

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting 56 18 May 2023 at 14:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 56th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 18 May at 14:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Amrita Choudhury. 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. Concept Note on MSDG
2. Convening a public discussion on GDC and WSIS+20 review
3. Update from the IGF Secretariat
4. AoB

Discussion

1. Global Digital Compact:
 - a. Concept Note on MSDG

Chris introduced the [document](#) that has been shared, based on a document initially drafted by Jorge Cancio. Evelyne Tachnitz noted that there are not that many members of the LP and they may not have time, so she has suggested reducing the number of LP participants from 10 to five. Jorge noted that this would add a layer of complexity (i.e. the LP would have to select from amongst their group). And keeping it simple is best, while also giving parity with the MAG members. Jorge also noted that there are few issues more important for the LP members to engage on.

Jorge also noted that there have been leaks of the Policy Brief #5 by the Tech Envoy, which suggests an intent to create an annual Digital Cooperation Forum, whose mandate looks very similar to that of the IGF, and could very well duplicate the role of the IGF. With this knowledge, now is the time to act very directly and go to the Co-Facilitators directly.

Lynne St Amour noted that it might be helpful to make a stronger argument about why this would be a good idea. A chapeau or introductory paragraph could help to strengthen this argument (perhaps reference NetMundial, which is a practical example from the past).

Chris noted that the Co-Facilitators may be in Geneva, but that it would be important to follow up with them and the Co-Facilitators (or their teams) in July. He also noted that it would be useful to get sympathetic Member States to drive the message home.

Anja Gengo noted that the Co-Facilitators themselves are not expected in Geneva, but there may be a chance to meet with their teams the missions, given that the LP meetings will include several bilateral meetings with the diplomatic core in Geneva.

It was agreed that the draft and an introductory text can be developed by next Thursday 25 May, and ready to be sent to the MAG and LP Chairs on Friday 26 May.

Paul Mitchell noted that our language needs to be positive and constructive to help drive home our argument for this structure and its adoption. Some talking points would also be useful. The WG Co-Chairs will also develop a letter to the MAG and LP Co-Chairs to alert them to this plan.

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

Amrita reported on the meeting of the small task group (which took place on 17 May), and the ideas agreed by them:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ITe1TjdfQQzdxFmick7kgdILFEt0_4RxxmPFLczrs/edit

Amrita noted the importance of linking this session to the Main Session at IGF 2023 on the GDC and WSIS+20 processes.

There was no objection from the Working Group to the small group proceeding with development and organization of this session. All were encouraged to share their comments and suggestion on the document.

3. Update from the IGF Secretariat

Anja noted that the deadline for the workshop proposals has been extended to 24 May. The call for IGF Village booths and remote hubs are also open until 20 July.

She noted that the Policy Network on AI (PNAI) has started its work, and will have their first call next week. Work on the other intersessional work programs is also going forward well.

She noted that a new Secretariat staffer (Celine) joined last week, and will be supporting the parliamentary track, Dynamic Coalitions and the MAG's work..

Finally, she noted that the capacity development work is under planning. The IGF Secretariat will be hosting a session at EuroDIG, as part of its youth capacity development track, focused on the Internet's impact on the mental health of young people.

Work with the Japanese hosts is going very well, and they will conclude the G7 work in the coming days, which will also mean that they are able to dedicate more focus.

4. AoB

Chris noted the versions of the UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief that had been circulating in recent days, and the proposal for a Digital Cooperation Forum, and noted the importance of understanding the thinking and motivation behind this plan. However, he also noted that it does not make sense to come to any concrete conclusions before a final, official version of the document is shared.

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. Dino Dell'Accio, UNJSPF
6. Carol Roach, IGF MAG member
7. Alapini, Independent Expert
8. Christine Arida, NTRA of Egypt
9. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
10. Evelyn Tauchnitz, IGF MAG member
11. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
12. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
13. Lynn St Amour, former MAG chair
14. Mark Carvell, EuroDIG
15. Paul Mitchell. MAG chair
16. Raquel Gatto, former MAG member
17. Roman Chukov, former MAG member
18. Poncelet Ilelej, Independent Expert
19. Shinj Sato, Independent Expert
20. Valeria Betancourt, Former MAG member and part of the Association for Progressive Communications
21. Wim Degezelle, IGF Secretariat