

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

**Online Meeting 55
4 May 2023 at 14:00 UTC**

Summary Report

The 55th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 4 May at 14:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Chris. The recording of the meeting is available upon request.

The co-chair opened the meeting by introducing the agenda:

Agenda

1. Global Digital Compact:
 - a. contribution from the MAG
2. WSIS+20
 - a. Convening a public discussion on GDC and WSIS+20 review
3. HLAB session
4. Update from the IGF Secretariat
5. AoB

Discussion

1. **Global Digital Compact:**
 - a. **Contribution from the MAG**

Chris updated that the MAG submitted a response to the GDC as discussed in the WG.

Ben Wallis updated that the deep dive process is being amended and the updated agenda should be on the website soon. Mark Carvell shared that the last 4 deep dives on digital trust and AI (both now on 25 May) and on digital commons and SDGs (both on 14 June) would be shorter lasting 3 hours (including the member state statements).

Ben shared that it's important to get to know the next steps on the vision from the Tech Envoy's office.

Rosalind Kenny Birch pointed to the discussion on the deep dive IG and the discussion on fragmentation at governance level. She added that the positive IGF story shared by some was good and that the GDC can showcase the IGFs role and harness it as a multistakeholder forum. However she expressed caution on submissions made against IGF.

Adam Peake highlighted that the recordings of the deep dive are not available. Chris stressed the need to encourage governments to submit comments by 19 May deadline.

Adam questioned how the IGF Community plans to implement things which were suggested that IGF can do.

Anriette Esterhysun asked what is the current state of engagement with Tech Envoy's office and Secretary-General's office on GDC especially related to discussion at IGF2023 Kyoto. She emphasised the need to get the discussion on the IGF schedule- and involve them not only in MAG-organised sessions, but also offer them a session which they can run.

Anriette shared that there is a need to engage further with TE and SG and suggested Stockholm Internet Forum and Rightscon as examples of places to engage with them.

Wolfgang Kleinwächter emphasised that there will be an outcome from the Ministerial meeting and suggested forming a small group to review the outcomes and write a substantial comment on it. This would be an example of interplay between governmental and MSM approach. At IGF2023 he suggested releasing a Digital Kyoto Protocol.

Replying to a question from Chris about whether the Secretariat has raised the issue of holding a WSIS+20 and GDC discussion at Kyoto, Anja shared that this was not discussed, but that it may be discussed next week.

It was mentioned that the G7 Ministerial statement made a strong mention of IGF and Lynn St Amour added that at the G7 Japan emphasised on IGF, openness, transparency and inclusivity and youth.

2. WSIS+20

Alisa Heaver raised the question of lack of funding to the WSIS+20 review and suggested a bit more information would help and suggested inviting Ana Neves from Portugal (recently appointed CSTD Chair) to update on the topic in her CSTD capacity.

3. Convening a public discussion on GDC and WSIS+20 review

Nigel Hickson shared it may be good to have a public discussion. The more awareness raised the better.

Timea Suto opined that while a public discussion is a good idea, whether it should be together or separate needs discussion. She added perhaps it may be a good idea to have

the periodic reviewers of the IGF in the room for the discussion and suggested the IGF Secretariat may invite them to the discussion.

Anriette shared the reason to have the GDC have a substantial presence at the IGF affirms the IGF as an important platform for them to use for consultation and also involved in the WSIS discussions.

Anriette suggested the need to adopt a "multiple fronts" approach. Try and get UN DESA on this and write to co-facilitators. There is a need for formal outreach to the co-facilitators. Government to government or UN DESA and UN-SG to use the IGF as a platform.

Anriette shared the reason to have the GDC have a substantial presence at the IGF affirms the IGF as an important platform for them to use for consultation. She added the need to use the Secretariat and MAG Chair to reach out to the co facilitators.

Jorge Cancio suggested the need to push for the proposal of the multistakeholder drafting team for the GDC and suggested that we draft a concept note with LP on how that could be done.

As an action item: Chris suggested the WG Co-Chairs could write to the mailing list seeking pen holders who could work as a small team to work on a session and also draft a concept note.

4. HLAB (UN High Level Advisory Board on Effective Multilateralism) stakeholder consultation

Mark Carvell attended online the HLAB's consultation on 27 April following publication of its independent report entitled A Breakthrough for People. This includes a section on digital and data governance with two major recommendations (Shift 4 pp39-45) which will go forward for consideration by Member States.

Mark said he felt the HLAB process seemed distant from the one on digital cooperation and he noted there were few representatives from the digital/Internet private sector and technical community present in the consultation session. He added that like other digital stakeholders he had been unaware of the stakeholder consultations undertaken last year in the preparation of the HLAB's report.

One of the report's recommendations is the creation of a Global Commission on Just and Sustainable Digitalization the principal aim of which would be to consolidate existing multilateral and multistakeholder processes and structures (including possibly functions of the IGF). Mark said it will be important therefore to follow the progress of this recommendation in the UN during the preparatory phase of WSIS+20 review which will include a decision on the future mandate of the IGF..

In advocating the strengthening of UN multilateral processes through increased multistakeholder engagement, Mark felt the HLAB process was a positive one but it was not made clear in the session how in practice the Global Digital Compact would connect with the proposed Global Commission (if it is ultimately agreed by Member States). He noted, however, that in his closing remarks the HLAB Co-chair, Stefan Löfven, encouraged stakeholders to contribute to the GDC (and other ongoing processes relevant to the content of their report).

Ben opined that he sees a direct connection between HLAB and GDC, in that the SG will take into account the HLAB recommendations that relate to digital when setting out his vision for the GDC in a Policy Brief.

Wolfgang opined that like Mark he had mixed feelings about the process. If all discussions are not brought to one space, the discussions will be fragmented. Renewal of mandate of IGF to get all these discussions into one space. But distributed discussions with no central space will be bad.

Anriette shared that a concern was expressed about corporate capture resulting from more multistakeholderism in the UN. They were more concerned with other aspects of 'Our Common Agenda' - the UN reform aspects. She added the HLAB consulted extensively but not with the IGF community, which reflects how siloed the processes are. Silos makes the case of Institutional gaps. She opined the need to be more strategic and acknowledge there are gaps and suggest the IGF is willing to fill that. There is a fragmentation of discussion space and there is a need to be strategic and make those links.

Jorge emphasised that the IGF community should make clear that the gap is being filled and done institutionally by IGF, IGF+ and LP.

He added that in the report many nations such as Switzerland suggested the need to avoid duplication.

5. Update from the IGF Secretariat

Anja Gengo shared that the Secretariat participated in the G7 summit and ministerial discussion. IGF was recognised in the Ministerial statement. The Ministerial declaration mentioned facilitation of Cross-Border Data Flows and Data Free Flow with Trust and endorsed the establishment of the Institutional Arrangement for Partnership (IAP) and agreement on Annex on G7 Vision for Operationalising DFFT and its Priorities. She added that some of the declaration may be followed up in Kyoto.

Discussion with the host country was related to the Parliamentary Track and High Level Leaders track. She also noted that the G7 plans to share the outcome at the IGF.

The Secretariat met with Japanese Industry at the Big Exhibition at G7.

She added that the call for IGF booths and remote hubs will be released and the Secretariat will soon release the list of grants that can be given to Global South.

6. AoB

The next meeting tentative date is 18 May at 14:00 UTC

Attendees:

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. Alisa Heaver, IGF MAG member
6. Anriette Esterhuysen, former MAG chair
7. Adam Peake, IGF MAG member
8. Ayden Ferdeline, Independent Expert
9. Ben Wallis, Microsoft, former MAG member
10. Bruna Martina Los Santos, MAG Member
11. Claudia Leopardi, RIPE NCC
12. Dino Dell'Accio, UNJSPF
13. Carol Roach, IGF MAG member
14. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
15. Evelyn Tauchnitz, IGF MAG member
16. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
17. Jason Merrit, Independent Expert
18. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
19. Lynn St Amour, former MAG chair
20. Mark Carvell, EuroDIG
21. Markus Kummer, former MAG chair, IGFSA
22. Nigel Hickson, UK DSIT
23. Paul Mitchell. MAG chair
24. Raquel Gatto, former MAG member
25. Rida Tahir, Independent Expert
26. Rosalind Kenny Birch, UK Government
27. Romy Mans, Independent Expert
28. Ross Creelmann, Independent Expert
29. Shinj Sato, Independent Expert

30. Timea Suto (NCC), former MAG member
31. Umut Pajaro Velasquez, Independent Expert
32. Wim Degezelle, IGF Secretariat
33. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, University of Aarhus