

MAG Working Group on Outreach, Engagement & Communications (WGOEC) Virtual Meeting: 10 May 2022

1. The MAG WGOEC's May follow-up meeting was held virtually on Tuesday 10 May, 2022. The meeting was moderated by MAG member Mr. Amado Espinosa and supported by the IGF Secretariat, represented by Ms. Eleonora Mazzucchi. The following MAG members participated: Ms. Carina Birarda, Ms. Hariniombonana Andriamampionona, Mr. Alan García Ramírez and Mr. Roberto Zambrana. Also participating were Ms. June Parris, former MAG member, and Ms. Irene Signorelli, representing Ms. Velimira Grau, European Commission.

2. Mr. Espinosa welcomed participants on the call, beginning a discussion on communication gaps with a remark recently made by fellow MAG member, Evelyne Tauchnitz. Ms. Tauchnitz had noted that the IGF should do more to interface with academic organizations, something Mr. Espinosa said this working group could address, in part by using the group's database project as a starting point. At the beginning of the year, the group had produced a draft table inviting MAG members to share their connection to (and contact details of) organizations with which the IGF is not yet engaged. The objective of the database is to gather in one place the communication details of under or un-engaged entities to see how the relevant MAG members can invite them to participate in the IGF and to commit members to conduct targeted outreach. The Secretariat would assist, if needed, in drafting any messages or invitations for this purpose.

3. Mr. Zambrana confirmed that there were indeed several academic and scientific networks that the IGF could tap into, with strong regional bases. He cited RedCLARA in Latin America, Géant in Europe, and UbuntuNet Alliance in Africa, as well as country-specific networks such as Cudi (active in Mexico and beyond). These have natural synergies with some of the IGF's work and objectives, and the networks' constituents could potentially be very interested in joining IGF activities. MAG members with connections to the networks could also engage them by participating in their periodic meetings, such as annual events, and briefing on the IGF. Mr. Zambrana added that the database would be a good tool for extending the IGF's communications, given that each MAG member has varied contacts and relationships to different communities.

4. Others on the call offered to log in the database the specific entities with which they could strengthen outreach. Ms. Birarda mentioned her ties with civil society and cybersecurity communities, Ms. Signorelli with youth groups, and Ms. Parris with academic groups in Barbados, adding that there was strong interest in her country in the upcoming global IGF, given it will be held in Africa.

5. Mr. Espinosa thanked participants for their eagerness to build up the database and said he would circulate this to them with the Secretariat's support.

The following short Action Points were agreed:

a. WGOEC facilitator Amado Espinosa will circulate the database document to the meeting participants for review, within one week.

b. The Working Group will transmit the database to the rest of the MAG as soon as possible thereafter.