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Submissions from entities in the United Nations system, international organizations and other stakeholders on their efforts in 2020 to implement the outcomes of the WSIS

Submission by

Internet Governance Forum

This submission was prepared as an input to the report of the UN Secretary-General on "Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels" (to the 24th session of the CSTD), in response to the request by the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 2006/46, to the UN Secretary-General to inform the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on the implementation of the outcomes of the WSIS as part of his annual reporting to the Commission.

Report on the Implementation of the Outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)
2020 Input from the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Secretariat

I. Executive Summary

The IGF 2020 planning process started immediately after the 14th IGF concluded in Berlin, Germany. The MAG 2020, appointed on the last day of the IGF 2019, commenced planning the IGF 2020 building on the procedural and substantive feedback from the community received through the traditional taking stock process. The process planning began with understanding that the annual meeting will be hosted by the Government of Poland. Following the MAG in-person meeting in January 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland, the year-long intersessional work was agreed, and four Best Practice Forums were approved, as well as four MAG Working Groups. The community's input navigated the MAG's advice to focus the programming of the annual IGF meeting on four main thematic tracks: Data, Environment, Inclusion; and Trust. Subsequently, public call for sessions was issued resulting in over 400 proposals for evaluation.

In the meantime, with the COVID-19 pandemic being confirmed early in the year, a contingency plan was developed and implemented in parallel in case it will not be possible to host the meeting in-person in Poland, as initially planned. By continuously monitoring the epidemiological situation and with an imperative to protect health of its participants, it was officially announced in June 2020 that the 15th annual meeting will be hosted online by the United Nations in two phased: from 2-6 and 9-17 November 2020, while the Polish Government will host the next year's IGF. The session proposers were given guidance for revisiting their proposals to adjust the formatting to virtual hosting. The MAG assed the programme again during the second MAG meeting, hosted online, adjusted the programme and meeting logistics and coined the new overarching theme to reflect the momentum of importance of the Internet for all: *'Internet for Human Resilience and Solidarity'* followed by a motto 'Virtually Together.

The IGF 2020 annual meeting marked a record historic participation with total of 20,929 participants in the sessions and 6,149 registered stakeholders from 173 different countries and over 23,000 participants following the meeting via livestream. Many structural and process-related improvements were made related to the IGF working modalities, annual meeting structure, stakeholder engagement and capacity development, all in a response to objectives set under the IGF's mandate, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)'s Working Group on Improvements to the IGF[1], as well as direct advice of the United Nations Secretary-General and the IGF's community. The IGF 2020 was convened in a specific momentum when the COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the importance of digital technologies and related policies for people and economies. Also, the IGF 2020 process and annual meeting took place in the year when the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation has been released, recommending strengthening of the IGF via the "IGF plus" model. All IGF 2020 preparatory work, including the intersessional work and annual resulted in concrete outputs. In addition, this year saw a growth in the number of recognised Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) to 23 and national, regional and youth IGFs (NRIs) to 131, both leading to a number of substantive, methodological outputs on substantive issues of interest. The Forum's has confirmed the Host Governments for 2021 (Poland), 2020 (Ethiopia), 2023 (Japan) and 2025 (Russian Federation), with a number of expressed interests to host the meeting in 2024.

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[1] https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/a67d65_en.pdf

II. Analytical Overview

The IGF has strived to build on the significant progress it has made since 2012 on fulfilling the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF. These are namely: *increasing and improving both the tangible outcomes and the overall visibility of the IGF; the working modalities of the IGF, including open consultations, the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and the IGF Secretariat; the funding of the IGF; broadening participation and capacity-building; and linking the IGF to other Internet governance-related entities*. Created as one of the major outcomes of the WSIS process, all of the work of the IGF Secretariat aims to ensure that the IGF facilitates implementation of all the agreed action lines, including, but not limited to*: C1: The role of public governance authorities and all the agreed action lines, including, but not limited to: stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development; C4: Capacity building and C11: International and regional cooperation*.

Improving the IGF Process, Outcomes and Visibility
The IGF aims at continuously improving its processes. This relates to advancing the working modalities, particularly in regard to the work of the intersessional activities and the IGF annual meeting, as well as related to strengthening the stakeholder engagement and raising inclusiveness and visibility of the IGF.

The IGF 2020 planning process started immediately after the 14th IGF concluded in Berlin, Germany. The MAG 2020, appointed on the last day of the IGF 2019 to bridge the 2019 and 2020 process, commenced planning the 15th IGF building on the procedural and substantive feedback from the community received through the traditional taking stock process. The process planning began with understanding that the annual meeting will be hosted by the Government of Poland. At the first MAG and Open Consultations in-person meeting in January 2020 in Geneva, Switzerland, the intersessional work modalities were agreed and four (4) Best Practice Forums (BPFs)[2] approved to specifically map and analyse best practices within dedicated output documents: 1) *Cybersecurity; 2) Local Content; 3) Gender and Access; and 4) Big Data and New Technologies in an Internet Context.* These workstreams allowed for the IGF process to engage stakeholders from all sectors that hold interest or expertise in the subject matters to exchange views on existing good practices. With the aim to improve the future BPF-related work, the working focus group on assessing so far implemented BPFs and recommending future criteria and monitoring mechanisms was approved ('BPF on BPFs'). The MAG had also chartered four MAG-led working groups, namely the *Working Group on Outreach and Engagement (WG-OE); Working Group on Workshop Process (WG-WSP); Working Group on Language (WG-Language); and Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy)*. These groups worked throughout the year on their respective subject focus areas.

The January MAG meeting also resulted in the MAG's review of the community's feedback submissions on possible thematic orientation of the IGF 2020 and decided to streamline and focus the annual programme on four main themes through four defined thematic tracks: 1) Data; 2) Environment; 3) Inclusion; and 4) Trust; each one being associated with a corresponding thematic narrative[3]. Following an open validation process of these thematic tracks, a public, open call for session proposals was launched on these themes, resulting in receiving over four hundred (400) proposals, with over three hundred (300) workshops evaluated by the MAG and rest of thematic sessions cleared by the IGF Secretariat.

In parallel with MAG's advice on the programme planning, the IGF Secretariat confirmed the annual work plan with the national, regional and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs) as well as the Dynamic Coalitions

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[2] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/best-practice-forums-bpfs
[3] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-themes

(DC) to conduct continuous coordination among these initiatives through bimonthly online meetings, reviewing of adherence to the IGF core criteria and substantive contributing on individual basis to improving the implementation of their processes. A bottom-up process among these networks was facilitated to determine thematic orientation of their main session and workshop-like sessions organised for the IGF 2020 annual meeting.

Given that the pandemic was declared earlier in the year, the IGF 2020 planning process included a contingency plan in case it will not be possible to host the meeting in-person. In June 2020, it was officially confirmed that the IGF 2020 annual meeting will be hosted online in two phases (from 2-6 and 9-17 November). It was agreed that the Polish Government will host the next year's IGF. The pandemic impacted the overall planning, meeting structure, logistics, as well as the discussion thematic narratives. Specifically, a number of efforts had been undertaken to improve the overall structure of the IGF's programme to adjust it to a completely online format. The duration was extended over a longer period of time to better facilitate the inclusion of as many time zones as possible. The number of parallel session tracks was reduced to up to three. The already approved sessions' proposers were asked to revisit their sessions and adjust the format to online hosting. Several guides were produced to facilitate the community's familiarity with the online platform.

A number of technical improvements were introduced to support the facilitation of a fully online meeting. The IGF improved its website's automated system for receiving session proposals to allow for a more visible overview of received proposals and related statistics. It also made it technically set to develop its interactive annual meeting's schedule, as well as for all post-session reports and transcripts to be available shortly after each session concludes in a structured manner with the possibility of filtering sessions across themes, meeting days and room. The website also facilitated the possibility for direct communication among registered IGF participants. A dedicated webpage[4] for the annual meeting was created to reflect all relevant information in one place. The IGF 2020 sessions were live-streamed via multiple platforms, namely the IGF YouTube[5] and Facebook as well as the UN WebTV[6], and real-time captioned. All main sessions and high-level sessions were interpreted to six UN languages.

In order to implement targeted stakeholder engagement with the UN system, parliaments, youth and developing countries, the meeting included new, innovative structural components namely the high-level leaders track, parliamentary roundtable and a youth-dedicated track, as well as support the participation from developing countries.

Much effort was invested in advancing participant's outputs. In a leadup to IGF 2020, several guides for the meeting orientation were produced, including the Guide to IGF 2020 Issues and Themes[7], containing overviews of each of the thematic tracks, as well as overarching policy questions to help guide the discussion on the themes throughout the many and varied, more specific topics under discussion in individual sessions. To strengthen the communication of session outcomes directly from session organisers, participants and rapporteurs, key takeaways[8] documented in session reports were directly distributed to Internet governance stakeholders via social media and consolidated into a unique report.

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[4] https://www.intgovforum.org/vIGF/
[5] All sessions
[6] Main session and high-level sessions
[7] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/10794/2324
[8] Compilation: 'key takeaways' from IGF 2020 session reports
https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/10794/2351

Communication through a regular monthly newsletter and periodic updates, as well as the IGF's social media accounts, was continuously facilitated throughout the year.

The IGF 2020 annual meeting resulted in a number of tangible [outputs](#)[9], with written output reports emerged from all the intersessional activities, as well as the messages produced for the high-level leaders track, the parliamentary roundtable and all sessions hosted within dedicated thematic tracks, all main sessions as well as the global youth summit. The messages were developed by the Host-based on session reports from the session organizers received within a few hours of their session conclusion. Additionally, the entire procedurals and substantive highlights of the annual meeting were consolidated in the [IGF 2020 Summary Report](#)[10] issued on the last day of the 15th IGF. Particularly, the meeting's concrete action-oriented outputs were prompted by the Host introducing the concept of ['voluntary commitments'](#)[11] that encouraged participants to express voluntary commitment(s) they will undertake during the next year (IGF 2021 cycle), either at the individual capacity or on behalf of their organization, to foster the aims and goals of the IGF as expressed in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda. Through this call, the President of the Swiss Confederation announced cooperation with the IGF Secretariat through IGF 2020/21 Project on matters related to environment and digitalisation. Several other stakeholders noted their commitment to continue working on advancing the public digital policy through their projects.

The historic record participation at the IGF 2020 annual meeting confirmed the Forum's relevance to people. The Forum saw 20,929 participants overall across sessions. There were 6,149 registered participants from 173 different countries. Regionally, the participation was balanced among the African region (15%), Asia Pacific (17%), Eastern Europe (12%), GRULAC (13%), WEOG (35%) with 8% being participants from intergovernmental organisations. Stakeholder-wise, the participation came from governments (17%), intergovernmental organisations (8%), civil society (39%), technical community (15%) and private sector (18%). The Forum made a progress also in terms of gender-balanced participation with 47% female, 52% male and 1% of those identified as other. The biggest number of participants came from the US, followed by Germany, Switzerland, UK, France, Poland, Nigeria, Brazil, Russia and India. 15,558 participants followed the meeting through the UN WebTV live stream, while 23,431 participants followed the meeting through YouTube process.

In order to bring the 15th IGF process closer to global community, a specific communication and outreach strategy was developed that resulted in raising visibility of the IGF through major gatherings of stakeholders, such are number of national and regional IGF initiatives where the IGF Secretariat and/or the MAG Chair participate remotely (European IGF (EuroDIG), China IGF, Asia Pacific IGF, West African IGF, Latin American and Caribbean IGF, South Eastern European IGF (SEEDIG), Caribbean IGF, African IGF). The IGF Secretariat and/or the MAG Chair also participated in person in some of the largest global event on the Internet and social development, such as the annual session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), UN High-Level Political Forum.

Cooperation with other Internet governance related entities
Throughout the year, the stakeholder engagement and cooperation were facilitated through the intersessional work streams and the NRIs, as well as participation of the IGF Secretariat, UN DESA or the MAG in major Internet governance meetings.

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[9] IGF 2020 outputs https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-outputs
[10] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/10794/2357
[11] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020%E2%80%8E-call-for-voluntary-commitments

The four Best Practice Forums hosted over thirty (30) online meetings engaging stakeholders from all parts of the world that contributed with bringing good practices and discussing them. The Dynamic Coalitions had new stakeholder joining through five new DCs being established, namely the DC on Internet Universality Indicators (DC-IUI); DC on Internet Standards, Security and Safety (DC-ISSS); DC on Internet and Jobs (DC-Jobs); DC on Data Driven Health Technologies (DC-DDHT); and on Data and Trust (DC-DT). The NRIs, as expanded throughout the year with the new national IGFs emerging in Botswana, Côte D'Ivoire, Madagascar, Moldova, Honduras, Quebec, Russian Youth IGF, Chad Youth IGF, Ghana Youth IGF.

The 2020 IGF process also focused on contributing to the implementation of the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, by forging linkages with the NRIs through facilitating their active participation in the IGF 2020, fostering engagement with parliamentarians and elevating the concept of digital cooperation through a dedicated main session[12] at the IGF 2020. The MAG WG-Strengthening discussed the improvements throughout the year, and the UN DESA and IGF Secretariat have institutionally liaised with the related processes at the UN level.

The IGF continued to actively participate in the European Commission's High-Level Group on Internet Governance (HLIG) and contributes to the work of the Commission on digital matters.
The IGF 2020 established cooperation partnerships for IGF 2021 and beyond. Namely, with the Government of Switzerland, the IGF 2021 will work on establishing a Policy Network on Environment and Digitalisation, while with the network of the NRIs an observatory for mapping global thematic interest will be pursued. The Youth engagement strategy will be implemented in cooperation with future host countries. The parliamentary track will continue to be improved in consultations with participating members of parliaments that expressed willingness to contribute.

The 2020 annual IGF meeting focused on targeted stakeholder engagement, namely with high-level leaders and experts, non-traditionally present in the IGF discourse, UN agencies, parliamentarians, youth and stakeholder from developing countries.

The Host oriented specific efforts toward engaging the high-level multistakeholder participation through a dedicated track for the high-level leaders at the IGF 2020[13]. The track brought together some of the world's most prominent experts and leaders from all stakeholder groups to discuss the role of Internet governance in the age of uncertainty and how the Internet and digital policy can support COVID-19 recovery efforts in the areas of health, security, economy, social development and environment.

Continuing a practice that was introduced at IGF 2019, a parliamentary roundtable[14] was hosted this year in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Members of parliaments from around the world came together to discuss ways of building trust during and beyond the COVID-19 crisis.

Throughout the year, the IGF Secretariat cooperated with the NRIs and youth-focused DCs, among others, on designing a youth engagement programme implemented at the IGF 2020. Several networking exchanges between youth and senior exerts as well as the global Youth summit[15] were hosted during the IGF 2020. This resulted in several hundred young people being engaged in discussions on how to bridge digital divides, ensure digital transformation of traditional education and invest in youth's capacity development and in established global youth network over a dedicated IGF mailing list,

[12] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-main-session-digital-cooperation
[13] https://www.intgovforum.org/vIGF/high-level-speakers/
[14] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-parliamentary-roundtable
[15] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-youth-summit

committed to work on youth-engagement for the coming IGF's cycles.The Forum managed to strengthen its engagement with the UN agencies through the implementation of the IGF 2020 High-level leaders track. Among those actively participated in the track[16], are the high-level representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, International Monetary Fund, International Telecommunication Union, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, United Nations Industrial Development Organization, World Health Organization, World Intellectual Property Organization, UN Women, World Trade Organization, UN Disarmament, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. The meeting also included the UN Secretary-General's participation, as well as of the President of the General-Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

Capacity Development

In order to fulfil its mandate and *contribute to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise[17]*, as well as in a response to the recommendations of the CSTD's Working Group on Improvements to the IGF *to support the participation of stakeholders from developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries (LDCs)[18],* and the UN Secretary-General's call for action expressed at the 13th IGF stressing that the Forum *must increase its efforts to draw upon the "weak and missing voices" into the IGFs work[19]*, a capacity development plan was developed. This year, due to the pandemic, the capacity development effort focused on providing substantive support to the national, regional and youth IGFs, resulting in an annual increase of the recognised NRIs[20] for 8 more national and regional IGFs; as well as to the Dynamic Coalitions[21] resulting in five (5) new DCs being recognised. Also, throughout the year, several capacity development webinars were hosted for young people to support their engagement in Internet governance.

Over hundred (100) individuals from least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) received support for meaningful participation in the IGF 2020 annual meeting by financially supporting their costs of access.

Trends and Experiences on Main Theme(s) of WSIS Outcomes

The IGF 2020 process and the annual meeting agenda developed in a bottom-up manner, undoubtedly pointed at the global thematic priorities on Internet governance. Of people's particular interest is the potential digital technologies can have on sustainable development and wellbeing of all people. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the world's reliance on the Internet and shone a brighter light on the reality that issues of Internet governance are not just about the Internet, but are now intimately linked to people's everyday lives and to the full breadth of other governance issues not traditionally viewed as having an Internet-dimension. The need for multistakeholder partnerships and cooperation on Internet governance matters featured prominently across the annual Forum's discussions.

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[16] https://www.intgovforum.org/vIGF/high-level-speakers/
[17] Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, para. 72
[18] Report of the Working Group on Improvements to the IGF, section IV. https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/a67d65_en.pdf
[19] UN Secretary-General address to the 13th IGF: https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2018-address-to-the-internet-governance-forum-by-un-sg-ant%C3%B3nio-guterres
[20] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives
[21] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalitions

Through over 250 sessions[22], the community addressed some of the most pertinent matters to the current digital issues, related to data utilisation, ownership and privacy; trust and online safety and security; models for digital inclusion and effective means for bridging the digital and gender-based divides and supporting marginalised and vulnerable groups, such as people with disabilities, refugees, people living in remote areas. Much more focus received than in previous years directed to matters related to the environment and impact of digitalisation, discussion mainly the climate change issues, e-waste, energy consumption and role of data for preserving environmental sustainability. The COVID-19 pandemic also promoted many more discussions on how digital can help people's health.

The BPFs have also followed the thematic priorities of the community and orient their work toward specific aspects under the broad themes they cover.
The [BPF on Gender and Access](#)[23] focused on identifying gender gaps in the digital sphere by conduct an assessment of Internet-related policy processes and spaces through a feminist approach, to determine whether and how they protect and foster participation of women and gender-diverse people, particularly young ones.
The [BPF on Local Content](#)[24] gathered good practices on how to protect, preserve and remunerate creative work and collective wisdom in order to create a sustainable model for the production, distribution and local fruition of local content in the digital age, including, among other matters, intellectual ownership rights, communities' intellectual property rights, ownership of national or community identifiers of natural resources and protection of creative works.
The community of the [BPF on Data and New Technologies](#)[25] in an Internet Context gathered good practices on how the Internet users' data is collected, analysed and used to ensure that this data is used to bring benefit and not to harm users.
The [BPF on Cybersecurity](#)[26] built on its last year's report by focusing on identifying additional international agreements and initiatives on cybersecurity, and performing a deeper analysis of a narrower set of agreements. Specifically, this BPF looked at whether the agreement includes any of the UN-GGE consensus norms; and whether any additional norms are specifically called out.
In addition, 23 [Dynamic Coalitions (DCs)](#)[27] worked throughout the year on their specific topics and have oriented joint efforts toward addressing the socio-economic recovery after the COVID-19 crisis. Seventeen (17) individual DCs hosted their sessions contribution with their multistakeholder efforts to matters related to accessibility online, net neutrality, platform responsibility, to name the few.

At the same time, more than a hundred and thirty (130) [national, regional and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs)](#)[28] collaborated in a bottom-up manner throughout the year, and hosted the main session on the role of the Internet in emergency situations, as well as seven (7) collaborative sessions discussion a range of issues, from access, to cybersecurity, data online and digital economies. Furthermore, throughout the year more than seventy (70) NRIs have hosted their annual meetings, pre-dominantly in an online form. The Secretariat's analysis shows that the priority discussions topics were cybersecurity,

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[22] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/igf-2020-schedule-list
[23] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-gender-and-access
[24] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-on-local-content
[25] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/best-practice-forum-on-data-and-new-technologies-in-an-internet-context
[26] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-cybersecurity
[27] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dc-coordination-activities
[28] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-nris%C2%A0preparatory-process

data, digital transformation, access and new emerging technologies. This year marked the arise of discussions on environmental sustainability and the role of the Internet and public digital policy.

III. Brief Description of Innovative Policies, Programmes and Projects, plus Future Actions with regard to Issues Raised in Part II.

Over the years, the IGF has witnessed the impact the National, Regional and Youth IGFs (NRIs) have on engagement of stakeholders from developing countries in Internet governance, as well as on bringing local substantive specificities to the global discussion levels. The IGF Secretariat supports the NRIs substantively and ensures the IGF's core pricings are respected and implemented. This collaborating resulted in a rapid growth of the NRIs, with the total number of officially recognized initiatives has almost tripled from 43 NRIs in 2015 to a current record of 131 recognized NRIs. The NRIs are active and immensely useful contributors to the IGF community's intersessional activities. The linkages between the NRIs and the IGF have increased significantly, due to many joint work activities such as the organization of sessions for the annual IGF meeting; developing publications on the NRI nature and thematic priorities. Records from the NRIs regular fortnightly meetings also serve as valuable and tangible inputs to the global IGF; providing more local and issue - perspectives to policy challenges. In addition, through the NRIs local communities can be reached, local processes strengthened and global IGF enriched with direct perspectives from these countries and regions.

In the resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 7 August 2018 [on the recommendation of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/20168/31)][7], member states welcomed the continuous progress made with regard to the intersessional work of the Internet Governance Forum in the different modalities of connecting and enabling the next billion online, dynamic coalitions and best practice forums, as well as the contributions being made by both national and regional Internet governance forums.

The mentioned IGF's Best Practice Forums (BPFs) continue to offer unique platforms to investigate topical Internet policy challenges by collecting community input and experiences in a flexible and bottom-up manner. The BPF processes create platforms for people to discuss, interact and collaborate on specific Internet governance issues. They foster interaction between existing stakeholders and stakeholder groups and community members from all geographic regions.

This year specifically, the BPFs were pragmatically oriented toward mapping good practices among different groups, organizations, experts and individuals, and presented an analytical overview of these in the form of tangible output documents. This year, the Secretariat engaged with a focused working group on assessing the previous BPFs and recommending criteria for convening future BPFs. The assessment resulted in a 'BPF on BPFs' report[29] that will be subject for MAG's deliberations at the start of the IGF 2021 cycle.

Extending and developing on a process which began in 2015 with their first-ever main session at the IGF, IGF Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) coordinated their efforts throughout 2020 leading up to the annual meeting. Through their regular monthly virtual meetings and adoption of common work standards, their activities have become more synchronized, all while coalitions continue to work independently as multistakeholder expert discussion groups on a variety of topics. A majority of DCs produced papers on their DCs contributing to the post-pandemic socio-economic recovery, discussed during the 15th IGF. This substantive work also culminated in a multi-themed and engaging main session, following up coalitions' joint main sessions held since 2015. As with other parts of the IGF Community, DCs are growing steadily, with for now twenty-three (23) being recognized and active in their thematic work.

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[29] Assessment of BPFs Report https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/3405/2212

Some specific efforts were undertaken to improve working modalities relate to bottom-up means of developing the annual programme and annual meeting's structure and logistics. As mentioned a public call for inputs was launched early in the year to help understand the thematic Internet governance priorities of the global community. More than 300 inputs received, followed by extensive discussions on a strategic, thematic direction for IGF activities in 2019, helped the MAG to identify three priority themes on which to build a focused and cohesive programme this year: *(1) Data; (2) Environment; (3) Inclusion; and (4) Trust*. This call resulted in some new topics emerging as subjects of global interest, such as the environment. The submission process of session proposals was better streamlined as a result of the advice of MAG Working Group on Workshop Process (WG-WSP)[30]. These efforts were complemented by the Secretariat's automatization of the report system advance, supported by written step-by-step written guidance and webinars for session organizers. This reformed system of gathering direct reports from the session organizer shortly after the sessions' end helped developing substantive outputs across thematic tracks and the high-level leaders in a form of the 'IGF Messages'[31] that complemented the overall IGF 2020 Summary Report[32], all to provide succinct and readable takeaways on the IGF's major themes.

Providing even further opportunity to participate and enhance institutional memory of the dialogue that will place at the 15th IGF, all sessions were live-streamed and webcasted, with transcripts[33] and videos[34] instant upload for online viewing. Both the IGF's and wider UN Secretariat's social media channels, such as Twitter #IGF2020, Facebook and Instagram were particularly active during the preparatory process and annual meeting, supporting the systematic posting of IGF 2020-related materials and information. The MAG Working Group on Outreach and Engagement (WG-OE)[35] also takes specific efforts to promote the IGF 2020 process and annual meeting broadly. In cooperation with the UN Department of Global Communications, several official UN press releases[36] were produced during the meeting. These efforts helped the IGF to impact to those hoping to learn more about digital policy issues, particularly in developing countries.

In addition to the working modalities of the annual IGF programme, the long-term improvements of the IGF process were addressed by a dedicated Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy)[37]. This group particularly focused on reviewing the proposed improvements of the IGF model outlined in the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. The improvements to the IGF process, especially in respect to inclusion were complimented by the work of the Working Group on Language (WG-Language), that focused on assessing the public need for having the IGF's content available in more languages than English.

In order to bridge the two IGF's cycles, the MAG[38] was renewed and appointed on the last day of the IGF 2020 annual meeting, to start planning the 16th annual IGF meeting building on good outcomes and lessons learnt at the 15th IGF.

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[30] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/working-group-on-workshop-review-and-evaluation-process-wg-wrep
[31] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-outputs
[32] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/10794/2357
[33] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/igf-2020-transcripts
[34] https://www.youtube.com/user/igf/videos
[35] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/working-group-on-outreach-and-engagement-wg-oe-0
[36] UN Press releases https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-outputs
[37] https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/working-group-on-igf-strengthening-and-strategy-wg-ss
[38] MAG 2021 Renewal https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-2021-members

In addition to a record participation at the IGF 2020 annual meeting, especially in regard to high-level representation and participation from developing countries, to a large extent, the IGF has ensured its sustainability by having confirmed the host governments for 2021 (Poland), 2022 (Ethiopia), 2023 (Japan) and 2025 (Russian Federation), with several expressions of interest for hosting of 2024 received.