

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting 27

28 October 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC

Summary Report

The 27th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 28 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. Draft Letter to the UN SG on the Our Common Agenda report
2. Contribution of the WG-Strategy to the IGF preparatory and engagement phase:
 - 16 Years of IGF Evolution and Strengthening – Taking Stock and Looking Forward
 - State of Multistakeholder Internet Governance and the IGF
3. Update on the IGF Youth Summit
4. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology
5. 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. Draft Letter to the UN SG on the Our Common Agenda report

Titti proposed going through the Draft Letter paragraph by paragraph, and several participants intervened with suggestions on how to improve and rearrange the letter.

Anriette opened the conversation about the Draft Letter by stating that what was still missing from the letter is an emphasis on the fact that the IGF evolved into an ecosystem, that there are national and regional IGFs, which makes the IGF a suitable platform for a bottom-up consultation and engagement.

Livia intervened by asking who was signing the letter, and Anriette replied that it has to come from the MAG – whoever signs the letter will sign it on behalf of the MAG. After discussions, it was agreed that Anriette will sign the letter on behalf of the MAG.

Several participants stated that it would be a good idea to shorten the letter.

Anriette suggested a rearrangement of the letter:

- First, discuss the common agenda and the global digital compact and how the IGF is the ideal platform for that.
- Next, discuss how we've been responding to the roadmap.

Paul Charlton stated that since the multi-stakeholder high level body is a controversial concept, it would be a good idea to have a final sentence addressing the controversy. Mark Carvell responded by saying he isn't sure whether this was the right place to convey this.

On the role the IGF could play regarding the Global Digital Compact, Livia emphasized that she would not picture the IGF as a platform for negotiation, but instead as an inclusive platform with an emphasis on engagement and consultation. Anriette agreed on this.

Titti closed the discussion on the letter by stating that the new version will remain open for 4 or 5 days for any further comments.

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

a. 16 Years of IGF Evolution and Strengthening

Anriette stated that the session is scheduled for Wednesday, November 17th, 2021, at 1pm UTC. Initially, two sessions were proposed: one looking back at the trends in internet governance and one looking forward. In the end, the two sessions will be merged.

b. State of Multistakeholder Internet Governance and the IGF

Anja stated that the Secretariat will work on gathering the main points from all the preparatory session activities and ensuring that they feed into the MAG issue focused group and see how they can enrich the existing narratives on the issue areas. There will also be dedicated sessions at the 16th IGF itself.

3. Update on the [IGF Youth Summit](#)

Roman said he reached out to the organisers to understand how the process is going and they have several working groups in which they will produce some action points that will be presented during the summit on December 6th. This might be the IGF's first experience of young people showing the stronger message because of their engagement activities at the IGF. So far, the process is going smoothly, and everyone is encouraged to help/mentor them.

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

Jason started the update by highlighting various events:

- November 4th: Vienna discussion forum, whose theme will be cyber equality and digital inclusion.
- In the area of digital human rights, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression was in NYC last week and addressed the UN General Assembly by referring to the first ever report by this mandate about gender justice and freedom of opinion.
- Earlier this week on the 26th of October, there was a Global Ministerial Conference on addressing hate speech through education organized by the UN and UNESCO.
- On October 28th, the Security Council will have an Arria-formula meeting on social media and hate speech and conflict context and that will include Access Now and several tech companies giving presentations to the Security Council.
- Next week: event organized by Latin American Internet association on content moderation.
- Later in November: IGF Italia 2021 and event on tech for democracy organized by the Danish government.
- AI for good webinars coming up in the next weeks.

UNGA Resolutions related to digital technologies:

- Ongoing negotiations on a resolution about Countering disinformation for the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Resolution on science, technology, and innovation for sustainable development.

- Resolution on the implementation by Member States on the common agenda.

5. Any Other Business

a. MHLB

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

Next meeting: November 25th

Annex 1:

List of participants

Anriette Esterhuysen
Anja Gengo
Amrita Choudhury
Titti Cassa
Markus Kummer
Roman Chukov
Jason Munyan
Livia Walpen
Poncelet Ileleji
Eileen Cejas
Chris Disspain
Luis Bobo
Timea Suto
Tereza Horejsova
Adam Peake
Velmira Nemiguentcheva-Grau
Sorina Teleanu
Jim Prendergast
Flavio Wagner
Raymond Mamattah
Alice Weiss
Wim Degezelle
Herman P
Mark Carvell
Paul Charlton