BPF on BPFs

At the first MAG meeting/Open Consultations this year in January in Geneva there was a discussion on how to select themes for Best Practice Forums (BPFs) and also on how to evaluate whether they achieved their objectives.

The MAG decided to launch a process with the objective of finding a common understanding on how best to organise BPFs. The aim is to document lessons learned, outputs, and, where possible, outcomes of BPFs organized between 2014 and 2019 and inform the process for evaluating, proposing and approving BPFs from 2021 onwards.

As a first step, the IGF Secretariat identified key actors who have been involved in the running of one or more BPFs in the past. They have been asked to provide input into this exercise, colloquially termed as a “BPF on BPFs”.

The overarching questions are the usual BPF questions, namely

- what worked well
- what worked less well
- with hindsight, what would you have done differently

Part of the work will be the development of a systematised evaluation tool, with proposals for metrics by which the MAG could assess BPF proposals and outcomes, as well as to provide guidance for best practices on organizing and leading a BPF.

Actions and deliverables

1. Collect and document experiences, best practices and other input related to the BPFs organized between 2014 and 2019 (desk research, surveys, interviews, etc.). Identify key participants such as former coordinators, lead experts, key contributors and consultants/Secretariat staff.
2. Analyse the collected information and formulate best practices and recommendations for improvements, Prepare a substantive draft report for the MAG.
3. Open up the process and invite the MAG and other interested parties to provide feedback. Collect and analyse the feed-back received. Organise calls as necessary to discuss the ongoing work.
4. Publish a final report, that takes into account all the input received from the MAG and other participants. The report will be issued ahead of the annual IGF meeting so that recommendations can be taken up in the process of selecting the BPF themes for 2021.

Tentative time table:

Research and analysis: April - May

Draft report by 1 June (2 weeks before the June MAG meeting)

Open process/ MAG discussion and feedback: June - July - Aug

Final report by 1 October 2020