

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting 69 23 January 2024 at 14:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 69th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 22 January at 14:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Concettina Cassa (Titti), and a recording of the meeting is available upon request.

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

Agenda

1. MAG ongoing discussion
 1. Intersessional working framing and improvements
2. GDC activities
 1. [GDC timelines](#)
 2. Current public consultations
3. [CSTD/WSIS +20 questionnaire response](#)
4. Update on Netmundial +10
5. Update from the IGF Secretariat
6. AOB

Discussion

1. MAG ongoing discussion

Chris provided an overview of the MAG call. He shared that the PNAI was approved earlier to the other Intersessional work.

He raised the point which was discussed in the MAG call related to the different formats of intersessional work - Whether they are all necessary, the differences in modalities and goals and format. He shared that the MAG had suggested that the WG Strategy discuss and relook at the formats.

Anriette suggested revisiting the work which was done in the past (2020 and 2021) especially by Wim & Markus on the different intersessional and BPF evaluation. She also referred to looking at some of the online conversations on the impact of BPFs, DCs etc;

the work done by WG strategy; reports from the YouthIGF; the IGF+ model; options paper; updates from the expert group meeting and refrain from reinventing the wheel.

Wim shared that the main difference between the Policy Networks (PN) and Best Practice Forum (BPF) was BPF should not discuss ongoing developments and should focus on issues and topics on policy which is already past and look at best practices. He said in practice sometimes PN and BPFs were interchangeable. The starting question could perhaps be what they would deliver there a need to do something very different

Markus shared that the primary difference between PN and BPF was that PNs are more forward looking, BPF should gather what worked well in the past. He shared that the PN worked well with new issues and AI as they were exploratory.

Anriette shared that PNs are linked to the modalities mentioned in the High Level Panel's report on IGF strengthening, the IGF plus model that included policy observatories and incubators.

As next step Chris shared that once Wim shares the documents in the mailing list, people can show interest to lead that initiative.

2. GDC activities

Titti shared the GDC timelines [shared by the co-facilitators](#)

Amrita shared the [statement of G77 countries](#) referring to GDC, WSIS and IGF (points 109 and 110).

Fiona questioned on the registration process to attend the consultations.

Referring to the letter by co-facilitators, Jorge shared that there would be a place for other stakeholders to participate.

Justin shared that apart from the GDC consultations there would be opportunity to engage in other fora to discuss the topic such a ITU Council, WSIS Consultations and also have informal conversations with the co-facilitators. He further emphasized on the need to focus on the other tracks of Summit of the Future and not just the GDC. He added the need for more clarity on how the different tracks will reconcile for example HLAB report with GDC process for the Summit of Future.

Next steps:

Chris suggested the need to think of other modalities or spaces where the IGF could have more discussions in order to try and inform discussions in New York.

Citing the example of the Arab League seeking comments on the GDC from the member states, Christine stressed on the need to explore and participate in other spaces where the conversations are happening. She suggested exploring to engage with the Saudi government.

Referring to the letter sent by LP on how IGF could support the process, Jorge suggested to continue the discussion and work on fleshing out the points which is already being done at the IGF and use that in the negotiations in the New York.

Justin suggested exploring how to position the IGF, especially in response to the question on what is next after the GDC and discuss the implementation.

Questioning on how much the IGF and UN DESA can campaign for IGF renewal, Timea shared that if the IGF should be renewed, there is a need to present an overarching vision and goals on why we need the IGF and ensure how IGF is capable to deliver that vision.

Supporting Timea, Chris added the need to be agile in the second half of the year to develop some main session discussions that engage with the reality of the agreed GDC.

Anriette suggested producing some material that member states can use since Summit of the Future is a member state event. She suggested the importance of working through member states and ask what would be useful (data, infographics, analysis) which would be useful for their negotiations

Supporting Anriette, Ana shared that it will be useful to support member states and help them to come up with common language for negotiation, as well as providing more information on the principles.

Justin stressed on the importance of showing the value of the IGF processes and that the IGF to maintain focus on what it is supposed to do.

He shared that for the GDC negotiations, as most issues being discussed are matured ones with already a history of work done, due to limited time, member states may be interested to refer to the work which is already done. However the crucial part is what comes after GDC, how to connect that with WSIS and need to figure out how IGF can play a role.

3. CSTD Questionnaire Response

Next Steps

Chris shared the [working response document](#) and requested WG members to share their inputs into the CSTD questionnaire by 30 Jan morning. A call to discuss the responses would be held for interested members by 30 Jan 14 UTC. MAG members would be invited to join the call.

4. Net Mundial+10

Flavio updated on the dates of the NetMundial +10 conference, 29 and 30 April to be held at Sao Paulo. (Website link: <https://netmundial.br/>). He shared there would be a call for contribution.

Bruna pointed on the need for more details on the process and suggested to invite CGI.Br to the next call to explore further engagement. Valeria, Titti and Amrita supported this suggestion.

Responding to question raised by Chris on what kind of contribution would be asked for from the organisers, Flavio shared that most probably the contribution would be in same style as previous style of NetMundial and information would be shared soon.

Next Steps

CGI.br representative would be invited to share more on Net Mundial+10

5. IGF Secretariat Update

Anja updated that the dates of open consultation and MAG meeting to be held in Riyadh were announced and that registrations are open. She shared that the IGF messages and reports have been disseminated and sought from the members to help promote the call for thematic inputs.

Celine shared that post analysing the inputs there would be an open call for PN and BPF besides PNAI.

Kenneth asked whether the inputs be published with attribution.

6. Call Timings:

There was a brief discussion on the call rotation. The next call of WG Strategy will be 8 Feb at 5 UTC. Following that the calls would rotate between 5 UTC, 19 UTC and 13 UTC.

List of participants

1. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, CCAOI
2. Ana Christina Neves, Chair of the CSTD
3. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
4. Anriette Esterhuysen, former IGF MAG Chair

5. Avri Doria, Independent Expert
6. Bruna Santos, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
7. Celine Bal, IGF Secretariat
8. Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat
9. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
10. Christine Arida, Government of Egypt
11. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
12. Desiree Miloshevic, Independent Expert
13. Dino Dell Accio', UNJSPF
14. Eleonora Mazucchi, IGF Secretariat
15. Fiona Alexander, Independent Expert
16. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
17. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
18. Jim Predegast, Independent Consultant
19. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
20. Junko Kawauchi, IGF MAG Member
21. Justine Fair, IGF MAG member
22. Kenneth Merrill, NTIA
23. Lynn St Amour, former IGF MAG chair
24. Mark Carvell, EuroDIG
25. Markus Kummer, Former MAG Chair
26. Muriel Alapini, Independent Expert
27. Philippe Schulte, BMDV, German Government
28. Poncelet Ileleji, Independent Expert
29. Rita Wehbe, UN ESCWA
30. Saba Tiku, IGF MAG Member
31. Timea Suto, ICC Basis, former IGF MAG member
32. Valeria Betancourt, Independent Expert
33. Vera Major, ICANN
34. Wim Degezelle, Independent Consultant
35. Xiao Zhang, IGF MAG Member