

Response to the MAG Questionnaire

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

Yes.

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

With the black box approach for final decision in the appointment of non-Governmental members, there is at least a notional possibility of Governments reaching out to the UN HQ to influence the choice of non-governmental members. It is important to ensure that there no indirect government influence on the appointment of non Governmental Members. Any indirect influence in the appointment of a non-governmental member would result in the appointment of non-governmental members whose views may not be independent. The multi-stakeholder system is meant to bring about a balance which can happen only if the stakeholder groups have equal seats occupied by their own representatives free of prior influence by the other stakeholder groups.

MAG Members: Non-Governmental Members may be have to be drawn not only from the same NGOs, but from a broader population of Civil Society participants. The IGF Secretariat may have to publish a call for Statements of Interest ensuring that the information reaches all the Civil Society participants of the IGF. This would generate diverse nominations from which MAG Members could be chosen by a Nomination Committee of Members drawn from the Civil Society.

NOMCOM for MAG: The perceived constraint is that there is no single representative organization for Civil Society (same could be said for the Stakeholder Groups of Business and Government!), so an ideal situation does not exist. Under the circumstances, members of the Nomination Committee can be drawn from Internet Society Chapters, ICANN at-Large Structures, the Internet Governance Caucus, other significant Civil Society Organizations with a good record of participation in the IGF and from the IGF database of registrants from Civil Society. It may not be possible to 'reserve' NomCom seats to different organizations, so the call for candidates could be spread without restraint, candidates could be subjected to a preliminary screening by the MAG for their eligibility to serve on the Civil Society NomCom and for any Conflict of Interest, and thereafter the required members could be drawn by a scientific method.

(c) How best to nominate the MAG Chair?

There could be a certain degree of continuity for the positions of Chair and Executive Director of the IGF, so long as the functions are performed impartially free of political or geographic objections.

Nomination / Renewal of the Term of the MAG Chair could be a process internal to the MAG, which has an inherent balance as a mutli-stakeholder body. If the process has to be a larger process than that of electing a Chair from among MAG members, then the appointment of MAG Chair could be by formal and informal consultations with the Present (and Past) Chairs of MAG, UN Secretary General, Chair of ICANN, President of ISOC, select representatives of the Civil Society, select members of the academic community, other UN and International Organizations who are IGF participants and Governments (As stated earlier, the process need not be constrained due to the fact that there is no single representative of the Civil Society, Business or Government.) The appointment of the Chair of the MAG should not be unilateral, so the process could be a consultation process by a broader but a limited group, as a good practice or as an informal convention, but not as a formal process leading to a voting situation.

(d) How best to organize open consultations?

One Open Consultation Session can happen during the IGF, one at Geneva and at least one session in a location other than Geneva, in Geographic rotation. Open Consultation Agenda items can also be taken up by the regional IGFs, by including a regional Open Consultation session during the Regional IGFs and the views could be reported to the Global Open Consultation meetings. Apart from enabling Remote participation by Web Conferencing tools, the IGF Secretariat could pay attention to finer details such as posting details of Open Consultation meetings and their agenda on face book as Events and setting up a twitter hashtag for comments.

(e) How best to link with regional meetings?

The outcomes of the regional IGFs are reported to the IGF. The positions of regional IGFs on regional issues as well as global topics can be placed on record to facilitate the consideration of regional views at the IGF main sessions and workshops.

(f) How best to link with international processes and institutions?

MAG can establish links with International Institutions by inviting them to share their institutional positions at the IGF on various IG issues. The IGF Secretariat could also initiate an Institutional Outreach program to reach out to significant International Institutions and news media. The methods can vary from sending occasional newsletters to using social networks to connect to the Institutions. IGF Secretariat may require an Executive dedicated to this function. Some of these would eventually come forward to support workshops and participation, so this may be a worthwhile exercise.

MAG meetings may have an agenda item to discuss ongoing processes related to Internet Governance happening around the world so as to stay linked to various developments that affect the Internet.

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