

ICC BASIS contribution on IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) improvements consultation

ICC BASIS views the IGF multistakeholder process as also captured in the MAG as an important part of the IGF's structure and ability to ensure it evolves as a true multistakeholder forum.

ICC BASIS is pleased to provide responses to the questions presented for discussion about improving the MAG processes.

a. Has the work of the MAG been consistent with the mandate set out in the Tunis Agenda and subsequent decisions?

We believe the work of the MAG has been consistent with the mandate. As ICC has previously noted, the IGF preparatory process has been successful in obtaining input from a diverse collection of stakeholders and implementing changes and enhancements to the IGF meeting on a continuous basis. For example, the IGF meeting agenda has evolved in response to community input and format changes have been made to accommodate remote participation and the emergence of regional and national IGF meetings.

b. How best to nominate non governmental members for the MAG?

It has been productive to have a few avenues for proposed non-governmental MAG members. The proposals from the business community through the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) as representative of the global business community has helped to ensure a broad range of sector and geographic diversity from the business community, and individual or other proposals have been useful as well. We believe that the Internet technical community through key organizations like the Internet Society (ISOC), the Regional Internet

Registries (RIRs) and others has worked well. Civil society has proposed a solid slate of representatives through the Internet Governance Caucus (IGC) and other focal points.

The current processes for nominating non-governmental members for the MAG have worked relatively well, and the opportunity for individuals to apply directly through the IGF secretariat has ensured an open process. The business, Internet technical and civil society communities have the knowledge and experience to best outreach to their networks and put forward representatives. And each has through cooperation, coordination and collaboration established a process to identify qualified candidates from the respective communities.

We believe that after 5 years the IGF and the MAG have a level of maturity that would now allow for a nomination model to be put in place that no longer requires action by the UN Secretary General. Having a group of trusted representatives from each of the three non-governmental stakeholder groups established under the direction of the IGF Executive Coordinator, which could then review the proposed lists of representatives put forward by the non-governmental stakeholder groups, would do the job of balancing the MAG overall.

We believe that renewing the MAG membership every year is perhaps not the most effective way of building on each year's experience or use of time and resources. Thus consideration should be given to having the new nomination process outlined above appoint non-governmental MAG members for a period of two years covering two IGF events. It is conceivable that a process could be put in place to rotate approximately one third of the members, and give every newly appointed member a renewable two-year term.

c. How best to nominate the MAG Chair?

The MAG Chair has a very important role and ensuring that the Chair has the necessary experience, independence, profile and trust of the various communities is essential. ICC BASIS greatly appreciates the qualities, talents and tremendous efforts of the current MAG Chair, Mr. Nitin Desai and supports his continuation in this role. His ability to handle challenging situations and a diverse set of interests has been essential to the IGF's success. Should there be a new MAG Chair, we believe that a transition period for that person with Mr. Desai would not only be appropriate but critical to ensure a smooth transition.

With regard to the selection of a future MAG Chair, we believe to ensure qualifications for the unique role, qualified candidates should be selected by a mechanism led by the outgoing Chair and Executive Coordinator of the IGF Secretariat in consultation with the community and named by the UN Secretary General.

d. How best to organize open consultations?

The open consultations provide a broad range of stakeholders with the opportunity to voice their priorities regarding the preparations of the IGF each year at various stages. We believe having them in Geneva, with real-time transcription and audio streaming to enable remote participation, and in a format that is open and informal will continue to be helpful. The open consultations also provide the MAG with input to consider as they discuss details further. It is important that the open consultations be efficient and effective, thus we believe that one day of open consultations followed by one day of MAG meetings is generally sufficient.

Specific agendas circulated well in advance will help focus discussions and make them even more constructive.

e. How best to link with regional meetings?

The IGF Secretariat and the MAG have been very supportive of the regional meetings. As noted, regional meetings have been incorporated into the global IGF meeting agenda, including workshops and read-outs during the main session. In addition, the IGF website publicizes regional meetings.

Consolidated online information about the regional and national initiatives would be very helpful. Dates for meetings announced well in advance would encourage participation as well. Posting more comprehensive and consistent information in a central location about all of the regional and national initiatives and the programmes would encourage broader participation, and create more of a link to the global IGF discussions. As appropriate, information on expected participants also enables coordination for better coverage of respective regional events and meetings. Summaries of the discussions from these events would also be useful.

f. How best to link with international processes and institutions?

The participation of representatives from various international and intergovernmental organizations and processes in the IGF and the regional initiatives has been a useful way to create links, raise awareness about work programmes and activities, and has facilitated the exchange of information. It would be useful to build on this start by encouraging other organizations who have not participated in the IGF to do so, and creating a regular update to relevant organizations and processes by sending them the Chairman's summary of the IGF event, for instance, could be helpful. It would also be helpful to build on the work of other organizations addressing topics within the purview of their mandates to share information with the IGF to enable awareness of respective organizational processes and work programmes.