

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting 64 28 September 2023 at 14:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 64th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 28 September 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. Comments to the Letter to the UN SG on IGF to be the future platform for GDC follow up activities
2. IGF Main sessions on GDC and on the Future of Digital Governance
3. Update from the IGF Secretariat
4. AoB

Discussion

1. Comments to the Letter to the UN SG on IGF to be the future platform for GDC follow up activities

Chris gave an overview of the process to date, including the formation of a sub-group (but using the full Working Group mailing list) after the last meeting of the WG-Strategy. The sub-group has met twice, and has refined a draft letter to the Co-Facilitators and the UN Secretary General noting that, '[The United Nations' Internet Governance Forum stands ready to accept the responsibilities arising from the Global Digital Compact periodic multistakeholder review and follow-up mechanism](#)'.

Jorge Cancio noted that the [Issues Paper](#) from the Co-Facilitators specifically noted the need for a review and follow-up mechanism for the Global Digital Compact (GDC), but do not reference the Digital Cooperation Forum suggested in [Policy Brief #5](#) - this document is intended to illustrate that this need can be addressed by the IGF with minimal evolution. He noted the need to be careful about exceeding that scope.

Chris walked through the current draft.

Lynn St. Amour and Anriette Esterhuysen agreed we need to stress that the IGF would be the most appropriate platform. We are not saying that the IGF should be the "be all and end all" of GDC follow-up, but that the IGF (including through the NRIs) has the best means of facilitating diverse participation. Anriette also noted a recommendation from the 2022 [Expert Group Meeting](#) that the IGF should refer to itself as an "ecosystem" rather than an event.

Jorge agreed there may be some streamlining (including putting the IGF mandate in an annex rather than a footnote), but that three pages should be acceptable. He noted that we

should be careful of putting relevant points in an annex, as they are key to the argument. He also noted that the letter speaks of evolution of the IGF model, not revolution.

It was agreed that Bruna and Jorge would finalise the text in the coming days; the Working Group Co-Facilitators would then transmit the draft to the MAG Chair and Leadership Panel Co-Chairs, with the intent to obtain sign off and transmit to the addressees and publish the letter ahead of the IGF in Kyoto.

2. IGF Main sessions on GDC and on the Future of Digital Governance

Bruna gave an update on the 'Future of Digital Governance' session, noting that it would be an opportunity to wrap up discussions that have taken place over the course of the IGF week on digital governance.

Amrita Choudhury noted that the session on the Global Digital Compact is well underway, including bringing in youth voices. Jorge noted that there remains an open question of having someone from the Office of the Tech Envoy on the panel. The session will also reference earlier sessions relating to the GDC, using part of the open discussion segment. He also noted that the discussion would be broken down to the GDC process, GDC content, and the post-GDC world (including review and follow-up, which could reference the letter of the MAG/LP, if it has been published).

3. Update from the IGF Secretariat

There was no representative from the Secretariat. Chris noted that there were expected to be 3000+ participants on-site. Valeria noted that there were issues with visas, but Bruna shared that the Secretariat was working to address these issues with the Japanese hosts, and people should be encouraged to contact the Secretariat.

Jim Prendergast noted that there were some very slow load times on the IGF website, and he was very concerned that there would again be issues with the website during the event. Many others on the call had also encountered these issues. The Secretariat had noted on the MAG call that measures had been taken, including using AWS services for hosting.

Amrita suggested that there should be alternative access modes in case the website goes down. Anriette also urged the MAG Chair and MAG to stress to the Secretariat the need for testing.

4. AoB

Bruna noted that next steps in relation to the letter would be useful, including a possible bilateral meeting with the Co-Facilitators in Kyoto. Chris suggested a timeline of finishing the letter in 24 hours, sending an email to the MAG/LP Chairs over the weekend, and ask for their agreement by mid-week. It was agreed that an invitation for a bilateral meeting should not be included in the text of the letter.

The next virtual meeting of the WG-Strategy will be held on 2 November at 14:00 UTC. There will also be a WG-Strategy meeting during the IGF - the Co-Facilitators will share the

details on the list. *[UPDATE: The meeting will take place at 18:00 local time (09:00 UTC) on Wednesday, 11 October, in Media Conference Room D.]*

List of participants

1. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
2. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
3. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
4. Paul Mitchell, IGF MAG Chair
5. Anriette Esterhuysen (IGF former MAG Chair)
6. Lynn St Amour, former MAG chair
7. Fiona Alexander , former MAG member
8. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
9. Christine Arida, NTRA of Egypt
10. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
11. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
12. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
13. Timea Suto, (NCC), former MAG member
14. Mark Carvell, EuroDIG
15. Carol Roach, IGF MAG member
16. Nigel Hickson, Independent Expert
17. Muriel Alapini, Independent Expert
18. Raquel Gatto, Independent Expert
19. Valeria Betancourt, Independent Expert
20. Tracy Hackshow, Independent Expert