

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting 66 16 November 2023 at 14:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 66th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 16 November at 14:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Chris, and a recording of the meeting is available upon request.

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

Agenda

1. Plan of activities for 2024
2. UNCTAD eWeek
3. WSIS +20 review
4. Netmundial +10
5. Update from the IGF Secretariat
6. Call timing
7. AOB: HLAB, etc.

Discussion

Chris announced that Bruna joined the WG as a co-Chair

1. Plan of activities for 2024

The team discussed the plan of activities for 2024 to be presented to the Mag. Amrita shared the [presentation](#) including the working group's strategy and mandate, as well as an update on the main activities implemented in the past and the proposed activities for 2024.

Chris suggested to include NetMundial as an activity initiated in 2023 and possible activities for next year.

Amrita initiated a discussion on the role of the working group in supporting the MAG in submissions to the GDC and the leadership panel, and proposing activities for 2024.

Chris emphasized the importance of considering the positioning of the IGF within other processes and multilateral spaces (GDC, Summit of Future, WSIS+20, etc.)

Adam raised questions about the role of the IGF within the UN system and its potential involvement in developing frameworks and principles.

Timea suggested the idea of creating a work item for the group to take stock of why people come to the IGF and what they want to see from the next 10 years, while Titti suggested that the group should contribute to the discussion on the mandate and the future of the IGF with the CSTD. Chris noted that there were a number of projects currently underway looking at the IGF value proposition, and suggested that the WG may want to focus on socializing and collating any outcomes from that work.

Jorge suggested reestablishing direct contact with the tech envoy office, considering the recent changes in personnel. He also emphasized the importance of continuing to innovate and improve the IGF. He suggested the working group reflect on how to introduce tracks in the program to make it more attractive to businesses and governments, to consider the possibility to have a space for Governments and discuss the possibility of policy networks developing recommendations. He also highlighted a strategic issue regarding the venue for the IGF.

Wolfgang suggested that the IGF could be advertised as a good place for bilateral meetings for negotiation and communication. He mentioned the APC's 'IGF we want' questionnaire related to the "Internet we want" campaign launched by the LP .

Mark Carvell suggested a continuous workstream for 2024: Strategy for strengthening the IGF including more effective integration and coordination of year-round intersessional activities so its participation is more inclusive, the forum productive of tangible outcomes and influential with decision-takers and policy makers. This would facilitate the transition to "IGF Plus".

Lily suggested having metrics for impact measuring, to measure success for all the IGF processes. A checklist could be adopted to report the measures to the community to get more support.

Chris acknowledged the points raised, and asked for any additional thoughts to be shared on the list.

2. UNCTAD eWeek

Chris recalled the upcoming event ([UNCTAD e-week](#)) that includes the GDC sessions that are open. He also recalled the [WSIS+20 open consultation](#).

3. WSIS +20 review, update on the last CSTD meeting

Ana shared the outcomes of the CSTD meeting saying that it was most focused on the WSIS +20 and that during the meeting there was an informal discussion on GDC and its connection with the WSIS +20. At the meeting the issue of data collected from corporations and Big tech was discussed. She added that the meeting was attended online by the Tech envoy. Wolfgang attended in person and highlighted the problem of regulation versus innovation. Most agreed on the content discussed except Russia.

The G77 also seemed very keen in the discussion. However, she shared that the result of the discussion of the ICT4D resolution in Committee 2 was not good.

The resolution will be adopted next April by CSTD.

The suggestion was to emphasize the need for a people-centered approach instead of the human centric Internet that is defending Big tech.

On regulation versus innovation, it was noted that back 2003, 2005 there was little regulation, and that nowadays we are over regulating, and there is a need to change for smart regulation that will allow more innovation. Another point remarked was that the Internet does not need leadership, but collaboration.

The discussion with the Tech Envoy seemed to consider that the GDC could also serve the WSIS. The CSTD will have another meeting during the UNCTAD e-week. Ana recalled the CSTD survey that is open online till 31 January.

Wolfgang added the following three points regarding the CSTD meeting:

- 1) Amandeep spoke very positively about the IGF and he didn't mention the Digital Corporation Forum.
- 2) The GDC is only an annex (#annex 3, digital cooperation) of the [Pact for the future](#) that will have 5 chapters. There will be consultations on the GDC chapter on December 11 or 12 in New York. It's unclear whether the GDC consultation will be a separate process or is included in the pact for the future. It is also unclear the relationship between the 2 co-facilitators for the pact on the future, which is Germany and Namibia and the co-facilitators for the global digital compact.
- 3) If the GDC is only an annex, how long will this annex be? The GDC is part of a longer discussion process which started 20 years ago in 2000 and will continue beyond 2030. Member States should start now with negotiations on a 20 page compact with 20 articles.

Mark Carvell asked if some information was shared during the CSTD on how the stakeholders will continue to be engaged in the GDC. He brought up as reference the proposal by EuroDIG to include in the GDC an additional thematic area that is the whole green agenda and digitals.

Wolfgang said that it came out in some discussion that the green and digital deal has to come together and that this debate is related more to WSIS + 20 than to the GDC. He added that in a longer perspective, the Sdgs and the WSIS+20 aims have to come together and this will probably be part of the strategy for 2030 and beyond. During CSTD he proposed to harmonize this in a comprehensive development goals for the period 2030 to 2045.

Ana shared that nothing was said on the future engagement in the GDC during the CSTD.

Jorge added that the co-facilitators and the Member States are really the masters of the process . The negotiations will probably start later than expected in January . The plan the co facilitators have to engage other stakeholders than Member States is not clear . It's important to concentrate on what will be the follow-up follow-up mechanism and share ideas on this.

Mark Cavell suggested that the WG next year could to develop a strategy in consultation with the CSTD for the IGF to contribute actively and influentially the 2030 Agenda on sustainable development so digital technologies help to get the SDGs back on track.

4. NETMUNDIAL +10

Flavio gave an update saying that from the consultations held in IGF 2023 and during ICANN it emerged that the community would like to have a more scoped event focusing on issues related to the Internet governance ecosystem, its relationship to the GDC debate, multistakeholder governance principles and practices and reinforcing principles that were not included in the original Netmundial statement in 2014, discuss the role of the IGF and how to improve it . The idea is to have the meeting 5 April next year and to activate a small scoping team that will make decisions and the necessary arrangements. They are waiting for the final decision to be taken by the board of the cgi.br.

5. Update from the IGF Secretariat

Anja joined and gave an update on the current IGF activities. She said that there is a low participation in taking stock call. Only 20 contributions received so far but probably more will arrive til the deadline (November 19).

Regarding the date of the next IGF, she said that it will be held in December 2024, exact dates to be confirmed.

She added that a new *ex officio* member from the Saudi government has joined the Leadership Panel. She also noted that Abdulrahman Almutairi, who was already on the MAG, has been appointed the Host country Vice-Chair, and she suggested inviting him to forthcoming calls of the WG Strategy.

The next Open Consultation and MAG meeting will take place in the first quarter of the year,y, possibly in Riyadh but it has not been decided yet.

6. Call Timing

It was shared that rotation could be a good solution. Some suggested keeping two time slots instead of three. Titti will ask to the IGF Secretariat if it will be possible to share the recording of the call in the mailing list,

7. HLAB on AI

Amrita shared that the PNAI had discussed the possibility of MAG sending a communication to the HLAB, sharing the PNAI report and offering to contribute and support their activities. The PNAI is currently drafting the proposal to be submitted to the MAG. A small team (Amrita, Titti etc. along with Audace from PNAI) will draft the letter and will share it with the PNAI and MAG.

The next virtual meeting of the WG-Strategy will be held on **30 November at 14:00 UTC**.

List of participants

1. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
2. Amrita Choudhury (CCAOI), Group's Co-Chair, Former IGF MAG member
3. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
4. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
5. Timea Suto, (ICC Basis), IGF former MAG member
6. Adam Peake, Former IGF Former MAG member
7. Avri Doria, Former IGF MAG Member
8. Ana Christina Neves, Chair of the CSTD
9. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
10. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
11. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
12. Mark Carvell, EuroDIG
13. Dino Dell'Accio, UNJSPF
14. Philippe Schulte, BMDV , German Government
15. Evelyn Tauchnitz, IGF Former MAG member
16. Justine Fair, IGF MAG member
17. Kenneth Merrill, NTIA
18. Roman Chukov, Former IGF MAG member
19. Saba Tibu, IGF MAG member
20. Edinam Lily Botsyoe, Youth IGF
21. Poncelet Ilelej, Independent Expert
22. Tracy Hachkshaw, IGF independent expert
23. Wim Degezelle, IGF Secretariat
24. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, University of Aarhus