

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

**Online Meeting 52
2 March 2023 at 14:00 UTC**

Summary Report

The 52nd virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 2 March 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. Update from the IGF Secretariat
2. Activities of the [WG Strategy for 2023](#)
3. Open Consultations and MAG Meeting
4. WSIS +20 action plan
5. Youth Engagement at the IGF
6. UN Global Digital Compact
7. AoB

Discussion

1. Update from the IGF Secretariat

Anja Gengo noted that the biggest update relates to the MAG meeting, Open Consultation and Leadership Panel meetings next week. She noted that the MAG/LP will meet on Tuesday 7 March, and from 15:00-15:45 will have a joint meeting with the GDC Co-Facilitators - this slot will be open to online observers. She noted that members of the LP will also participate in the OC sessions on 8 March. She noted that details of the meetings are on the IGF website, including the meetings on 7 March (and the Secretariat will ensure access to the UN premises on 7 March for registered MAG/LP members). A detailed mail regarding logistics will be sent to the MAG list.

She noted that there will be three Policy Networks: Internet Fragmentation, Meaningful Access and a new PN on AI. There will be a BPF on cybersecurity, however, the gender BPF will not continue. The MAG and OC meetings will discuss how this gender work can continue.

She noted that the IGF will have a session on 17 March at the WSIS Forum regarding the IGF, and encouraged any MAG members (or former MAG members) to join and contribute.

Amrita asked whether the meeting with the MAG and LP will be extended on 7 March to accommodate the session with the Co-Facilitators - Anja confirmed that this will not be the case.

Adam Peake noted that the meeting time has been substantially reduced from the original plan, and will likely not be enough for meaningful discussions between the MAG and LP members. He also noted that it was agreed on the MAG call on 28 February that a small group of MAG members would develop a draft agenda (to be shared with the MAG list today), and noted some concern that this would now be superseded by a different agenda - Anja encouraged Adam to share the draft agenda to the MAG list ASAP. He finally asked whether the later session of the MAG/LP meeting will be open to observers; Anja noted that this has not changed, and the meeting session after 15:45 on 7 March will not be open to online observers. Adam noted that many MAG members had noted their support for allowing this meeting to be open to observers.

Anja concluded with an update on the Parliamentary Track, and noted that there was an open call for themes, and the deadline will shortly close for input on this from governments.

2. Activities of the [WG Strategy for 2023](#)

Amrita noted that the 2023 WG activity plan has been shared with the MAG, and there were no objections to this plan. She noted that we have already begun work on some of the activities noted. She shared that the suggestion regarding a main session focus on WSIS+20 and the GDC was raised at the virtual MAG meeting on 28 February.

3. Open Consultations and MAG Meeting

There were no comments on this, as it had been covered in the first agenda item.

4. WSIS +20 action plan

Amrita noted that Anriette has suggested working with the DC coordinators. Markus Kummer noted that at a recent coordination meeting they developed a proposal for the upcoming Open Consultation, which would be for a meeting to coordinate all intersessional events, which could ideally be held adjacent to the MAG/OC in June. This would be a brainstorming of all the intersessional components. Another proposal would

be to have a formalised MAG liaison function (Adam Peake has been filling this role in an unofficial capacity), and this will also be proposed at the upcoming OC.

Adam agreed that formalisation of this role would be useful; regarding the meeting in June, he asked whether the plan was for a face-to-face meeting, and also how many of the intersessional activities were taking part in the coordination. Markus noted that not all are taking part (about 15 out of 24 participated in the most recent call); re. meeting format, this can be discussed in Vienna, but would obviously need to be managed within existing resources. He also emphasised that such a plan would need buy-in from all of the intersessional activities.

Chris noted that the [WSIS+20 Action Plan](#) has not progressed significantly since the last WG-Strategy meeting; however, at the MAG meeting on 28 February, the importance of having a main session focused on WSIS+20 and other Digital Cooperation developments was noted, and this will be further discussed in the upcoming MAG meeting.

Jorge Cancio shared that the CSTD will be discussing WSIS+20 at its plenary at the end of March, CSTD being the focal point to prepare the WSIS reviews. These reviews go to ECOSOC, who usually adopt the reviews in July; however, this time there will also be a roadmap to WSIS+20 presented at the CSTD session (we are yet to see the text, and it will be presented by the new Chair, who is from Peru). Jorge suggested keeping an eye on developments in the CSTD, and that our work should reflect and integrate with CSTD activities. He noted that he has heard some suggested of a further WSIS review in 2030, linked to the review of the SDGs; however, this would not be consistent with extending the mandate of the IGF beyond 2030 (where past IGF mandate extensions have been for 10 years) - this would be a cause for concern. There has also been discussion about the value added by WSIS, and whether this could be subsumed into the Summit of the Future in 2024. It is not clear how this would work practically, but this may see a new ongoing process established around the Summit of the Future.

Mark Carvell noted the WSIS+20 review in 2025 may see the setting of new WSIS targets linked to getting the Sustainable Development Goals back on track for 2030.

5. Youth Engagement at the IGF

Lily Edinam Botsyoe from the Keynan IGF noted that the Youth Track is working towards an event ahead of the main IGF, building on the regional IGF activities. This year they are leaning towards cybersecurity as an overarching theme, with sub-topics relating to different continents and thematic workshops relating to this work. She noted that the Youth Track is keen to collaborate to integrate with sessions during the IGF.

Amrita noted that, while the Youth Track has an overarching theme, others have noted that youth would like to be mainstreamed into the IGF more broadly, and how do the Youth Track coordinators see this happening. Lily noted that they are looking at how to add into all of the general IGF themes, particularly as they relate to youth.

Chris noted that there had been some discussion (inspired by a suggestion from Sooki Dofel) of including a youth seat(s) on the MAG. There seemed to be strong agreement that this could be valuable, and that age should be an aspect of diversity that is considered in MAG member selection. He suggested that this might be raised as a point in the Open Consultations in Vienna. In the meantime, he noted that the work outlined by Lily and the Youth Track coordinators suggested the need for closer coordination and communication with the MAG, in order to ensure that the Youth Track activities are accounted for in the 2023 IGF schedule and planning.

6. UN Global Digital Compact

Chris noted that the Co-Facilitators have shared a timeline for their “deep dive” [thematic consultations](#).

Sooki Dofel noted that the Tech Envoy is very supportive of more youth involvement and representation. However, she noted that there is very little awareness of the Global Digital Compact in the German media, so there is a need to support the Tech Envoy in raising awareness of this initiative. She also noted that it will be interesting to see how the Co-Facilitators and the Office of the Tech Envoy work together in this space.

Jim Prendergast agreed that there is a lack of clarity on the relationship between the various GDC facilitating roles. On the deep dives, he asked if anyone had greater insight into the modalities for those - this is not yet clear. Jim also noted that it was interesting to see how the idea of “Internet fragmentation” has morphed into “Internet governance” (at least in the “deep dive” schedule).

Nicholas Fiumarelli noted that there is youth participation in the GDC-related discussions. He also noted that the national youth coordinators are planning to engage their national media and networks on issues including the GDC. There are strong messages from youth stakeholders, especially on AI and cybersecurity, but they are also looking for stronger coordination and engagement with additional national coordinators.

Nigel Hickson noted that the GDC is clearly going to be very high on the agenda for the IGF, and the Compact itself will likely reference the IGF, hopefully in a positive way. He agreed that the themes seem to be evolving, and it’s important for stakeholders to participate in the themed deep dives on these topics. It’s important that we continue to

make the point that, while the open consultations are welcome, many governments still want the negotiation of the GDC to include all stakeholders, based on past models that have proved successful.

7. AoB

The next meeting of the WG-Strategy will be on 23 March at 14:00 UTC.

List of participants

1. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
2. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
3. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
4. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
5. Adam Peake, ICANN, IGF MAG member
6. Claudia Leopardi, RIPE NCC
7. Phyo, Independent Expert
8. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
9. Francisco J. Montesde, Independent Expert
10. Christine Arida, NTRA of Egypt
11. Jenna Fung, Independent Expert
12. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
13. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
14. Olevie Kouami, Independent Expert
15. Mark Carvell, Independent Expert
16. Markus Kummer, Chairman of the IGFS Executive Committee
17. Mafi Mish, Independent Expert
18. Asyraf Mierze, Independent Expert
19. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
20. Nigel Hickson, Independent Expert
21. Peace Olivier, IGF MAG member
22. Poncelet Jokkobas, Independent Expert
23. Raquel Gatto, Independent Expert
24. Lyly Edinam, Independent Expert
25. Pyrate Passel, Independent Expert
26. Rosalind Kenny Birch, UK Government
27. Roman Chukov, Russian Government, former MAG member
28. Ms. Dofel, Sook-Jung, IGF MAG member
29. Stacy Gildenston, Independent Expert
30. Thokozile Miya, Independent Expert

31. Tracy Hackshow, Independent Expert
32. Nicolas Fiumarelli, Independent Expert
33. Vera Major, ICANN