

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

**Online Meeting 36  
21 April 2022 at 14:00 UTC**

### **Summary Report**

The 36th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 21 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. Linking the IGF and the Roadmap activities
2. Proposals on how the IGF and the NRIs could support the preparation of the Summit of the Future/ Global Digital Compact
3. Update from the IGF Secretariat on the current issues:
  - a. EGM Report
  - b. Leadership Panel
  - c. Tech Envoy nomination
4. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology
5. AoB

#### Discussion:

##### **Linking the IGF and the Roadmap activities**

Titti asked how we could better improve these linkages.

Chris Buckridge suggested following up on work to identify clear Roadmap goals and to have the WG-Strategy communicate to the MAG how best to support those goals through the planning and organisation of the 2022 IGF event. Titti noted that last year there were links presented for various Dynamic Coalitions to Roadmap priorities and activities, and this could be updated, but there was not much follow-up last year.

Jason noted that number of members of IGF committee are also members of the different Recommendation groups (and roundtables), so that's a way to ensure that the activities of IGF are related to the Roadmap activities (like roundtables). A continual two-way communication is important to this. Jason noted that a number of the Recommendation Groups have already held activities, while some have not (due to lack of resources or participation).

Ben Wallis welcomes the suggestions from Jorge, but would like to ensure that the MAG Chair and Secretariat will have regular sync-ups on ongoing work, specifically to identify synergies and linkages. Titti noted that not all Dynamic Coalitions were explicitly participating in the Roundtables.

Jason suggested that each of the Roundtables might assign an IGF focal point that could effectively engage with the MAG (or the WG-Strategy). Valeria Betancourt supported this suggestion, and suggested that the WG-Strategy should also be able to inform the Roundtables of developments in the IGF space.

Mark Carvell suggested the basis of communication should be that the Summit of the Future and the Global Digital Compact (GDC) should be factored into the IGF's multi-year plan. That means that we need to better understand the processes for preparing for the Summit and the GDC, particularly if the IGF is to position itself as the primary multistakeholder venue for Internet governance activity.

Chris noted that there is a lack of information about Tech Envoy and the Leadership Panel, and it is difficult to strategise how best to link those bodies in the absence of more detailed information (which will hopefully be forthcoming soon).

Wolfgang noted that the NetMundial process was very successful in its use of a "drafting group", and it might make sense to look at such a group being formed in the IGF context. He also suggested that, with many NRIs now developing tier events and agendas, it could be a useful suggestion to all NRIs to look at the themes for the GDC and consider how they might respond to those - we could then bring those inputs together at the IGF 2022 event.

Paul Mitchell strongly agreed with Wolfgang on the NetMundial approach, that it was very useful and able to find consensus from some quite divergent views, with implementation potential. He noted that we must guard against competitive forces and consider honestly any implementation barriers to proposals that might come in. Especially, it is important to be able to make sense of legitimate, competing ideas.

### **Proposals on how the IGF and the NRIs could support the preparation of the Summit of the Future/ Global Digital Compact**

Mark suggested that the IGF should also be looking at the WSIS+20 process and how IGF could contribute - similarly for the Summit/GDC (and the IGF renewal), the IGF could be looking at intersessional events and processes, support for NRIs having their own discussions and outputs in relation to these processes. Issues like the primacy of the multistakeholder model will be on the table at all of these events in the coming

years, and there is a clear role for the IGF and NRIs in those discussions, especially in mobilising the many stakeholders involved in coordinated way.

Poncelet Ileleji noted that NRIs often have a small number of people engaging on behalf of the entire community.

Ben felt that the MAG made a good decision in framing the IGF 2022 around the GDC themes as identified by the Secretary-General. He noted Wolfgang's comment (in chat) about a move away from multistakeholder approach (in OEWG and elsewhere), and suggested that we should try to ensure that the GDC reiterate and re-affirm the multistakeholder approach for Internet governance. There is a need to discuss how to work towards it, he added.

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

Anja Gengo noted that David Souter is currently working on the report, and that will be shared with EGM participants very soon, and with the broader community soon after that. Mark Carvell asked about the timeline for implementation of action points from the EGM - Anja confirmed that the action points may extend through to the end of the current IGF mandate (in 2025) and may suggest directions beyond that (should the mandate be renewed).

### **Leadership Panel**

No update.

### **Tech Envoy nomination**

No update.

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

The Roundtable Recommendation Group on Global Connectivity established a set of aspirational targets for 2030. There is a press release and a paper.

RightsCon is approaching in June and there will be several sessions relating to the Roadmap and Common Agenda - this will include a virtual roundtable meeting of the Digital Human Rights Group, and several sessions relating to the Roadmap, the Common agenda GDC, including an opportunity to listen to the RightsCon community's concerns. There will also be a private session with on how to do consultations among communities with organisations such as Missions Publiques.

Next week being eCommerce week, there are several sessions being organised.

## **AoB**

The next meeting of the WG-Strategy will be 5 May 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. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
5. Carlos Alberto Afonso, Executive Director, Nupef Institute, MAG Member
6. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, RIPE NCC, MAG Member
7. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy, past MAG Member
8. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br/ Federal University of do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, past MAG Member
9. Edward Koone, Independent expert
10. Karolina Brudek, Independent expert
11. Poncelet Ilelej, Independent expert
12. Mark Carvell, Independent expert
13. Paul Njuguna, Independent expert
14. Poncelet Ileleji, Independent Expert
15. Irene Signorelli EC/DG-CNECT
16. Timea Suto (ICC)
17. Anna Podgorka, Independent expert
18. Wiktor Skwarek, Independent expert
19. Alice Weiss, Independent expert
20. Wim Degezelle, IGF Secretariat