we understand that the UN Secretary-General may appoint a Technology Envoy.*

**Recommendation 5B:** *We support a multi-stakeholder "systems" approach for cooperation and regulation that is adaptive, agile, inclusive and fit for purpose for the fast-changing digital age.*

the IGF Plus model. A representative of the Government of Switzerland explained how a stronger IGF could fill gaps in digital cooperation identified in the report. Hope was expressed that the consultation will result in concrete suggestions for strengthening the IGF, building on the “IGF Plus” proposal and also on previous processes that recommended improvements to the IGF, such as the [CSTD Working Group improvements to the IGF](#).

### **About the HLPDC report follow-up process**

2. USG Hochschild explained that a multistakeholder consultation process on the HLPDC report and its recommendations is [underway](#). Multistakeholder follow-up groups have been formed and participants were invited to join these. USG Hochschild reminded participants of the [address](#) of the UN Secretary-General during the 14<sup>th</sup> IGF in Berlin in which he suggested that the IGF can be a platform where all stakeholders can come together to share policy expertise, debate emerging technologies and agree on basic common principles and then carry forward these ideas to norm-setting fora.

3. A member of USG’s Hochschild team reminded participants that consultations commenced shortly after the release of the HLPDC report and included briefings with permanent missions and organizations involved in the development of the report as well as sessions during the 2019 IGF in Berlin. The current follow-up process includes eight round-table discussions with participants from all sectors<sup>2</sup>. A contact email address was shared for any questions on the follow-up process ([digitalfeedback@un.org](mailto:digitalfeedback@un.org)). It was explained that the core objective of these follow-up consultations is to build a roadmap on global digital cooperation and the UN’s role in such cooperation going forward. The roadmap is expected to be completed by April 2020 leading up to the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the UN and will include the outcomes of consultation on the recommendation that calls for a global commitment to digital trust and security (Recommendation 4) as well as the recommendation on digital cooperation. Consultations on other recommendations will continue as and when stakeholders feel they are needed.

4. Some participants recalled that many other consultations on digital cooperation and the HLPDC report had taken place during the past eight months. These included sessions at EuroDIG and the IGF. Champions of the follow-up process were advised to display records of these discussions on the digital cooperation website and take them into account during the final development of the roadmap.

5. Following several questions related to the process of developing the roadmap, the co-champions of Recommendation 5 on mechanisms for digital cooperation referred participants to [www.global-cooperation.digital](http://www.global-cooperation.digital). They explained how they plan to run further consultations to ensure as broad a range of views as possible feed into the follow-up process. Namely, in addition to regular calls, the co-champions will host workshops at upcoming international events<sup>3</sup>. The consultations will result in an options-paper to be submitted to the UN Secretary-General.

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<sup>2</sup> Summary reports available at: <https://www.un.org/en/digital-cooperation-panel/>

<sup>3</sup> E.g. some possible events are: Freedom Online Coalition in Accra, Ghana; South by Southwest conference in Austin, Texas, US; World Summit on the Information Society here in Geneva, Switzerland; Technology and Innovation for the Sustainability Development Goals in New York, US; RightsCon, San Jose, Costa Rica.

## **Role of IGF for digital cooperation and suggested improvements**

6. Participants discussed the current and future role of the IGF in digital cooperation in some depth. Some noted that there is a proliferation of discussions and norm-setting processes focused on digital matters across the UN system and in other international fora, including those dealing with trade and the digital economy. However, the nature of these processes is that they are mostly internal. The IGF remains the sole example of a holistic, inclusive process with a community-led programme on digital policy within the UN framework. This was noted as a key criteria for effective digital cooperation and as one of Forum's strongest assets.

7. Several participants underlined the IGF's potential to evolve toward a more advanced mechanism for global digital cooperation that could address gaps identified in the HLPDC report. Comparing the IGF Plus model to the others presented in the HLPDC Report, some participants noted the advantage of the IGF in terms of the feasibility of implementing additional mechanisms, due to its current structure and mandate as given by the WSIS (Tunis Agenda for the Information Society). Most participants were therefore of the opinion that a global digital cooperation mechanism should be based on improvements to existing arrangements, such as the IGF and its linked National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs) and Best Practice Forums and Dynamic Coalitions (BPFs and DCs) rather than on the development of entirely new mechanisms. Some participants added that the other two mechanisms for digital cooperation described in the HLPDC Report need not be seen as mutually exclusive with the IGF Plus model and that it is worth taking the best from all to build a strong mechanism going forward.

8. The IGF 2019 host country representative underlined the importance of all stakeholders supporting the IGF. As an example, the German Government, in its capacity as host of the 2019 IGF, supported meaningful engagement of legislators, as well as effective participation from countries in the global South with a view to these stakeholders becoming more interested in IGF processes in the long term.

9. Further discussion centred on how to ensure the political relevance of the IGF, without it necessarily becoming a norm-setting process itself. It was noted that the IGF's political visibility has significantly improved over the course of the last two years due to active participation of the Secretary-General and respective host country heads of state or government – the President of France in 2018 and the German Chancellor in 2019. Some suggested that this practice should be institutionalized as well as an annual “state of digital cooperation” address. Several concrete suggestions for improvements of the IGF process were shared, summarized below.

### ***Programme structure of the IGF***

10. The IGF's agenda could be improved through a more enhanced role for the NRIs related to the need – expressed by many - to develop global discussions based on local inputs. Specifically, it was advised to explore ways for NRIs to develop their programme agendas earlier in the year to allow for timely formal input into the global IGF's agenda.

11. The opening ceremony could identify key issues, whose various aspects would be addressed and mapped at all sessions throughout the programme. The closing session on the final day could then extract clear outcomes and outputs of these mapped issues.

12. The strategic role for developing the programme of the IGF's annual meeting should stay with the MAG in a strengthened capacity, rather than to establish new bodies for this function. Also,

it was said that the IGF should be institutionally strengthened and outcome-oriented, with outcomes being communicated across the UN system and to other important international processes.

13. Further recommendations were made in relation to the programme structure of the IGF's annual meeting:

- a) Thematic tracks should be maintained, and some people – not all – felt the number of sessions should be reduced to leave enough time for networking and bilateral meetings.
- b) The overall process of session selection should be improved by simplifying application procedures, providing clearer criteria and making the evaluation process more transparent.
- c) There should be one main session per day that is developed with input from the community through online consultations.
- d) The programme should expand its focus on newly emerging issues through a set of dedicated sessions.
- e) The programme would benefit from aligning the work of intersessional activities and the NRIs work more closely, as well as from enhanced dissemination of all meeting outputs.

### ***Tangible IGF outcomes***

14. Some advised that the IGF should focus on a narrower and more concrete set of issues that would allow for specific subjects to be explored and good practices identified. Further, it was added that all sessions should be outcome-oriented, with session rapporteur(s) developing a set of tangible messages, endorsed by participating stakeholders, at the end of each session.

15. Regarding IGF outputs it was said that there is a need to strike the right balance between not negotiating formal agreements but generating tangible outcomes as set out in the Tunis Agenda mandate for the IGF. Some considered that the right mix of incentives and innovations for more effectiveness, more results, more networks, more policy recommendations, more solutions, will raise the attraction OR attractiveness of the IGF and facilitate its funding.

### ***Stakeholder engagement and political visibility***

16. There was a call for stronger engagement in the IGF of high-level leaders from all stakeholder groups. In order to attract these and create long-term linkages with the IGF, it was suggested that, structurally, the high-level leader's segment should be better linked, in terms of content, with the overall IGF programme and the intersessional work. Thought should also be given to making the participation of high-level leaders a more permanent feature of the IGF so that they help with follow-up. A high-level segment could conclude thematic issue-oriented discussions on the last IGF day. Some participants proposed that the high-level session might be more effective if it was held on the final day of the IGF rather than on day one.

17. The relevance of inclusion was highlighted, in the sense of meaningful participation of all stakeholder groups. A precondition for such inclusion and meaningful participation is access to information and resources. According to some participants the calls for an observatory and help desk in the IGF Plus model would build on existing work done by the IGF Secretariat and other existing observatories. Adding this functionality to the IGF can help build a network of observatories and help desks that provide better service to all stakeholders.

18. An additional proposal for the concrete strengthening of the IGF in its current stage is institutionalizing the recent practice of a 'State of Digital Cooperation' speeches during the IGF annual meeting's opening ceremony delivered by the Secretary-General and IGF's host country.

19. Participation from the private sector, governments, as well as of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) should be increased. Government engagement could be strengthened through reaching out to permanent missions to the UN in Geneva to inform about the IGF processes and outcomes.

20. Long term engagement of legislators through a dedicated parliamentary track, as implemented during IGF 2019, should be continued and enlarged, while keeping it integrated with the IGF programme.

21. Some participants underlined the good practices from IGF 2019 on youth engagement through having both dedicated sessions and integration in the programme, as well as the engagement of stakeholders from developing countries, including by allocating funds to support their travel to the IGF.

### ***Improved IGF communication***

22. It was recommended out that IGF communications and the IGF website be improved and that the IGF strengthens its corporate identity under the MAG's guidance and a stronger leadership role for the MAG Chair

23. Some suggested for the IGF to set up a repository of documents that could better display the valuable outcomes it produces annually and with that better serve the community.

The meeting concluded with many agreeing that improvements to the IGF are a continuous, evolutionary process. The Chair noted that in addition to the IGF's need for stronger financial support, there is also a need to strengthen the IGF's identity and presence among institutions involved in digital policy and cooperation. It was further added that while the IGF should continue to advance its in-depth issue orientation and its capacity to produce tangible outcomes, it should also continue to serve as a central gathering point for people, which is among its most important contributions to digital cooperation. The Chair invited the HLPDC follow-up champions and key constituents to work together with IGF stakeholders, including NRIs, towards a global digital cooperation mechanism by strengthening the existing IGF's capacity and resources. This calls for greater financial capacity, but also firmer institutional identity and leadership.

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**Annex 1:****List of Participants (as registered)**

<b>MAG Chair</b>			
Ms.	Esterhysen	Anriette	Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
<b>Host Country Co-Chair</b>			
Ms.	Buk	Wanda	Undersecretary of State, Ministry of Digital Affairs of Poland
<b>MAG Members (onsite)</b>			
Ms.	Abdalla Mahamoud Ali	Alaa	Telecommunication and Post Regulatory Authority of Sudan
Mr.	Afonso	Carlos	Nupez Institute
Ms.	Canales Loebel	Maria Paz	Derechos Digitales
Ms.	Cassa	Concettina	Agency for Digital Italy
Ms.	Chair	Chenai	Research ICT Africa
Ms.	Chalmers	Susan	National Telecommunications and Information and Administration (NTIA), US Department of Commerce
Mr.	Charlton	Paul	International Telecommunications and Internet Policy Directorate, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED)
Mr.	Chukov	Roman	Federal State Budgetary Science Institute of Economy of the Russian Academy of Sciences
Ms.	Chung	Jennifer	Dot Asia
Ms.	Croll	Jutta	Stiftung Digitale Chancen
Ms.	Edoh	Afi	E-hub and Afrotribune
Ms.	Galstyan	Lianna	ISOC Armenia
Ms.	Glavor	Natasa	CARNet
Mr.	Gridl	Rudolf	Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy of Germany
Ms.	Harsianti	Juliana	Global Voices
Ms.	Jallow	Adama	Give1 Project Gambia
Mr.	Ji	Zhaoyu	Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations Office at Geneva
Mr.	Khanal	Raj Ananda	National Telecommunication Authority of Nepal
Mr.	Markovski	Veni	ICANN

Ms.	Parris	June	Halaqah Media
Mr.	Regoje	Nebojsa	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bosnia and Herzegovina
Ms.	Rontal	Mary Rose Ofianga	Womenpowered Institute
Mr.	Rowney	Paul	Africa Information & Communication Technologies Alliance (AFICTA)
Mr.	Sibul	Heiki	Estonia Internet Foundation
Ms.	Suto	Timea	ICC Basis
Mr.	Tao	Xiaofeng	Consultative Committee on ICT for United Nations, China Association for Science and Technology; Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications
Ms.	Teleanu	Sorina	SEEDIG Executive Committee
Mr.	Tungali	Arsène	Rudi International
Ms.	Uduma	Mary	Jaeno Digital Solutions
Mr.	Wallis	Benjamin	Microsoft
Ms.	Astbrink	Gunela	International Center for Disability Resources on the Internet
Ms.	Banial	Dalsie	National Regulator Vanuatu
Ms.	Dahmani	Wafa	Tunisian Internet Agency ATI
Mr.	Espinosa	Amado	Medisist Inc.
Mr.	Attoumani	Karim Mohamed	Telecom Comores
Ms.	Munoz Zumbado	Maricela	Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to UN in Geneva
Mr.	Ndoumba	Eric Armel	Ministry of Post, Telecommunications and Digital Economy
Mr.	Zambrana	Roberto	ISOC Bolivia
<b>MAG Members (online)</b>			
Ms.	Cadena	Sylvia	APNIC
Mr.	Steck	Christoph	Telefonica
Mr.	Castex	Lucien	ISOC France
<b>Former IGF Host Country Representatives (onsite)</b>			
Ms.	Arida	Christine	National Telecom Regulatory Authority, Egypt
Mr.	Cancio	Jorge	OFCOM, Switzerland
Mr.	Schneider	Thomas	OFCOM, Switzerland
Ms.	Walpen	Livia	OFCOM, Switzerland
Mr.	Glaser	Hartmut Richard	CGI.br
<b>Other Participants (onsite)</b>			

Mr.	Pukaluk	Michał	Ministry of Digital Affairs (IGF 2020 Host Country Team)
Mr.	Typiak	Przemysław	Ministry of Digital Affairs (IGF 2020 Host Country Team)
Mr.	Jallow	Hassan Bubacarr	IGF MAG
Mr.	Verhagen	Paul	The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies
Ms.	Edoh	Afi	UN IGF MAG Member
Ms.	Chen	Yu	Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications
Ms.	Gatto	Raquel	Internet Society
Mr.	Prendergast	James	The Galway Strategy Group
Ms.	Kazakova	Anastasiya	Kaspersky
Mr.	Michels	Jochen	Kaspersky
Mr.	Jelinek	Thorsten	Taihe Institute
Mr.	Rademaker	Michel	The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies
Ms.	Prieto	Alejandra	Internet Society
Mr.	De Natris	Wouterus	De Natris Consult
Ms.	Scialpi	Valentina	European Commission
Mr.	Bringer	Olivier	European Commission
Ms.	Al Farra	Hadeel	QHR FOUNDATION
Ms.	Hoferichter	Sandra	EuroDIG
Mr.	Mazzone	Giacomo	EBU-UER
Mr.	Vishnevskiy	Petr	Graduate Institute
Mr.	Polo	Carlos	PPS
Ms.	Tauchnitz	Evelyne	Graduate Institute
Mr.	Blaker	Paul	Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Mr.	Degezelle	Wim	DRMV
Ms.	Agosti	Tania	Race and Equality Human Rights Institute
Ms.	Maecker	Swantje	Federal Foreign Office
Mr.	Hureaux	Jeremy	MINISTRY FOR EUROPE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Ms.	Shaheed	Samar	ILO
Ms.	Baraka	Mounira	UNITAR
Mr.	Mustafa	Jihad	Hospice General
Mr.	Kane	Cisse	ACSIS : African Civil Society on the Information Society
<b>UN DESA</b>			
Mr.	Kwok	Wai Min	Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, DPIDG
<b>IGF Secretariat</b>			
Mr.	Masango	Chengetai	Programme & Technology Manager
Mr.	Garcia Bobo	Luis	Associate Information Systems Officer
Ms.	Gengo	Anja	Associate Programme Officer
Ms.	Madomi	Lima	Fellow

<b>Other Participants (online)</b>			
-	Fotjon	Kosta	Albania (Government)
-	Animesh	Choudhury	Switzerland (Government)
-	Hochschild	Fabrizio	United Nations (USG)
-	Kelly	David	United Nations (EOSG)
-	Christian	Perrild	Denmark (Government)

Finn	Petersen	Denmark (Government)
Julia	Wolman	Denmark (Government)
Hisham	Aboulyazed	Egypt (Government)
Manal	Ismail	Egypt (Government)
Yoichi	Iida	Japan (Government)
Arnold	Van Rhijn	Netherlands (Government)
Marcin	Czubak	Poland (Government)
Adelina	Dinca	Romania (Government)
Yasin	Mustafa	Somalia (Government)
Birgitta	Hoggren	United States (Government)
William	Shipilo	Zambia (Government)
Adv. Jean-philippe n.	Rubin	"Chut Shel Chessed" institutions of rabbi shalom arush
Cisse	Kane	ACSIS
Salyou	Fanny	ACSIS Ivory Coast
Caleb	Ogundele	African academic network on internet policy
Anriette	Esterhuysen	Association for progressive communications
Said	Essoulami	Centre for media freedom
Bruna	Santos	Coding rights
Julián	Casasbuenas g.	Colnodo
Xiaobo	Yang	Cybersecurity association of china
Natasa	Perucica	DiploFoundation

Julemine	Laurent	Gjupah
Michael j.	Oghia	Global forum for media development
Gustavo	Paiva	Grupo de estudos de direito da internet - gedi@ufrn
Bachar Bong	Abdeldjalil	House of africa
Raúl	Echeberría	Independent
Dallakian	Ani	Internet society Armenia, Armenia IGF
Shadrach	Ankrah	Internet society youth@igf
Lianna	GALSTYAN	ISOC Armenia
Helani	Galpaya	Lirneasia
Rinchen	Dorji	Loden foundation
Issakha doud-bane	Khouzeifi	MAG Youth IGF Chad
Benjamin	Akinmoyeje	Msh
Paula	Corte real	None
Raqeeb mahmood	Ahmed	Notr org
Talita	De Souza Dias	Oxford institute for ethics, law and armed conflict, blavatnik school of government, university of oxford
Juan	Pajaro velasquez	Ruta trans
Mokabberi	Amirhossein	Tehran university
Jean Louis	Fendji kedieng ebongue	University of ngaoundere
Jackson	Miake	Vanuatu igf
Daniela	Roess	Venro
Said	Zerga	Vsat installer in north africa
Peterking	Quaye	Youth ambassador - youth igf

-	Umair	Ahmad	Youth for human rights pakistan
-	Said	Zerga	Dcs telecom
-	Dustin	Loup	ISOC-DC
-	Chris	Wilson	Amazon.com
-	Berry	Cobb	Bac in black consulting
-	Susan	Mohr	Centurylink
-	Rachael	Stelly	Computer & communications industry association
-	Azadur rahman	Sarker	Cyberone
-	Raphael	Oni	Diplomats extra magazine
-	Katarzyna	Cyrbus	Grayling poland
-	Michael	Benaudis	Https card - internet identity card
-	Marilyn	Cade	ICT strategies - MCADE LLC
-	Neema	Oriko	Independent researcher
-	Ron	Da silva	Network technologies global
-	Nicole	Karlebach	Oath, inc.
-	Fatma	Zerga	Private. Student
-	Lauren	Crean	Telecommunications management group
-	Gonzalo	Lopez-barajas	Telefonica, s.a.
-	Jim	Prendergast	The galway strategy group
-	B.	Wanner	U.s. Council for international business
-	Jacquelynn	Ruff	Wiley rein
-	Pia	Groenewolt	All digital
--	Giulia	Belardo	Eu

	Thierry	Barbe	European commission
	Andrea	Leone	European commission
	Samar	Shaheed	International labour organisation (ilo former staff)
	Xianhong	Hu	Unesco
	Zadek	Simon	United nations development programme
	Brian	Beckham	Wipo
	Michael	Nelson	Cloudflare
	Innocent	Adriko	ICANN
	Yijing	Li	Cast
	Flavio	Wagner	Cgi.br
	Serge	Ziehi	Consultant
	Ferrer	Edna	Federal Telecommunications Institute
	Avri	Doria	ICANN
	Lynn	St. Amour	Internet Matters
	Isaac	Andy	Iznd services
	Samantha	Dickinson	Lingua synaptica
	Vinicius	W. O. Santos	Nic.br / cgi.br
	Suzanne	Taylor	Ripe ncc
	Hanan	Khatib	Self employed
	Tracy	Hackshaw	Trinidad & Tobago multistakeholder advisory group (TT MAG)