MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting XXV
26 August 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC

Summary Report

The 25th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on the 26th of August 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC. The meeting was hosted by Group's co-chair Concettina Cassa and moderated with the support of the co-chair Livia Walpen. 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) Participation of the WG-Strategy to the IGF preparatory and engagement phase;
2) Support of the WG- Strategy to the IGF Youth Summit (Eileen)
3) Table mapping the activities of the UN SG's Roadmap for digital cooperation and the IGF.
4) Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology
5) AOB
   · MHLB
   · Update from the IGF Secretariat/UNDESA on the Parliamentary Track.

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

The WG Strategy members were encouraged to join the issue teams and provide their inputs and help frame the discussions for the **IGF Preparatory Phase**
The MAG chair, Anriette Esterhuysen, shared the main initiatives included in the preparatory and engagement phase where the WG's members could be involved. She recalled that this phase was in part introduced as a response to the recommendations of the working group strategy for making the IGF more inclusive.
   Recommended sessions for WG-Strategy to participate:
   1) The issue team on inclusive internet governance and digital cooperation led by the MAG member (Sooki);
   2) The session related to the Roadmap implementation led by the Office of the Envoy on Technology (Jason)
   3) The session on the status of multi stakeholder Internet governance.
About the webinar titled "*16 Years of IGF Evolution and Strengthening – Taking Stock and Looking Forward*" also included in the program more information will be shared by Anriette and the IGF Secretariat in the next days.

2. **Support of the WG- Strategy to the IGF Youth Summit**

Eileen Cejas shared the plan and the main initiatives activated for the Youth Summit. She asked to the WG's member to volunteer as mentor of the working groups that have been activated. Raul Echeberria expressed his availability as mentor asking for more information on how the hybrid IGF will work. Anriette said that more information on the modality of participation will be given during the open discussion to be held on September 20th at 1 UTC.

3. **Mapping activities of the UN SG's Roadmap for digital cooperation and the IGF**

It was shared that the Table will include the updates from DCs, PNE and BPFs. There was a suggestion to use the results of the mapping exercise as inputs to feed the multiyear plan.

Velimira (EC) suggested updating the document to explain the purpose of the mapping exercise and to discuss the follow up activities and how to integrate IGF activities in the Roadmap activities.

4. **Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology**

Jason provided an update on behalf of the Envoy on Technology of their activities.

- Global connectivity: the draft baseline and targets for universal and meaningful digital connectivity has been circulated based on consultations held in the past several months. Comments on the document will be collected till September 2.
- Digital goods: the digital goods alliance is preparing a roadmap of their activities that will be launched by the end of August.
- Digital inclusion: there is a call from Netherlands for case studies on digital inclusion, the deadline for applications is the second in September.
- Capacity building: the Co-champions, are discussing next steps for that group, and there will be an IGF session on the work in digital capacity building.
- Artificial intelligence: the Slovenian Presidency, the European Council together with the European Commission (DG Connect) will have a High Level Conference on artificial intelligence that will take place mid September the 14th and 15th
  https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/events/high-level-conference-on-ai-from-ambition-to-action

- The UN General Assembly adopted the UNGA adopted a resolution on impact of rapid technological change on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets https://undocs.org/en/A/75/L.123
- The upcoming General Assembly, will include a number of site events being planned via the website and there will be a dedicated page with site events related to digital technologies.

- The launch of a Secretary General's Common agenda is expected to be in the month of September. It's a response to the 75th anniversary, the United Nations Declaration, and it includes a paragraph on digital cooperation and will feature a number of aspects related to digital technologies.
- Preparation of a two-hour session during the preparatory phase of IGF on multi stakeholder engagement and implementation of the roadmap.

5. AOB

a. MHLB

Updating on the process of the MHLB, Jason shared that there's progress towards the establishment of the Multi stakeholder high level body.

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

Sorina recalled that the overall theme for the parliamentary track related to legislative approaches for a user centric digital space. The track is organized with the support of UNDESA, the IGF Secretariat, the Polish Parliament and IPU and it will have a preparatory phase. The overall overarching theme has been structured in three specific topics.

- Data, specifically on privacy rights and legitimate uses of personal data.
- Balancing freedom of speech and the fight against harmful content and the role of Internet platforms
- AI governance looking at automated decision making and human centric

The focus would be around possible parliamentary legislative actions that parliaments have been doing, are doing or planning to do around the specific issues. The preparatory session will be reserved to parliamentarians only while the parliamentary Roundtable that will be held on December 7th is open to all.

Sorina asked for the support of the WG's members in reaching out to MPs. The formal invites are about to be sent, but follow up actions would indeed be needed to make sure MPs actually participate.

c. Anja Gengo from IGF Secretariat gave an update on the process related to the Mag renewal proccess, the third Open and Consultation MAG meeting and on the call for travel support.

Next meeting: the next virtual meeting of the WG is planned for 16 September - 1 PM UTC.

Annex 1: List of participants

1. Adam Peake, MAG Member,

2. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, CCAOI, MAG Member
3. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
4. Anriette Esterhuysen, IGF 2020 MAG Chair, Group's Co-Chair
5. Alice Weiss, Academic Intern, Government of Switzerland,
6. Carlos Alberto Afonso, Executive Director, Nupef Institute, MAG Member
7. Chris Disspain, Independent Expert
8. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy, past MAG Member
9. Eileen Cejas, Latin America and the Caribbean for Youth Observatory
10. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br/ Federal University of do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, past MAG Member
11. Herman Romos,Independent expert
12. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent expert
13. Jason Munyan, Office of the Envoy on Technology
14. Livia Walpen, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Switzerland, Host country rep on the MAG
15. Markus Kummer, IGFSA
16. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
17. Paula Martins, APC, Independent expert
18. Paul Charlton, Government of Canada, MAG Member
19. Peace Olivier, Independent Expert
20. Raymond Mamattah, Independent Expert
21. Raul Echeberria, Independent expert
22. Sorina Teleanu, IGF Secretariat
23. Velimira GRAU, EC/DG-CNECT