

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting 30

25 November 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC

Summary Report

The 30th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 25 November 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC. The meeting was hosted and moderated by Titti Cassa. 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. IGF Leadership panel
2. Update on the Draft Letter to the UN SG
3. Update on the IGF Youth Summit
4. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology
5. Any other business
 - Participation of the WG-Strategy in IGF2021
 - Update from the IGF Secretariat/UNDESA on the Parliamentary Track

1. IGF Leadership Panel

Chengetai opened the conversation by stating that there were 16 nominations so far for the Leadership Panel (LP), and the SG's office will review them. The deadline for all nominations is November 29th. The announcement should be made before the end of the year.

Mark Carvell asked in the chat whether there would be any steps to fill gaps in representations in Africa or other constituency to ensure diversity. Chengetai stated that there will be a review if there are no good nominations.

Anriette asked about whether there would be any interaction between the MAG and the LP. Chengetai stated that there would be a close cooperation between the two.

Parminder asked about the role of the IGF Secretariat in this application process and whether it simply conveyed applications to the SG's office or gave observations on the applications and then transfers it to the SG office. Chengetai replied that it is based on the MAG process: The IGF Secretariat has the infrastructure to collect the nominations, correlate them, and transmit them. Parminder disagreed with the reply and stated that he wished this was a more participatory and transparent process.

2. Update on the Draft Letter to the UNSG

Anriette is waiting to clarify with the secretariat what the process is to send the letter to the SG. She stated that the letter was finalized. Chengetai replied saying that this information will be shared in a few days.

3. Update on the IGF Youth Summit

N/A

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

Jason was absent from the meeting, as it was the Thanksgiving holiday in the U.S., and thus could not give the update.

Anriette asked whether anyone was following the work of the Digital Commons Alliance as it's an important link to the Common Agenda.

5. Any Other Business

a. Participation of the WG-Strategy in IGF 2021

Anriette suggested a meeting between the WG-Strategy group and the Secretariat on the focus areas of the IGF and discuss the multi-year planning processes. This could take place as an informal discussion that proposes a way forward for next year. Chengetai replied that they are open to a discussion.

Mark Carvell stated that this IGF was the crucial one for the future because of the Roadmap and the suggestion for a Digital Compact. So it's time for clear statements about the IGF's approach to strategy, and it needs to be very policy issue focused. He said it would be great to deliver a statement on the final day on how the IGF performed and delivered.

Jorge Cancio stepped in to agree with Mark and said that it would be a great idea to sit down with Chengetai and the staff of the IGF Secretariat to share some ideas about the IGF and have a strategic discussion about the IGF's positioning.

Anriette agreed with Jorge's proposals and stated that unless there is a more strategic approach within the Secretariat, and more collaboration between UNDESA and the MAG, we will not be able to move forward. The UN needs to adopt more transparent and systematic processes.

Parminder stated that he is a little disappointed on how outside positions are treated and asked for more transparency and for a more horizontal Secretariat.

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

N/A

Next meeting: December 16th, 2021

Annex 1:

List of participants

Anriette Hesterhuysen
Chengetai Masango
Amrita Choudhury
Titti Cassa
Roman Chukov
Markus Kummer
Livia Walpen
Jorge Cancio
Mark Carvell
Poncelet Ileleji

Eileen Cejas
Chris Disspain
Luis Bobo
Timea Suto
Tereza Horejsova
Adam Peake
Velmira Nemiguentcheva-Grau
Jim Prendergast
Flavio Wagner
Raymond Mamattah
Alice Weiss
Wim Degezelle
Parminder
Herman P
Wolfgang Kleinwächter