MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy
Online Meeting 63
14 September 2023 at 14:00 UTC

Summary Report
The 63nd virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 14 September at 14:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Chris Buckridge and a recording of the meeting is available upon request.

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

Agenda
1. IGF Main sessions on GDC and on the Future of Digital Governance
2. Update on High Level Sessions, Parliamentary Track and IGF 2023 Youth Track
3. GDC Co-facilitators Letter – Issues Paper
4. Mapping exercise for the EGM recommandations
5. Update from the IGF Secretariat
6. AoB

Discussion

1. IGF Main sessions on GDC and the Future of Digital Governance
Bruna shared some information on the main session on the Future of Digital Governance saying that it will focus on the future of digital governance, on the differences between digital governance, Internet governance and digital cooperation. The main session will also discuss the interconnections between processes like the Global Digital Compact, WSIS+20 review, IGF.

Bill highlighted the importance to make clearer the nexus between the global digital governance and Internet Governance observing that the battles over definitions fed very directly into various actors' conceptions of what their respective roles and responsibilities ought to be.

2. Update on High Level Sessions, Parliamentary Track and IGF 2023 Youth Track
Eleonora shared the list of the High-Level Sessions
1. Understanding 'Data Free Flow with Trust' (DFFT)
2. Evolving Trends in Mis- & Dis-Information
3. Looking ahead to WSIS+20: Accelerating the Multistakeholder Process
4. Access & Innovation for Revitalizing the SDGs

5. Connecting the digital dots: How the UN System is supporting sustainable, equitable digital transformation and looking ahead to WSIS+20

Lily IGF shared the agenda of the [IGF 2023 Global Youth Summit](#), noting that it is going to be finalized shortly.

Celine shared some information on the Parliamentary Track saying that it will have three closed sessions for members of Parliaments that will focus on 1) governing data, 2) artificial intelligence and also 3) mis- and disinformation. The topics were chosen with the host country and also with the IPU as official co-organizer of the parliamentary track. Further there is a Day 0 event dedicated to members of Parliament and the usual parliamentary roundtable that will involve around 50 members of the Parliaments and that will discuss the role of Parliamentarians in shaping a trusted Internet.

3. [GDC Co-facilitators Letter – Issues Paper](#)
Several considerations were raised by the WG's participants on the issues paper drafted by the GDC Co-facilitators. Some comments were related to the scope of IGF, the definition of Internet governance and how this definition could be considered equivalent to digital governance and digital cooperation. Several noticed that the Digital Cooperation Forum (DCF) was not mentioned in the letter.

Jorge commented on the letter saying that there's a narrative that narrows the IGF saying that IGF deals only with technical issues and DNS and that there is a broader space for digital cooperation where there is the gap. He said that there is a need to counter this narrative to demonstrate that IGF is broad enough to cover everything that is under digital cooperation/digital governance. He added that everything that is under the GDC was discussed in the IGF 2022 at Addis in order to give inputs to the GDC.

Jorge shared that people in New York are talking about gaps and mechanisms for evaluation, and follow up of the GDC. There is a need of showing that the IGF can cover these gaps, that it can fill in with that evaluation and follow up of the GDC by providing the multi stakeholder policy space to do that.

Jorge suggested that the WG Strategy develop a short but clear paper that explains why the IGF can take over that function. It would be great to share a first draft at Kyoto and have something ready as soon as the GDC negotiations start by the end of the year. As long as that gap is not credibly filled by the IGF the idea of a DCF or similar mechanism will re-emerge.

Others noticed that there is a need to get more information on the ongoing process in NY and that it should be made sure that NY audience understand that when we refer to the "IGF" this includes the year-round activities of the PNs, DCs and BPFs,

the linkages to the global network of NRIs, the IGF focus on contributing to the GDCs, in addition to the wide scope of the annual IGF.

Wolfgang also suggested that the WG Strategy draft a clear and strategic document of 3-5 pages based on the issues paper to be discussed in Kyoto and to be sent via LP and the MAG to the UNSG. The document should be shared with the MAG and LP before Kyoto. It was agreed that a small group focusing on this activity will be activated. Chris will send a doodle to schedule a call next week.

4. [Mapping exercise for the EGM recommendations](#)
Raquel explained the main points of the [Mapping exercise for the EGM recommendations](#) which includes two groups of recommendations:

1) Group A: Recommendations on how the IGF can "adapt, innovate and reform" its work and contribute to implementing proposed initiatives dedicated to advancing digital cooperation and creating an "open, free and secure digital future for all".
2) Group B: Recommendations on how to operationalise recurring proposals regarding the IGF strengthening and improvement

The list of recommendations were extracted from the document "WG Strategy Priority recommendations" and from the EGM report.

It was noticed that these recommendations could be used to draft the document to be presented in Kyoto

The key message in Kyoto should be that the IGF is best placed to land the GDC post-Summit in the implementation phase and there is no need to set up something new. It was suggested to share this message with the Co-facilitators, in the main sessions on the GDC and also in the WSIS+20 session that will be held on Day 0.

6. AoB
The next meeting will be 28 September 2023 at 14:00 UTC.

List of participants

1. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
2. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Former IGF MAG Member, Italian Government
3. Chengetai Masango, Head of the IGF Secretariat
4. Eleonora Mazzucchi, IGF Secretariat
5. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
6. Celine Bal, IGF Secretariat
7. Carol Roach, IGF MAG member
8. Fiona Alexander, former MAG member
9. Markus Kummer, Former MAG Chair

10. Jorge Cancio, Swiss Government
11. Muriel Alapini,Independent Expert
12. Bruna Martins dos Santos, Bruna, IGF MAG member
13. Alisa Heaver, IGF MAG member
14. Cristina Arida, Egypt Government
15. Philippe Schulte, BMDV , German Government
16. Markus Kummer, IGF former MAG Chair
17. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
18. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
19. Lily Edinam Botsyoe, IGF Youth
20. Raquel Gatto, Former IGF MAG Member
21. Kenneth Merrill, US Government/NTIA
22. Wout de Natris, Independent Expert
23. Vera Major (ICANN)
24. Valeria Betancourt, Independent Expert
25. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, University of Aarhus
26. Bill Drake, Columbia University
27. Mark Carvell, EuroDIG
28. Tereza Horejsova, Former MAG member

Links

[Concept Note of the main session on the Future of Digital Governance](#)

[Concept Note of the main session on the Global Digital Compact and Beyond](#)

[Internet Governance and Digital Governance: Are They the Same Thing](#)?

[IGF 2023 High-Level Sessions](#)