MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting 38
26 May 2022 at 14:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 38th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 26 May 2022 at 14:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Amrita Choudhury. 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. Implementation of the PLAN OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2022: Proposals and timeline for priorities 1, 2 and 3
2. Update from the IGF Secretariat on the current issues:
   a) Leadership Panel
   b) Tech Envoy nomination
3. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology
4. Declaration for the Future of the Internet
5. AoB

Discussion:

Implementation of the PLAN OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2022: Proposals and timeline for priorities 1, 2 and 3

Priorities were identified in the document and previous call as:

- More linkages to Tech Envoy's Office
- Better provide inputs to the GDC and Our Common Agenda plans
- A multi-year plan

Chris Buckridge noted that the first two are highest priority; the multi-year plan can be de-prioritised. Paul noted that we could come back to the multi-year plan in September. Mark Carvell noted the unknown factor in relation to the multi-year plan is the strategic role of the Leadership Panel, and it's difficult for this WG to move forward on a multi-year plan without that knowledge. Jason Munyan agreed that we don't know all the details, but we do know that the LP will not be meeting as frequently as the MAG or WGs, and will not be getting into details of the program or the NRIs - they will likely

meet a few times a year and advise on issues like communication, fund-raising strategy; so there remains much that can be done in the meantime. Amrita suggested that we come back to this in September.

On priority two, relating to establishing IGF as a platform for IG discussions and linkage to other developments like the Global Digital Compact or other activities. Amrita noted a draft could be prepared based on the questions developed by the Office of the Tech Envoy, responses based on our understanding of the documents; have the MAG and the NRIs provide input. Also help NRIs to provide

Ben noted that it's important for the IGF to use its platform to encourage people to respond to the GDC questionnaire. Also, the outputs from the IGF in December will need to make their way to those negotiating the text of the GDC.

Ben also noted that paragraph 93 of *Our Common Agenda* suggested the need for IGF to reform - it could be useful for this group to talk about the efforts and plans being made to reform the IGF; this could also draw on the outputs of the EGM.

Titti noted that the idea was more to have an output on process to ensure more voices coming into the GDC process. Mark agreed it's important for all to have input to the GDC process (not just NRIs, also PNs, BPFs, DCs). He also noted that there is a very short timeframe.

Chris volunteered to take the pen initially on the first document (a communication from the MAG contextualising the survey and stressing the importance of responding). A call will go out to the WG to see if anyone wishes to take the pen for the second document (highlighting reforms already underway in the IGF, as per Paragraph 93 of the Roadmap and Our Common Agenda).

Finally, Amrita noted that there may be a need to update the mapping document on activities. Mark suggested that this could be put on the agenda of the next Coordination Group Meeting (chaired by Markus Kummer), with the hope that this would be a commitment from that group to provide updates.

Jason noted that some have been adamant about IGF being the primary platform for inputs, and he suggested it would be useful to know the approach the IGF will take in this sense (a paragraph or some bullet points on how the IGF can act as that platform). He agreed that time was short, having the summit next year.

Titti also asked how the inputs would be utilised. Jason noted that all inputs will be posted on the Office of the Tech Envoy website, and would be made available to those who are negotiating the GDC.

Update from the IGF Secretariat on the current issues:

Anja noted that today is the final deadline for comments on the EGM report. They have not received many comments yet, but some may arrive late, and an extension may be considered.

She also noted the work the IGF Secretariat has been doing with stakeholders, which will include a session at EuroDIG that will also focus on the Global Digital Compact.

She finally noted that the deadline for the call for IGF session proposals is 3 June; there's an expectation that most of those proposals will come in at the last minute.

Leadership Panel

Nothing further to add from previous updates.

Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology

Jason noted that, while there are several public holidays in coming weeks, announcements are expected relatively soon regarding the appointments of the Leadership Panel and Tech Envoy.

He also noted that, as recommended in the Roadmap, the Office of the Tech Envoy has led a mapping exercise of the technology and digital parts and functions throughout the United Nations system. He noted that they had recently presented on this mapping work, and Jason will share that information with the WG-Strategy list (a public version will also be posted shortly to their website).

The US is currently chairing the UN Security Council and recently held a session on digital security issues.

He provided updates on a number of other venues in which the Office of the Tech Envoy is working to facilitate discussions, including a session on the Global Digital Compact and virtual roundtable of the global digital human rights group at the upcoming 2022 RightsCon.

Tech Envoy nomination

There were no updates available on this.

AoB

There was an open discussion of inputs to the EGM.

Mark noted regarding the EGM that there was a very brief period for commenting - based on his experience with the UK government, there has not been sufficient time for the kind of development, consultation and sign-off that public sector (and large corporate) stakeholders require. He stressed that there should be a focus on allowing all stakeholders to participate fully, and that means some allowance for their processes. He also noted that there is no explicit process for taking account of the comments received today. Paul Mitchell reaffirmed Mark's comments that there is a need to get buy-in from all stakeholders, and that requires sufficient time and consideration.

The next meeting will take place on 9 June. The outputs of this call will be forwarded to the MAG and raised on the next MAG call (31 May).