

**IGF Leadership Panel
Virtual Meeting
11 April 2024 | 15:30-16:30 UTC**

The [Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\) Leadership Panel](#) met virtually in plenary on 11 April. The purpose of the call was to discuss the recently released [Zero Draft of the UN Global Digital Compact](#) (GDC) following an exchange of views by the Panel on its mailing list. The Panel briefly discussed follow-up steps for the [Internet We Want](#) paper and its upcoming meetings, including dates for its face-to-face meeting in September 2024 in New York.

Decisions, Action Items & Next Steps

- In discussing the GDC Zero Draft the Panel agreed the following:
 - The Draft makes positive mention of the IGF but draws an artificial distinction between Internet governance and digital governance, describing IGF as only dealing with the former, and proposes many new mechanisms which risk duplicating existing processes.
 - The Draft may not sufficiently reflect the full picture of access and connectivity issues, in that usage relative to coverage gaps and their geographic idiosyncrasies are not explored.
 - By May 2nd, the Panel will send an open letter to GDC co-facilitators and permanent missions to: appeal avoiding duplication; suggest the IGF's effective multistakeholder function be put to use in GDC follow-up; and signal the IGF's willingness to collaborate with existing frameworks and strengthen the WSIS process.
 - Through their close relationship with the Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), the team representing Panel member Hatem Dowidar would explore producing a paper on the current state of access issues, which could also act as an informational input for the GDC.
- On next steps for the IWW framework, the Panel decided to:
 - Hold a meeting as soon as possible of Group A responsible for IWW to discuss the vision paper updated with inputs, which would be ready in the next week.
 - Incorporate mention of the updated document as a "0.5" or "1" draft in the open letter to GDC co-facilitators and missions if the draft is evolved enough.
 - Coordinate closely with the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) to distribute tasks related to IWW thematic areas.
- Concerning its upcoming meetings, the Panel:
 - Confirmed the timeframe for its face-to-face meeting in New York would be the week of 16 September 2024, the week before the UN Summit of the Future where the GDC will come up for adoption, with initial proposed dates of 17-18 September.
 - Agreed it would wait until after its virtual meeting on the IWW to assess whether a face-to-face meeting before September would be necessary.
 - Agreed it should schedule its next virtual plenary meetings, especially if an interim face-to-face meeting is not foreseen.

Annex – Attendance

Panel

Members

Mr. Vint Cerf, Chair
Ms. Lise Fuhr
Ms. Maria Fernanda Garza
Ms. Carol Roach

Panel Advisors, Representatives & Support Persons

Ms. Meni Anastasiadou
Mr. Yoichi Iida
Mr. Robert Middlehurst
Ms. Timea Suto
Ms. Anna Walch
Ms. Rebekah Hayoung Woo

Regrets

Mr. Ahmed Mohammed Alsuwaiyan
Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves
Mr. Belete Molla
Ms. Maria Ressa
Mr. 'Gbenga Sesan
Mr. Lan Xue

IGF Secretariat

Ms. Céline Bal
Mr. Luis Bobo Garcia
Ms. Anja Gengo
Mr. Chengetai Masango
Ms. Eleonora Mazzucchi