



**First Meeting of the Working Group on improvements to the Internet Governance
Forum (IGF)**

Montreux, Switzerland

25 February and 26 February 2011

Chairman's summary of the meeting

1. The first meeting of the Working Group on improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was held in the Grand Hotel Majestic in Montreux, Switzerland on 25 and 26 February 2011. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Frédéric Riehl (Switzerland).
2. Following the opening statement by the Chair, the Working Group discussed a number of procedural issues related to the meeting agenda and working methods. Several delegations underlined the importance of equal representation from developed and developing countries in the Working Group. Avenues to provide funding for developing country representatives should be further explored and made easily accessible. The Working Group agreed to hold its next meeting on 24 and 25 March 2011 in Geneva in the premises of the Palais des Nations or its proximity.
3. The Working Group held a detailed discussion on the meeting agenda. Some delegations expressed reservations regarding the provisional draft agenda. They deemed the draft agenda to be too closely modeled on a draft structure that the Chair had sent out to all members and invited participants to provide comments on the themes proposed in the draft structure. These delegations considered that the draft structure could still be improved and that the current agenda should therefore also be revised. Other delegations believed that, rather than deciding on a structure from the start, a discussion of the different themes proposed in the agenda would help identify important issues better and make it easier to shape a structure for the Group's report.
4. Some delegations also pointed out that the structure of the Group's report should have a strong logical hierarchy, starting with the overall objective of improvements to the IGF with reference in particular to the Tunis Agenda¹ and General Assembly Resolution (A/65/141) on "Information and communications technologies for development", adopted on 20 December 2010. The report should then explore the structures and mechanisms that would be needed to achieving this aim before going into the measures that are necessary to sustain these structures and mechanisms.

¹ Tunis Agenda for the Information Society (WSIS-05/TUNIS/DOC/6(Rev. 1)-E)

5. Other delegations regarded it important that the report also looks at past achievements of the IGF while others proposed to add a separate point on the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) in the report's structure.
6. The Working Group finally agreed that it would decide on a final structure for the report at the Group's next meeting. The delegations also agreed that, rather than adhering to the provisional draft agenda, they would continue the meeting by exploring the following list of issues:
 - 1) Review of IGF vis-à-vis Tunis Agenda – paragraphs 72 to 80
 - 2) Improving the IGF with a view to linking it to the broader dialogue on global Internet governance as directed by UNGA resolution
 - 3) How to enhance the contribution of IGF to socio-economic development and towards IADGs including enhancing participation of developing countries
 - 4) Shaping the outcome of IGF meetings
 - 5) Outreach to and cooperation with other organisations and fora dealing with IG issues
 - 6) Inclusiveness of the IGF process and of participation at the IGF meetings (in particular with regard to stakeholders from developing countries)
 - 7) Working methods of the IGF, in particular improving the preparation process modalities
 - 7.1) Current modalities: open consultation and MAG
 - 7.2) IGF Secretariat
 - 8) Format of the IGF meetings
 - 9) Financing the Forum (exploring further options for financing)
 - 9.1) Review of the current situation
 - 9.2) Options for ensuring predictability, transparency and accountability in financing IGF
 - 10) Conclusions and Recommendations
 - 11) Provisional agenda of the second meeting of the Working Group
7. The Working Group paid particular attention to the issue of outreach to and cooperation with other organizations and forums dealing with internet governance issues and the outcome of IGF meetings. One delegation suggested that the IGF should improve its links with the WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) follow-up process. Several delegations also evoked new ways of shaping the IGF's outcome. One delegation spoke of a need to consolidate views expressed at the IGF and to translate them into clear policy actions and opinions to be fed into other IG- related policy forums. Another delegation suggested that the MAG create working groups, which would work on specific Internet policy issues that would then be discussed in the IGF. The MAG working group would compile points of convergence reached on these issues or lists of alternative policy proposals and submit them to the UN Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) for consideration. Another delegation warned that the IGF should avoid binding commitments because the outcomes at IGF discussions would always be subjective and could not be considered definite.

8. Several delegations stressed the importance of reaching out and including all relevant stakeholders in the IGF process. In particular, representatives of the business community and civil society as well as government officials from developing countries should be more represented and better involved in the IGF. One delegation underlined that improving support for participation was a collective responsibility. It was also suggested that high quality documentation on the outcomes of IGF discussions as well as on lessons learned could make the meeting more attractive for governments. One delegation pointed out that in order to become more interesting and relevant to developing countries, the IGF should have an impact on Internationally Agreed Development Goals (IADGs).
9. The Working Group also paid particular attention to the work of the MAG. Some delegations considered that the MAG needed to be more inclusive and transparent. Other delegations stressed that the MAG had already become increasingly open and transparent, for example, by allowing observers to participate in its meetings or by making meeting transcripts available publicly. Several delegations agreed that the MAG should become more representative and inclusive, for example by reviewing the selection process or by building the capacity of new members so that they can participate actively in meetings.
10. On the issue of the financing of the Forum, the IGF Secretariat answered a number of questions regarding current IGF funding arrangements. The Group then addressed possible further financing options and some delegations proposed the introduction of a regular budget financed by the United Nations. Other delegations expressed their support of the current funding arrangements, where the IGF is financed through voluntary contributions.
11. The Working Group agreed that a questionnaire, based on points 1 to 9 of the above list of issues, will be published after the first meeting with an invitation to all relevant stakeholders to submit their comments by 14 March 2011. The individual contributions received as well as a compilation of the contributions will then be transmitted to all members and invited participants of the Working Group on time for the second meeting. The Group will then draft its final report based on those contributions.

Appendix
List of participants

MEMBER STATES

Brazil

Mr. Hartmut Glaser, Executive Director, Brazilian Internet Steering Committee
Mr. Alvaro Galvani, Head, Division of Information Society, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Mr. Maurício A. O. Correia, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of Brazil to the WTO and other economic organizations in Geneva

Chile

Mr. Luciano Parodi, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative at the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations in Geneva (*excused*)

Costa Rica

Mr. Norman Lizano, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations in Geneva

Egypt

Mr. Yasser Hassan, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations in Geneva

El Salvador

Mr. Félix Ulloa, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of El Salvador to the United Nations in Geneva

Finland

Ms. Mervi Kultamaa, Counsellor, Information Society & Trade Facilitation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland, Department for External Economic Relations

Ghana

Mr. Anthony Kwasi Nyame-Baafi, Minister (Commercial) at the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations in Geneva

Greece

Mr. George Papadatos, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations in Geneva

Hungary

Mr. Peter Major, Special Advisor, Permanent Mission of Hungary to the United Nations in Geneva

India

Ms. Nandini Kotthapally, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in Geneva
Mr. Manharsinh Yadav, Embassy of India, Brussels

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Mr. Alireza Tootoonchian, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations in Geneva

Lesotho

Mr. Lefeu Ramone, Minister Counsellor at the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the United Nations in Geneva

Lithuania

Mr. Donatas Tamulaitis, Head of International Economic Organisations Division at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Pakistan

Mr. Ahsan Nabeel, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations in Geneva

Portugal

Prof. Luis Magalhães, President of the Knowledge Society Agency (UMIC), Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education

Mr. Ricardo Pracana, Deputy Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations in Geneva

Ms Ana Cristina Amoroso das Neves, Head, International Affairs Knowledge Society Agency (UMIC), Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education

Mr. Giacomo Mazzone, Radio Television Portugal / European Broadcasting Union

Russian Federation

Mr. Igor Kokoshkin, Deputy Director General, Russian State Enterprise, Radio Research Institute (NIIR)

Mr. Arkady Kremer, Chairman of the Executive Committee, Association for Documentary Electronic Communication (ADE)

Mr. Vladimir Minkin, Deputy Director General, Russian State Enterprise Radio Research Institute (NIIR)

Mr. Alexander Petrov, Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations in Geneva

Ms. Natalia Timofeeva, Head of the International Organizations Division, Ministry of Communication and Mass Media of the Russian Federation

Slovakia**South Africa****Sri Lanka**

Mr. Vijaya Kumar, Head of Delegation Ms. Lakmini Peins Mendis, First Secretary, Sri Lanka Mission to the United Nations in Geneva

Switzerland

Mr. Frédéric Riehl, Director, International Relations, Federal Office of Communications

Mr. Hassane Makki, Scientific Advisor, Swiss Federal Office of Communications

Tunisia

Mr. Moez Chakchouk, Chief Executive Officer of Tunisian Internet Agency

United States of America

Mr. Richard Beard, Senior Deputy U.S. Coordinator, International Communications and Information Policy, U.S. Department of State

Mr. Craig Reilly, US Mission to the United Nations in Geneva

Ms. Robyn Disselkoen, US Department of State, International Organizations

INVITED PARTICIPANTS

Business Community

Ms. Marilyn Cade, CEO and Principal, ICT Strategies - mCADE LLC
Mr. Patrik Faltstrom, Distinguished Consulting Engineer, Cisco Systems –Sweden
Mr. Jimson Olufuye, President Information Technology Association of Nigeria (ITAN) & Vice-Chairman WITSA (Sub-Saharan Africa), Nigeria
Mr. Christoph Steck, Public Policy Director, Telefonica S.A.
Ms. Theresa Swinehart, Director - Global Internet Policy, Verizon

Civil Society

Mr. Izumi Aizu, Senior Research Fellow & Professor, Institute for InfoSocinomics, Kumon Center, Tama University
Ms. Anriette Esterhuysen, Executive Director, Association for Progressive Communications
Mr. Parminder Jeet Singh, Executive Director, IT for Change
Ms. Marilia Maciel, Project leader and researcher, Center for Technology and Society at Fundação Getulio Vargas
Mr. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, Professor, Department for Media and Information Sciences, University of Aarhus

Technical and Academic Community

Ms. Constance Bommelaer, Senior Manager, Strategic Global Engagement, Internet Society
Ms. Samantha Dickinson, Senior Policy Specialist, APNIC Pty Ltd
Mr. Baher Esmat, Manager, Regional Relations - Middle East "Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers Cairo, Egypt
Ms. Nurani Nimpuno, Outreach & Communications Manager, Netnod (Autonomica)
Mr. Oscar Robles-Garay, General Director for NIC México, LACNIC Board of Directors (Regional IP Registry for Latin American and Caribbean region)

Intergovernmental Organisations

International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
Mr. Preetam Maloor, Corporate Strategy Division
Mr. Jaroslaw Ponder, Corporate Strategy Division

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)
Mr. Patrick Spearing, Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer
Mr. Roberto Villarreal, Chief, Development Management Branch, Division for Public Administration and Development Management

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Mr. Adam Rogers, Senior Adviser, Strategic Communication

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)
Mr. Cédric Wachholz Programme Specialist, Information Society Division, Communication and Information Sector

World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
Mr. Joe Bradley, Head, Intergovernmental Organizations and Partnerships, Department of External Relations
Mr. Victor Owade, Consultant, Intergovernmental Organizations and Partnerships Section, Department of External Relations

OTHERS

IGF Secretariat
Mr. Chengetai Masango, Programme and Technology Manager