

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

**Online Meeting 45**  
**30 September 2022 at 14:00 UTC**

### **Summary Report**

The 45th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 30 September 2022 at 14:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Chris Buckridge. 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. IGF involvement in the GDC
  - a. Meeting with the Envoy on Technology
  - b. Follow up activities related to the GDC communique
2. WSIS+20 action plan
3. Update from the IGF Secretariat (IGF 2022 etc.)
4. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology
5. AoB

### **Discussion:**

#### *1. IGF involvement in the GDC*

Regarding the meeting with the Envoy on Technology, Chris informed that planning is ongoing to lock in a separate meeting with the Tech Envoy and the MAG/IGF community. [UPDATE: This is confirmed for 13 October]

Chris shared an update related to publishing the communique on Global Digital Compact. There were small modifications being made by the secretariat and he highlighted that it is an important message to circulate

#### *2. WSIS+20 Action Plan*

On the WSIS+20 action plan, Chris shared he had to prepare an [open document](#) for the working group to use.

Mark Cavell spoke to the additions that he has already made to the document, noting that he has outlined five objectives - awareness of the criticality of the review process; some kind of planning for the action plan in engage in consultations and ensure stakeholders have a clear idea on objectives of WSIS+20 review; engaging with

members states and UN agencies involved in WSIS review; a compendium of what IGF has achieved and setting some clear objectives.

Wolfgang Kleinwächter shared that there are some lessons learnt from the past in terms of content and procedures. In terms of procedure, he proposed equal participation of non-state actors in decision making and not just at the consultation process, and advised that we get clarification whether it will be a broader or narrow process.

Valeria Betancourt shared that it would be useful to identify what has gone well (framed as 'progress' in WSIS terms) and what has been the challenges. Also, what are the main trends, where we are heading in technology and its impact. It would be also useful for the IGF to articulate where we want to go in terms of the 'people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented' digital societies.

The procedural aspect is of huge concern starting, particularly the fact that it seems nothing has started yet. In addition, how do we build on analyses being undertaken in some parts of the UN system and other international organisations? How do we contribute to make the review substantive instead of rhetorical?

Tulio Andrade re-emphasised the need to highlight working to reduce digital divide, to define ways to enhance the engagement of developing countries, and to overcome the false dilemma some have raised between "multilateralism" and the "multi stakeholder" approach. Rather, the two are being mutually-supportive, as opposed to "unilateralism."

Chris emphasised the need for ongoing commitment to the multistakeholder approach; making sure to align with the Leadership Panel, Office of the Tech Envoy, and others to strengthen our arguments and influence; and to look at creating new interactions between the IGF, the WSIS Forum, and ITU.

Wout de Natris suggested we come up with the arguments to win the countries in the middle and celebrate the achievements of IGF, including its intersessional work. Make a list of the successes and share with the community for comments - this will help to strengthen the arguments for IGF.

Christine Arida suggested that we need to identify and analyse what the IGF has not been able to achieve, and the gaps still remaining for many stakeholders, especially governments.

Tulio highlighted the outstanding gaps in enhancing cooperation, bridging the digital divide. There is a need to reflect why IGF needs to continue, engagement of developing

countries and the digital divide and clear messages of the WSIS and IGF read across to the 2030 Agenda and SDGs.

Anriette pointed out that the modalities of WSIS+20 were agreed on in a resolution of WSIS+10, which is a high-level meeting. The sooner we know who will steer the process, the better we can strategise on involving the IGF community. She proposed that the WG invite the UN agencies involved in WSIS+10 to a call and ask what their plans are and how we can ensure some synergies.

Jorge Cancio agreed that it is important to know who will be the co-facilitators. He added that apart from the WSIS+10 review process, there is a parallel process regarding 'Our Common Agenda', GDC, and the question is to what extent will these processes synergise or merge with WSIS+10 process, or will they co-exist?

Ben Wallis suggested as an action point to work with UN-DESA to have a high level panel discussion on IGF during the WSIS Forum in March and at the Ministerial meeting in New York in September next year.

#### *Remaining agenda items (3-5)*

There were no representatives from the IGF Secretariat or the Office of the Tech Envoy on the call, so there were no updates. It was agreed that the next WG-Strategy call would take place 14:00 UTC, 13 October 2022.