

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting 59
6 July 2023 at 14:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 59th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 6 July at 14:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Titti Cassa, and a recording of the meeting is available upon request.

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

Agenda

- 1) Open Consultations and MAG meeting
- 2) Policy Brief on GDC
- 3) Convening a public discussion on GDC and WSIS+20 review
- 4) Update from the IGF Secretariat
- 5) AoB

Discussion

1. Open Consultations (including the intersessional session) and MAG meeting

Titti noted the Open Consultations and MAG meeting agenda includes the intersessional event that will be held on July 10 from 15 to 17 PM (CEST). This event was included to stimulate more participation and guidance from the IGF intersessional activities (NRIs, DCs, BPFs, PNs) on the IGF 2023 program. The intersessional event will collect inputs on the eight IGF thematic areas, including “Global Digital Governance and Cooperation”. She shared some notes that have been developed ([here](#)), specifically in regard to the area of global digital governance and cooperation, asking the WG Strategy’s members to include their comments. She apologized for the short notice as the deadline for collecting inputs is July 7, 16:00 UTC.

Chris Buckridge noted that these notes were useful in helping to set the expectations and goals of the DC/intersessional session in Geneva. Markus Kummer noted that this was envisaged as a good opportunity to bring together the different components to the IGF intersessional ecosystem (including Policy Networks, BPFs and Dynamic Coalitions). He noted that the planning was started relatively late (though it was presented as a concept at the Vienna MAG meeting), but that there was significant interest from the various groups, and a number of groups keen to contribute content - it will hopefully demonstrate

the merit of this kind of increased coordination. Titti noted that the DC and NRIs participants are perhaps less focused on digital cooperation than on specific technical and policy issues; Romella Janene El Kharzazi also noted that perhaps some of the NRIs were confused by the GDC and that confusion led to some inertia.

Titti further clarified the goal of the intersessional event to more effectively involve and obtain input from those involved in the DCs and other intersessional activities to the IGF programme. Specifically in relation in the context of global digital governance and cooperation. She added that it could be a good opportunity for the WG Strategy's members to contribute to this discussion considering that this topic has been widely discussed in the WG.

Chris asked about the practical outcomes for this session in relation to shaping the IGF 2023 agenda, whether in regard to Main Sessions or other kinds of sessions in the agenda. Titti confirmed that it would not be looking into the workshop sessions. Christine Arida asked about the format. Titti noted that there are intended to be two slides presented for each thematic area, and then an open discussion.

Chris also noted that the MAG meeting with the Leadership Panel will meet on Thursday, and it is important to align on goals and aspirations for IGF 2023. Christine noted that it may be important to consider input or participation in the September Ministerial meeting, and how the MAG and LP could align on this (which will take place before the IGF in October).

2. Policy Brief on GDC

Titti asked if there had been any feedback or further information in relation to the Policy Brief(s) released by the Secretary-General. Justin Fair noted that the Digital Cooperation Forum idea may have some merit in terms of being a body that can bring work together; while many see the IGF as that body, it's not necessarily serving that purpose - it's more of a melting pot of different issues and topics. This may point to a need for the IGF getting better at distilling work and messaging in a very complicated space.

Timea agreed with Justin on the need for a better convening function; the IGF can bring together all work in the UN space, but also beyond that (regional, state-level, multistakeholder activities), but it is perhaps not living up to that promise. Can the MAG/LP coordinate to make that case? Chris noted that there is a strong precedent for the IGF improving and evolving to address new needs, and if there is a need for improvement in the convening function, then the focus should be on assisting the IGF to evolve in that direction.

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

Chris noted that there has not been any further discussion, but there remains a window to have a session of this kind, and there is now a possibility to align with the work that the intersessional event is proposing.

Justin noted that we should consider the value of a broader stakeholder discussion of WSIS+20 at this point in the process (especially versus a UN agency discussion of the process on Day 0). The MAG should consider this at their meetings next week.

4. Update from the IGF Secretariat

Anja Gengo noted that the MAG 2024 renewal has been published, and will be open until 15 August.

She noted that the Open Consultation, MAG meeting and Leadership Panel meetings are being prepared for, and anyone attending (online or remotely) should register ASAP. Timea also noted that there is a link on the IGF website to register for the IGF in Kyoto - is this ready for public dissemination? Anja noted that this can be shared, but that there will be a newsletter published soon to spread the word more widely.

5. AoB

The next call of the working group will be at 14:00 UTC on 20 July 2023.

List of participants

1. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
2. Paull Mitchell, IGF MAG Chair
3. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
4. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
5. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
6. Ben Wallis, Microsoft, former MAG member
7. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
8. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
9. Justine Fair, IGF MAG member
10. Dino Dell'Accio, UNJSPF
11. Cristina Arida, NTRA Egypt
12. Romela Janene, Independent Expert
13. Dofel, Sook-Jung, IGF MAG member
14. Isabelle Lois, Swiss Government
15. Laura Walker McDonald, Independent Expert
16. Poncelet Ilelej, Independent Expert

17. Raquel Gatto, Former MAG Member
18. Shinj Sato, Independent Expert
19. Markus Kummer, Former IGF MAG Chair
20. Carol Roach, IGF MAG member
21. Timea Suto, ICC Basis, former MAG member
22. Rosalind Kenny Birch, UK Government
23. Tereza Horejsova, IGF MAG member
24. Vera Major, ICANN