

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting 72 14 March 2024 at 19:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 72nd virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 14 March 2024 at 19:00 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. Update from the Co-Chairs on the last applications (CSTD, IWW)
2. Strategic vision of the IGF
3. Update from the IGF Secretariat (Open Consultations and MAG meeting, etc.)
4. Upcoming CSTD meeting, WSIS +20 review
5. NETmundial +10
6. AoB

Discussion Points

1. Update from the Co-Chairs on the last applications (CSTD, IWW)

2. Strategic vision of the IGF

Chris noted the discussion on the MAG call and the constraints placed on the project.

Jorge Cancio agreed that there is a huge amount of work that has gone into IGF strategy over the years, and there is a need to place some boundaries on the work. We can focus on how we see the IGF in the new environment, post-GDC - this has been laid out in the letter to the Co-Facilitators of the GDC in 2023, and this may serve as a useful framework, with a focus on action.

Anriette Esterhuysen suggested that the Tunis Agenda and its mandate of the IGF is an important starting point - we should consciously decide whether to stay with that or change it. It can also be useful to go back to the community discussions (like the EGM), as community outputs should not be ignored in this process. In looking at action, we need to consider who takes the action, who is accountable etc. Jorge agreed, but suggested that the October 2023 letter was a useful step towards some specific actions. He noted that the IGF+ proposal coming out of earlier UN discussions was also an important contribution, with some specific proposals from that already implemented.

Titti noted that we should look closely to the Tunis Agenda mandate (paragraph 72) and consider whether that has been fully implemented.

Romella Janene El Kharzazi noted that funding has been a long-term challenge; she also suggested that discussions around the role of the IGF have been ongoing for many years. She noted that the engagement with new and emerging technologies is fundamental, and the recent discussions on AI have been an important example of that.

Mark Carvell noted the importance of the IGF as a year-round institution, building on its intersessional activities, many of which are extremely outcome-oriented; he feels that this aspect is often overlooked or misunderstood, and the intersessional structures tend to be ignored. A strategy needs to reinforce the move towards a year-round activity, whether through incubating policy options, forming policy recommendations, and strategic planning around capacity building and development.

Jorge agreed that we can start "small" and build on past; he further noted that the IGF needs to engage with efforts to develop multistakeholder recommendations (an issue being discussed in other venues, including the NETmundial+10 - the output of the NM10 may be something we can feed back into the WG-Strategy's efforts).

Fiona Alexander noted that her GDC proposal suggested that the IGF and the WSIS Forum could work together and have their communities cooperate to propose a plan for following up on the GDC. She suggested that the IGF community has to have this discussion, and that the GDC could task the IGF to host this conversation.

Lucien Castex agreed that it is important to go back to the text of the Tunis Agenda and identify points that have not been implemented. We should also note the network of national and regional initiatives and the important role that they play.

Chris will send a mail to the list to move work forward on this.

3. Update from the IGF Secretariat (Open Consultations and MAG meeting, etc.)

Anja Gengo noted that the recent MAG meeting and Open Consultation had resulted in an overarching theme and four sub-themes. She also confirmed that the second MAG meeting/Open Consultation will take place in Geneva from 26-28 June - there was a question about whether a Leadership Panel would be held alongside this, and Chengetai confirmed that this was still under discussion, and that there was also discussion of whether to hold a third MAG meeting later in the year. Anja also noted that the next session for the Parliamentary Track would take place on 26 March. Jennifer Chung asked about the connection with regional parliamentary tracks and other UN agencies - Anja confirmed that the overall structure would remain the same as previous years, connecting with regional IGFs and their parliamentary engagement.

4. Upcoming CSTD meeting, WSIS +20 review

Ana Neves introduced the upcoming CSTD session in April, and noted that it would take place after the publication of the Zero Draft of the Global Digital Compact. It will also fall between the two negotiation sessions on the GDC. The CSTD session will have a report on the progress towards the WSIS+20 review, and will move forward negotiations leading to the High Level Meeting in 2025 (which will be approved by UNGA at the end of the year). Ana also noted that her chairing of the CSTD will conclude at the end of this session, and a new chair will be chosen from amongst the African states. She finally noted that there will be several WSIS+20 open consultations on the basis of the recent questionnaire - the first was held in Kyoto last

October, the second during UNCTAD eWeek, and the third will be a regional consultation held in June as part of EuroDIG Day 0.

5. NETmundial+10

Flavio Wagner gave a brief update on NETmundial+10 planning. He noted that the call for Expressions of Interest is now open, both for onsite and remote attendance (deadline 18 March). Participants will be selected based on these expressions of interest. He also noted that a public consultation is currently being finalised and will be shared early the week of 18 March - there will be around one month for the community to provide feedback. From this consultation, a first draft of the outcome document will be prepared (expect to be distributed around 10 days before the NETmundial+10 event at the end of April). It's also expected that a first draft of the programme will be released next week.

6. AoB

The next call will be held on 28 March, 13:00 UTC

List of participants

1. Adam Peake, former IGF MAG member
2. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
3. Anan Neves, Chair of the CSTD
4. Charles Shaban, INTA
5. Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat
6. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
7. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
8. Fiona Alexander, former MAG member
9. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
10. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
11. Jennifer Chang, former MAG member
12. Justine Fair, IGF MAG member
13. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
14. Kenneth Merrill, NTIA
15. Lito Barra, IGF MAG member
16. Lucien Castex, former MAG member
17. Mark Carvell, Independent Expert
18. Muriel Alapini, Independent Expert
19. Olga Kyryliuk, IGF MAG member
20. Peace Olivier, IGF MAG member
21. Rita Wehbe, UN ESCWA
22. Romelia Janene, Independent Expert
23. Timea Suto, former MAG member
24. Valeria Betancourt, Independent Expert
25. Zeina BOU HARB, Independent Expert