

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

**Online Meeting 34
24 March 2022 at 15:00 UTC**

Summary Report

The 34th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 3 March 2022 at 1 p.m. UTC. The meeting was hosted and moderated by Concettina Cassa (Titti). The list of participants and the recording of the meeting is available upon request.

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

Agenda:

1. Final version of the documents:
 - a. Synthesis document:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1waEHJ8zpRijJQR-qNXEITZn3t57q0hP723XiiDzsYU/edit>
 - b. WG-Strategy 2022 Activities: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s-khQif9IUwCbIMDTE6LUHOnpbvw42po/edit>
2. WG-Strategy position to the EGM
3. Update from the IGF Secretariat on the current issues:
 - a. Leadership Panel
 - b. Tech Envoy nomination
 - c. Update on the IGF Expert Group Meeting (EGM)
4. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology
5. AoB

Discussion:

Final version of the documents:

WG-Strategy 2022 Activities:

Titti noted some of the recent updates or additions to the document, particularly in relation to the priorities. She confirmed that if there were no further significant comments, this meeting would be a good opportunity to finalise the document.

The document was approved.

Synthesis document:

There was discussion of how and whether the activities in the synthesis document should be ranked or identified as priorities - the items have different parties responsible, different timelines, and different degrees of urgency.

It was noted that the document was requested by the MAG Chair to provide a synthesis that could translate to more actions. Anriette Esterhuysen suggested to reflect this in the document itself, and note that this is a synthesis prepared reflecting community feedback. The role of the WG-Strategy is to help prioritise and develop actions relating to the items identified. She suggested that the WG-Strategy should have a longer discussion with the MAG and the Secretariat to assess current or planned progress. Titti suggested that this might be included as an item for the next MAG meeting; the Secretariat agreed.

Adam Peake noted that this work can help the MAG stay in touch with the community, but that a longer discussion may not fit into the next MAG meeting (which will need to focus on getting out the call for proposals).

The WG-Strategy Co-Chairs will share the synthesis document to the Secretariat and MAG Chair for feedback and comment.

WG-Strategy position to the EGM

Titti noted that while none of the WG-Strategy Co-Chairs are attending the EGM, there are various people from the WG who might be able to bring positions or concerns from the WG into the EGM process.

Amrita suggested that the WG members in the EGM should consider the relevant WG-Strategy documents (including the 2022 Activities document discussed above) and be prepared to bring those points into the EGM discussion and process

Update from the IGF Secretariat on the current issues:

Chengetai Masango gave an update:

Leadership Panel

Chengetai reported that, despite expectations, there won't be any announcements in relation to the Leadership Panel forthcoming in the immediate future.

Tech Envoy nomination

There was no representative of the Office of the Tech Envoy on the call, and there was no update.

Update on the IGF Expert Group Meeting (EGM)

Chengetai noted that the list of participants has been published for the EGM, which will take place next week (30 March - 1 April) in New York. He also noted that the hosts from 2021 and 2022 will be hosting the sessions.

David Souter is preparing a compilation of the inputs received, and that will be published shortly. Chengetai also noted that the Secretariat is still considering the best forms of outcomes.

Anriette noted that the previous retreat in 2016 had good outcomes, but some unclarity on who/how to implement - she asked whether this would be different, and how the Secretariat was planning to ensure that outputs and recommendations would be operationalised. Chengetai noted that some discussion of “next steps” is included in the agenda, so there should be concrete next steps produced.

Adam Peake expressed some concerns about focus in the agenda. Chengetai reiterated that the background paper has desired outcomes for each agenda section, and that previous concerns about lack of focus have been noted.

Flavio Wagner noted that the final outcome document from the 2016 retreat was not a set of recommendations, but rather a collection of suggestions on a variety of topics. This time around may be different, though, and Chengetai expressed his hope that there would be action items that can be operationalised.

Mark Carvell highlighted that transparency in the EGM process must be a priority.

Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology

There was no representative of the Office of the Tech Envoy on the call.

AoB

The next call will be held on 7 April at 14:00 UTC.