MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting 58
8 June 2023 at 14:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 58th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 8 June at 14:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Chris Buckridge. The recording of the meeting is available upon request.

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

Agenda
1) Global Digital Compact:
   ● Note on MSSB
2) Policy Brief 5 on GDC
3) Convening a public discussion on GDC and WSIS+20 review
4) Update from the IGF Secretariat
5) AoB

Discussion

1. Global Digital Compact:
● Note on MSSB

Chris gave an update on the note on Multistakeholder Sounding Board saying that it was finalized considering the comments raised during last virtual meeting and that the new draft was shared with Vint Cerf and Paul Mitchell. The note had positive feedback from the LP and Vint will send it to the Office of the Tech envoy and to the co-facilitators of Rwanda and Sweden.
It followed a short discussion about publicizing and disseminating the note among the Member States. It was agreed that the note will be posted on the IGF website after Vint sends it to the GDC's co-facilitators. The ways and times for posting it will be agreed with the IGF Secretariat.

2. Policy Brief 5 on GDC

Bill Drake expressed concerns on the openness and transparency of the process related to the deep dive discussions of the GDC process and to the Policy Brief 5 saying that the Digital Cooperation Forum (DCF) seems to be a duplication of the IGF except for some aspects such as the broader mandate and a more intergovernmental orientation rather than real multi stakeholder.

Justin shared that the proposal on DCF doesn't have a lot of support from Member States and he suggested that the IGF Community should discuss if the Igf could evolve and do the same functions as the DCF.

Chris referred to the intervention Amandeep had during the Stockholm Internet Forum (SIF) and Rightscon, saying that the Tech Envoy was quite actively defending and promoting the DCF. There was a vague justification by Amandeep in terms of the Igf not being decision making, not a policy making forum, while the digital corporation forum we'll have to be.

Jorge confirmed that he collected similar feedback as Justin mentioned and that there is no support on DCF from several member States. He recalled that the contribution (note on MSSB) from the MAG and LP to the GDC already includes some elements on how the IGF could evolve and take the role of a place for a periodic follow up to the GDC.

Dino dell'Accio suggested adopting a win-win approach and to face a debate between the IGF, the GDC and all the interested parties to see if there is space to get some improvements in the current proposal of DCF. This dialogue could give a better understanding of the DCF proposal and create a mutual exchange of information on how the IGF could be used in this context.

It was suggested to continue to give feedback and keep sharing information and ideas on the IGF processes and on how IGF could evolve and take part in the GDC, even if the official multistakeholder consultation on GDC is concluded.

Jorge shared that the discussions about the Summit for the future are ongoing and co-facilitators are working on it. The plan is to keep 2024 as the year for the Summit of the future. On the DCF, he suggested to not transform it into something that is really an object of negotiations between our Member States because Member States so far have either been silent on it or have rejected it.

Bill shared the importance to activate more dialogue with the UN on the IGF's gaps trying to identify them in terms of the mechanisms, institutional dynamics etc., reflecting also on the lessons learned by the IGF.

Raul highlighted the importance to better understand the proposal of the DCF to see what is the vacuum of the IGF + respect to the DCF.

Lynn underlined that one of the main reasons IGF wasn't able to reach its objectives is because of funding. She suggested starting a more solid fundraising effort or commitments from some of the companies or countries that really support the Igf.

3. [Convening a public discussion on GDC and WSIS+20 review](#)

Chris gave an update on the [document](#) that has been drafted collecting tha main points raised during the call held on May 17 saying that next call will be probably scheduled after June 19.

Amrita suggested that the public discussion on the WSIS+ 20 should include the IGF + and the aspects that have been identified as gaps in the Gdc. She also suggested sharing the document in the WG and asking for comments.

Chengetai shared that there is a proposal to include WSIS+20 in one of the high level sessions where there will be as speakers the head of the organization of UNDESA, Unesco, ITU, the MAG Chair, LP, etc.

It was pointed out that the primary goal of convening the public discussion was to inform and disseminate information on the WSIS process to have more people engaged. .

Raul noted that there is a need for more coordination on the processes that are promoted by UN Agencies. He mentioned the Unesco process on platform regulation and the model adopted, similar to Netmundial. He shared the need to address this coordination within the IGF community .

Wout added that IGF should work on the IGF ++ model and define the strategy to implement this.

4. Update from the IGF Secretariat

Chengetai Masango gave an update on the ongoing activities referring to the results of the Call for workshop proposals saying that there were out 800 sessions that were submitted and of those 400 were workshops.

AOB: Next call on 29 June 14 UTC

Attendees:

List of participants

1. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
2. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
3. Claudia Leopardi, RIPE NCC
4. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
5. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
6. Paul Mitchell, IGF MAG Chair
7. Chengetai Masango. Head of the IGF Secretariat
8. Timea Suto, (NCC), former MAG member
9. Carol Roach, IGF MAG member
10. Dino Dell'Accio, UNJSPF
11. Flávio Wagner,CGI.br and Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
12. Bill Drake, Columbia University
13. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
14. Justine Fair, MAG member
15. Lynn St Amour, former MAG chair
16. Mark Carvell, EuroDIG
17. Raul Echeberria, Independent Expert
18. Vera Major, ICANN
19. Wout De Natris, Independent Expert
20. Wim Degezelle, IGF Secretariat

21. Shinj Sato,Independent Expert