



Dynamic Coalition on  
Accessibility and Disability

## IGF DCAD Session on Workshop Proposals

26 February 2025

### Speaker: Muhammad Shabbir (Co-Coordinator, DCAD)

- Welcomed all participants and introduced the session.
- Explained the purpose of the meeting: discussing IGF proposals, submission modalities, and best practices for acceptance.
- Introduced the panelists, including members from the Secretariat and MAG.
- Emphasized the importance of submitting strong accessibility-focused proposals and ensuring the voices of persons with disabilities are incorporated in IGF sessions.

### Speaker: Anja Gengo (IGF Secretariat)

- Acknowledged the invitation and introduced Celine as the lead for proposal coordination.
- Expressed gratitude for the initiative to hold a session guiding IGF submissions.

### Speaker: Celine (IGF Secretariat)

- Provided an overview of the IGF session proposal process.
- Highlighted key deadlines:
  - Call for session proposals, IGF booths, and remote hubs is open until **March 12, 2025**.
  - MAG will evaluate proposals and select approximately **80 sessions** for the IGF program.
  - The **MAG consultation meeting** to finalize selections will be held **April 14–16, 2025**, in Geneva and online.
- Encouraged active participation in the consultation meetings.

- Explained how accepted proposals will be announced **within a week after the consultation**.

### **Speaker: Lito Ibarra (MAG Member)**

- Discussed the significance of the **IGF 2025**, marking the **20th anniversary of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)**.
- Stressed the **urgency of proposal submissions** as the IGF event is earlier in the year (June 2025).
- Explained the **evaluation process** for workshop proposals:
  - **Initial screening** by the Secretariat (ensuring diversity requirements and compliance with proposal guidelines).
  - **MAG review**, where members individually assess proposals based on:
    - **Proposed topic (20%)** – Must align with IGF's four subthemes.
    - **Workshop content (30%)** – Clear structure, diverse perspectives.
    - **Policy questions (15%)** – Focus on addressing key digital policy issues.
    - **Engagement & hybrid strategy (15%)** – Effective audience interaction.
    - **Diversity (20%)** – Balanced gender, regional, and stakeholder representation.
  - Encouraged proposals to reference key global frameworks such as the **Global Digital Compact** and **WSIS+20**.
- Provided **tips for successful submissions**:
  - Ensure compliance with minimum requirements (gender balance, on-site speakers).
  - Focus on an **engaging and diverse panel** with differing perspectives.
  - Align with IGF subthemes and reference relevant **global digital policies**.

### **Speaker: Gunela Astbrink (MAG Member, Accessibility Advocate)**

- Advised **mainstreaming disability** across different IGF subthemes:
  - **Universal access and digital rights** – Traditional accessibility topics.
  - **Digital trust and resilience** – AI, cybersecurity, and misinformation from an accessibility perspective.
  - **Sustainable and responsible innovation** – Technology for persons with disabilities.

- **Global digital cooperation** – Disability rights in governance frameworks.
- Stressed the importance of **lived experience of disability** in proposal narratives.
- Encouraged proposals to focus on **policy advocacy** using frameworks like:
  - **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)**.
  - **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**.
  - **Global Digital Compact**.
- Recommended **reading the IGF submission manual** carefully to avoid disqualifications.
- Highlighted **fewer session slots in 2025**, making competition tougher.
- Suggested leveraging the **IGF Resource Persons database** to find diverse panelists.

### **Speaker: Judith Hellerstein (DCAD Co-coordinator)**

- Asked about **extra evaluation points** for proposals partnering with IGF intersessional groups.
- Clarified that **no extra points** are given, but intersessional work relationships are considered for networking and collaboration.

### **Speaker: Mohammed Ali Loutfy (Participant)**

- Asked about:
  - The **deadline for submissions** (confirmed as **March 12, 2025**).
  - The **involvement of disability organizations** in past IGFs.
  - Potential **financial support for workshop organizers**.

### **Responses from Secretariat & MAG Members**

- **On disability organizations:**
  - Proposals **do not receive extra points** for involving disability organizations but are assessed under **diversity criteria**.
  - Many disability-related proposals are received each year.
  - IGF needs better **outreach** to organizations outside the tech community.
- **On financial support:**
  - IGF travel support **deadline has passed** (Feb 17, 2025).
  - **Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD)** offers small grants for select participants.

- **Journalist fellowships for the Global South** are **open until March 7, 2025**.

### **Speaker: Anja Gengo (IGF Secretariat)**

- Confirmed that **alternative submission formats** (e.g., Word documents) are accepted for persons with disabilities.
- Encouraged **early submission** for proper processing and editorial rights on the IGF platform.

### **Closing Remarks**

- **Muhammad Shabbir & Judith Hellerstein** thanked participants and speakers.
- Highlighted **importance of diverse and well-structured proposals**.
- Encouraged **exploring alternative formats like lightning talks**.

### **Links posted in Zoom Chat**

- [Registration for the 2nd Open Consultation and MAG meeting](#)
- [IGF 2025 Workshop Submission Manual](#)
- [IGF 2025 overarching theme and subthemes](#)
- [IGF resource persons](#)