

## **MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy**

**Online Meeting 35  
7 April 2022 at 14:00 UTC**

### **Summary Report**

The 35th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 7 April 2022 at 14:00 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. Debrief on the EGM
2. Communication between the WG-Strategy and the MAG
3. Final documents to be sent to the MAG:
  - a. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1waEHJ8zpRijJQR-qNXEIIITZn3t57q0hP723XiiDzsYU/edit>
  - b. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1s-khQif9IUwCbIMDTE6LUHOnpbvw42po/edit>
4. Update from the IGF Secretariat on the current issues:
  - a. Leadership Panel
  - b. Tech Envoy nomination
5. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology
6. AoB

#### Discussion:

##### **Debrief on the EGM**

Chengetai Masango gave an overview of the Expert Group Meeting that was held in New York at the end of March. He noted that the discussion focused on the role of the IGF in relation to the digital cooperation, the Common Agenda, and also the Global Digital Compact, as well as the IGF relationship with other organisations in the Internet governance environment. Additionally, the EGM discussed the overall IGF ecosystem (including the main annual event and intersessional activities), that the relationship between the MAG and the Leadership Panel that should not overlap, and the need to look at and review the terms of reference of the MAG, as after 17 years there is a need to change or adapt them to suit the current environment. Finally, the discussion also looked at funding arrangements and strategies going forward.

Chengetai noted that both a longform and a shorter report will be shared, bringing together key discussion points and action items, and the action items will be opened for wider community comment before being finalized. Based on the comments received by the community and on the funds available, the IGF Secretariat will estimate which of these suggestions could be implemented and who will lead the group (IGF Secretariat, UNDESA, the MAG, champions, etc.) Amrita Choudhury asked for clarification on whether the comments would be on the action points themselves, or how best to operationalise those action points - Chengetai confirmed that all comments would be considered.

Adam Peake, who participated in the EGM, noted his confidence that the role of the Leadership Panel would be clearly understood going forward, as distinct from the MAG, particularly in ensuring that outputs from the IGF or the MAG are effectively delivered to high-level stakeholders and policy makers.

Anriette Esterhuysen, who participated in the EGM, recommended waiting to see the reports, but noted support for the approaches being taken by the MAG and Secretariat, and the discussions that took place about how to highlight and distribute the output of activities such as Best Practice Fora and Dynamic Coalitions.

Markus Kummer, who participated in the EGM, emphasized the need to add a price tag to some of the proposals discussed at the meeting (and identify those that are resource neutral).

Paul Mitchell, who participated in the EGM, noted an undercurrent throughout discussions of the need for the IGF to be more relevant in the global Internet governance dialogue. He stressed the importance of the meeting to aligning and coordinating across different bodies, agencies and groups.

David Souter noted that he is currently writing up the report, with the plan to deliver it to UN-DESA next week.

Jason Munyan and Tereza Horejsova were both very pleased to see the level of cooperation and interaction at the EGM, while Jason emphasized the need to identify and define the priority areas coming out of the discussions.

### **Communication between the WG-Strategy and the MAG**

Titti noted the WG-Strategy's Co-Facilitators desire to improve communication between the WG-Strategy and the MAG, and sought any feedback or suggestions from the group on how to achieve this.

Chengetai noted the importance of providing regular updates from the WG-Strategy during MAG meetings, and of sending any draft output from the WG-Strategy to the MAG before publication.

Amrita suggested more formally sharing any minutes and recordings of WG-Strategy meetings to the MAG mailing list. Jason suggested that in addition, highlighting or summarising any key actions or outputs would help make this process more efficient.

*It was agreed that going forward, the Co-Facilitators would share any action items coming out of WG-Strategy meetings directly with the MAG mailing list.*

#### **Final documents to be sent to the MAG:**

It was agreed that the Secretariat would provide any final feedback on the two documents to go to the MAG by Monday 11 April.

*The Co-Facilitators will finalise the two documents, taking Secretariat feedback into account, and share with the MAG.*

#### **Update from the IGF Secretariat on the current issues:**

##### **a) Leadership Panel**

It's hoped that the Leadership Panel will be announced soon, with the Secretariat and the Office of the Tech Envoy currently waiting on final decisions from the Office of the Secretary-General.

##### **b) Tech Envoy nomination**

The applications for the Tech Envoy position are currently being considered. No additional update at this time.

#### **Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology**

Jason Munyan provided a number of brief updates on activities within the UN:

- The recommendation group on universal connectivity will have a virtual Roundtable discussion on 13 April; connection details will be sent out shortly.
- The digital human rights recommendation group has produced a draft of the guidance on human rights due diligence, new technologies, was circulated for input that will be discussed further at RightsCon, where there'll be a dedicated session on that guidance. RightsCon takes place 6-10 June, and registration is now open. Jason noted that they'd had two proposals accepted for RightsCon sessions: one will be a virtual meeting of the digital human rights

recommendation group (a private meeting that will take place during RightsCon) and the other session will be on inputs for the Global Digital Compact.

- Jason also noted that the Office of the Tech Envoy is organising multiple consultations throughout the year, and that they are eager to have the IGF provide input on the Global Digital Compact.
- He noted that the Open Ended Working Group on cybersecurity held its second substantive session last week, including an informal multi-stakeholder session.
- Jason also noted the Stockholm+50 UN environmental conference to take place in June; the Office of the Tech Envoy is also looking at how to contribute to the Action Plan for that event.

## **AoB**

The next call will be held on 21 April at 14:00 UTC.

## **Annex 1: List of participants**

1. Paul Mitchell, MAG chair
2. Adam Peake, MAG Member
3. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, CCAOI, MAG Member
4. Anriette Esterhuysen, IGF 2020 MAG Chair
5. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
6. Alice Bessanova, Independent expert
7. Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat
8. Carlos Alberto Alfonso, Executive Director, Nupef Institute, MAG Member
9. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, RIPE NCC, MAG Member
10. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy, past MAG Member
11. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br/ Federal University of do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, past MAG Member
12. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent expert
13. Jason Munyan, Office of the Envoy on Technology
14. Paul Njuguna, Independent expert
15. Tracy Hockshow, Independent expert
16. Mark Carvell, Independent expert
17. Markus Kummer, IGFS
18. Christian Nzhil, Independent expert
19. David Souter, Independent expert
20. Tereza Horejsova, MAG Member
21. Valeria Betancourt, Independent expert
22. Alice Weiss, Academic Intern, Government of Switzerland,
23. Wiktor Skwarek, Independent expert
24. Wim Degezelle, IGF Secretariat

