

OMAC Report

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July 2021 Board Meeting

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OMAC Activities

Two OMAC roundtables delivered

In a continued aim to build an OMAC dedicated to advice to the Internet Society Board & Leadership on matters affecting the general welfare and effectiveness of the global Internet and its users, the OMAC co-chairs and organization membership team have launched the OMAC roundtables in May 2021.

The first OMAC roundtable held on 18 May 2021 had the objective to collectively select the topics of discussion and set the stage for the following monthly meetings, while creating an environment of mutual trust and participation among all participants. During this meeting, members agreed for discussions to be held under Chatham House rules and key learnings to be shared with the OMAC and translated into advice to the Internet Society Board and leadership.

The second roundtable was held on 13 July 2021. The discussions provided an excellent opportunity for members to understand the "why" and the "what" of Internet Society's work. The roundtable also presented an occasion for members to examine how to work more together with the Internet Society in supporting it to achieve its mission.

In response to Organization Members' request to have the Internet Society Board members join the roundtables, the OMAC co-chairs would like to thank you - the Board- for accepting our invitations and for having taken the time to join the discussions.



Key Learnings

- The key issues Organization Members care about are the impact of Internet policy and new technologies on the Internet ecosystem, while capacity of policy makers could be built for them to better understand the impacts of their decisions.
- Organization Members look at the Internet Society to lead through thought leadership and solution building on complex issues they cannot solve themselves.
- Organization Members want to understand Internet Society's work better and find additional ways to support the Internet Society in achieving its mission. They want to be an integral part of discussions and have a seat at the table on the Internet Society's agenda setting.
- The human approach sparks most engagement and participation:
 - Discussions that focus on the human impact of internet issues have attracted most participation and engagement.
 - Organization Members are much more engaged when "talked with" instead of "presented to".
- Organization Members have a desire for action-oriented interaction with the Internet Society and between their peers in order to learn, network and support the advancement of the Internet.
- Organization Members value the purpose of the roundtables and the collaborative approach proved to be successful with a growing number of participants and a high satisfaction scores with 98% of participants scoring the event between Excellent and Good.

Advice to the Internet Society Board and Leadership

- Organization Members are very interested in being actively involved in developing Internet Society initiatives and projects instead of just giving feedback post-facto. This could involve more listening sessions and discussions with the Internet Society



project teams earlier in the design phase of its action plan projects. In this way, the Internet Society can engage more organizations to support it in achieving its mission.

- The entire Internet Society (i.e., leadership, projects, and community) could focus more on creating opportunities for networking, mutual learning, and engagement around key Internet matters that affect the Internet ecosystem. Organization membership is a prime vehicle to make that happen.
- The Internet Society plays a significant role at the intersection of Internet technology, governance and development. There seems to be an opportunity for the Internet Society to spearhead dedicated capacity building for policy makers to minimize the negative impacts of their decisions.

Future Engagement

- Future OMAC roundtables will build upon our learning and will be more action oriented discussions around Internet matters that are important to Organization Members and the general welfare of the global Internet.
- The OMAC co-chairs would like to request for at least 1 Board member to participate in the monthly OMAC roundtables to build a relationship between the Internet Society Board and the OMAC.
- To increase interaction between the OMAC and the Internet Society community, the OMAC co-chairs will participate in the Internet Society Community Week planned in 16 - 18 November 2021
- The co-chairs will keep working with organization membership team to improve engagement, participation and grow satisfaction scores of the OMAC roundtables.
- OMAC co-chairs will keep distilling advice on matters concerning the general welfare of Internet from the OMAC and look forward to further engaging the Board and leadership in the months ahead.

