

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

**In-person/hybrid Meeting @ Kyoto, Japan
11 October 2023 at 10:00 UTC**

Summary Report

The IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) held an in-person/hybrid meeting on 11 October 2023 at 10:00 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. [Letter to the UN SG and GDC's co-facilitators](#)
2. Netmundial +10

[Letter to the UN SG and GDC co-facilitators](#)

Chris Buckridge shared some information on the status of the letter saying that Paul Mitchell and the MAG is supporting the letter. From the Leadership Panel (LP) there is also positive feedback. Vint Cerf, as LP Chair, will further discuss the content of the letter in the LP in the next few days. Positive feedback came also by the GDC Co-facilitators that are having some informal discussions on ways to facilitate greater IGF integration in the GDC.

It was shared that Carol Roach has been appointed as new IGF MAG Chair.

Bill Drake said that there is still a lot of discussion in New York on the GDC.

Jorge added that it is not disputed whether there will be a GDC. The discussion is related to the GDC's architecture and structure. The letter drafted by the WG Strategy is reiterating that there is no need for a new body (the Digital Cooperation Forum described in Policy Brief #5). The IGF as a periodic multistakeholder discussion platform could be used as follow-up and review mechanism of the GDC once the GDC is adopted.

It was shared that Rwanda will no longer be GDC's co-facilitator but it will be substituted by Zambia and that the Tech Envoy will activate a new Secretariat in the next months.

There was a suggestion to add new content to the letter.

However most felt that the contents should not be changed. Chris and Raquel shared how the letter was drafted saying that there was a long discussion in the WG Strategy and that at this point it would be better not to change the content.

Wolfgang pointed out that GDC's Co-facilitators reacted in a more or less positive way also to the first letter drafted by the WG Strategy as it came from the multistakeholder community to NY. He observed that writing a letter is much better better than trying to achieve consensus over statement (letter diplomacy).

Chris pointed out that the discussion held during the GDC session is aligned to the content of the letter.

On the question asked by Evelyne and related to the earlier letter, Amrita and Chris replied that there was an informal communication during the MAG meeting in July, where the Co-Facilitators rejected the proposal to have an IGF formal sounding board.

Jorge clarified that the masters of the GDC negotiation are the Member States not secretariat or Co-facilitators. The Co facilitators have been listening coming to the IGF meeting the LP, they are interested in listening to the community and is important that in the IGF sessions it came out the same message included in the letter. The letter expressed the voice of the IGF community and is important to lobby with member states.

Markus also added that Co-facilitators are listening and that they don't want a duplicate forum.

Sandra suggested having a discussion during the next EuroDIG on the results and documents that will come out next year from member states after March.

Wolfgang suggested that based on the MAG- LP letter the NRI could discuss and send similar letters.

Poncelet said Africa IGF will do the same and many other NRIs representatives said that they will do the same.

Amrita suggested that even before their IGF is held, the NRIs could draft letters and send them.

Wout shared the need to be equipped to handle situations if IGF needs to be upgraded.

Carol said that there is a need to have more interactions with NRIs, deliberating on IGF strategically, and that we need to act. The LP wants to hear on strategy, on why IGF is ready.

Chris will inform the participants on when the letter will be sent.

2. [Netmundial](#)+10

Raquel shared some background on the [Netmundial](#) process held in 2014. The process lasted six months and landed into a declaration with two parts: 1) the principles that we want for Internet governance, that we believe and safeguard for Internet governance, and also 2) the Internet Governance roadmap.

She shared that CGI.br is willing to host the Netmundial discussion again next year and is testing in IGF whether this proposal has support. They are discussing how to make it lightweight and integrated with GDC and WSIS+20.

Flavio added that the CGI has not set the goals of the event as it wants to build this event with the community.

Markus shared merit in the meeting. He expressed some concerns that if we wait till April it may be late to give an input in the GDC negotiations.

Chris added that Netmundial was a multistakeholder process with clear outputs. He shared the importance of being clear about what scope and focus the next Netmundial event wants to achieve.

Milton agreed with Chris on focusing on the output.

Wolfgang shared that Sao Paulo/NetMundial moved the Tunis Agenda to the next level . He noted that we do not have procedures for how stakeholders interact and work. This could be a moment to demonstrate how multistakeholder is a process that can work and it could be presented as a best practice, an instrument to improve and facilitate multi stakeholder cooperation.

Ben Wallis shared some concerns of bandwidth and fatigue and competition with IGF.

Bill Drake shared that things are different from the previous Netmundial process and involving the stakeholders could need additional effort. Time and bandwidth and focus

Other considerations were referring to the importance of bringing in new processes together (WSIS+20 review, GDC, etc.) in terms of participation, scope, etc.

Amrita pointed to the changing geopolitics, and questioned if all are willing to participate and if people will have the bandwidth to engage?

Raquel shared the conclusions saying that the CGI board is meeting next week and it's going to consider all those inputs. They will draft a concept note to put all the inputs received into a more strategic view with timelines, scope and process.

The note will be presented during the next ICANN meeting in Hamburg.

The discussion will continue during the next virtual meeting of the WG Strategy on 2 November.

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, Former IGF MAG Member, Italian Government
4. Carol Roach, IGF MAG Chair
5. Fiona Alexander, former MAG member
6. Markus Kummer, Former MAG Chair
7. Jorge Cancio, Swiss Government
8. Markus Kummer, IGF former MAG Chair
9. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
10. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
11. Raquel Gatto, Former IGF MAG Member
12. Wout de Natris, Independent Expert
13. Valeria Betancourt, Independent Expert
14. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, University of Aarhus
15. Bill Drake, Columbia University
16. Evelyne, MAG Member
17. Roman Chukov Former MAG member
18. Milton Mueller
19. Ben Wallis, Microsoft
20. Desiree Miloshevic
21. Sandra Hoferichter, EuroDIG
22. Poncelet Ilelej, Independent Expert
23. Lucien Castex, France IGF
24. Jennifer Chung, AprIGF
25. Afi Edoi, Former MAG Member
26. Talant Sultanov MAG Member