

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting 22

07 October 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC

Summary Report

The 26th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 07 October 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC. The meeting was hosted and moderated by Roman Chukov. The list of participants is annexed to this report. The recording of the meeting is available only to the meeting participants upon request.

The co-chair opened the meeting by introducing the agenda:

Agenda

1. Reflections on the Our Common Agenda Report
2. Participation of the WG-Strategy to the IGF preparatory and engagement phase
3. Outcomes and promotion of the IGF
4. Update on the IGF Youth Summit
5. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology
6. Any other business
 - a. MHLB
 - b. Update from the IGF Secretariat/UNDESA on the Parliamentary Track
 - c. Table mapping the activities of the UN SG's Roadmap for digital cooperation and the IGF.

1. Reflections on the Our Common Agenda Report

Jorge Cancio started the conversation on the "Our Common Agenda" Report by the UNSG. He stated that it was a very wide document and brought up several issues about the report, namely:

- The roadmap for digital cooperation is mentioned explicitly and remains the basis of our work.
- Para 93 in the Our Common Agenda report relates directly to the IGF, in which the SG urges the IGF to adapt, innovate and reform to support effective governance of the Digital Commons and keep pace with rapid real-world developments.
- The mapping exercise could be a good basis for delivering an overview to the SG to demonstrate where the IGF is helping to implement the roadmap activities.
- What is not mentioned in the Common Agenda is the multistakeholder high-level body. There are some expectations to give a clearer signal from the side of the community that we are ready to go forward.
- The rest of section 93 of the Common Agenda refers to a possible "global digital compact", which could be agreed at a "summit of the future".
- It would be important to communicate to the SG that the IGF is ready to act as the main vehicle for the "multi-stakeholder digital technology track" mentioned in the Common Agenda to prepare the global digital compact

In recapping, Jorge suggested that the IGF:

- (1) Communicates all its contributions to implementing the Roadmap (based on the mapping);
- (2) Informs on its progress in implementing 93 of the Roadmap and its readiness to make progress, including on MHLB;
- (3) Offers its availability for being a main vehicle for the multistakeholder digital track with a view to a Global Digital Compact

Nigel Hickson responded to Jorge's contribution by stating that the UK welcomed the Common Agenda and agreed with a lot of what Jorge stated. He hopes that UN representatives will speak about the Common Agenda during the IGF 2021 in Poland, as many people will want to understand more about the digital compact and the summit in 2023.

Ben Wallis noticed a difference in tone between the way the roadmap describes the IGF and the way the common agenda describes the IGF.

- The Roadmap describes the IGF as an opportunity to exchange on internet policy issues
- The Common Agenda sounds like an ultimatum, or a last chance, it urges the IGF to evolve and adapt.

He also said that we need to do more than regulate the digital commons, as stated in the Common Agenda.

Anriette Esterhuysen agreed with Ben on his point about the difference between the two reports. The roadmap offers a narrower view of the IGF, whereas the Common Agenda showed a broader view of the IGF, with shared principles. It's a challenge and there is an opportunity. If the IGF wants to focus on being a platform for engagement, it will take longer than 2023. That mandate could conflict with the other agenda telling us to be more focused and more policy oriented. She concluded by asking whether it was realistic for the IGF to be more governance oriented, as that could potentially undermine the IGF as a platform for engagement.

Question: What do you think that we, as the working group, can do to show the IGF a better role in this process?

- For Anriette, we should do a response letter to the UNSG to welcome this agenda and emphasise that the IGF is the ideal platform for the multistakeholder digital track. We have to emphasise the multinational and multi-disciplinary aspect.
- Timea Suto agreed with Anriette and stated that many people are in favour of the IGF as a multistakeholder platform. The MAG needs to provide a response to the UNSG and position the IGF as the ideal platform. It needs to involve not only the MAG, but also colleagues in the Secretariat.
- Adam Peake jumped in to say that a Main Session on Digital Cooperation will be organized at the IGF and that UNDESA is eager to participate and making this session a success.
- Jorge welcomes the letter idea that Anriette proposed and suggested that the letter should include the three points that he mentioned before, to show that the IGF is listening to the first sentence of section 93 and also acting upon it to improve itself.
- Mark Carvell stated that the IGF has to demonstrate that it has impact and provide a bridge from non-decision to produce consensus-based outcomes.

It was agreed that the WG Strategy will prepare **a response letter to the UNSG on the Common Agenda** and that the Co-Chairs of the WG Strategy will prepare a first draft together with other volunteers.

2. Participation of the WG Strategy to the IGF preparatory and engagement phase

Titti Cassa mentioned the proposal to support two sessions: One was related to the IGF evolution, and one to the state of multi-stakeholder Internet Governance.

Anriette proposed a session that would look back at 16 years of the IGF, while Giacomo proposed that instead of looking back at 16 years of the IGF, we should look forward and invite institutions to say what they want from the IGF.

Giacomo Mazzone suggested that we don't try to be more modest, but more practical to reach a decision that could be useful for the next years of the IGF. We should combine the information about

the things that are happening around us, and what we can identify through our constituencies. This way, we could draft a multi-year plan for the IGF. It would also be useful to have some feedback from the SG on the IGF.

3. Outcomes and promotion of the IGF

Roman Chukov introduced this part by stating that this section on outcomes and promotional budget was one of the tasks to understand how to structure and promote the results of the IGF so far. One of the ideas, was to cooperate with the other MAG working group which is more focused on communication.

Amado Espinosa agreed with Ben and Jorge that it would be important to define the communication strategy in the context of this initiative, for both the summit and the coming events. He will help find the best way for us to communicate to the public and try to set a specific message for each community in order for them to understand and relate to the mission.

Anriette stated that it would be a good idea to bring the goals and the ideas from different working groups and include the secretariat in the discussion.

4. Update on the IGF Youth Summit

N/A

5. Update on behalf of the Office of the Enjoy on Technology

Jason Munyan stated that Assistant Secretary-General Spatolisano was in Geneva this week for a couple of events, such as an initiative called AI for Road Safety in partnership with ITU, the World Data Forum in Bern, and the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipator (GESDA) Summit.

6. Any Other Business

a. MHLB

Nothing further to report.

b. Update from the IGF Secretariat/UNDESA on the Parliamentary Track

Przemyslaw Typiak provided the update starting with the webinars on privacy risks, freedom of speech, and the fight against harmful content on internet platforms. The next one is scheduled on the 21st of October and one on 4th of November. There will be a meeting with IPU next week, they are working on the composition of the parliamentary track. They are finalizing the amendments on the legal documents regarding access because of the pandemic. They are setting up a liaison officer to regulate how the venues will be organised.

Adam Peake stated that they held a preparatory session for the parliamentary track and that 65 parliamentarians are registered so far, but there will be more. The inter-parliamentary union is currently sending out invitations.

c. Table mapping the activities of the UNSG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and the IGF.

N/A

Next meeting: Titti will provide a doodle poll.

Annex 1:

List of participants

Amrita Choudhury

Titti Cassa

Eileen

Markus Kummer

Jason Munyan

Livia Walpen

Poncelet Ileleji

Eileen Cejas

Chris Disspain

Luis Bobo

Timea Suto

Tereza Horejsova

Sorina

Adam Peake

Velmira Nemiguentcheva-Grau

Sorina

Jim Prendergast

Flavio Wagner

Jorge Cancio

Raymond Mamattah

Alice Weiss

Wim Degezelle

Herman P