

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy
Online Meeting
6 June 2024 at 13:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 77th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 6 June at 13:00 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. IGF strategic vision
2. GDC update
3. WSIS and WSIS+20 review
4. Update from the IGF Secretariat
5. PNIF update
6. Updates on NETmundial+10 Next Steps
7. AoB

Discussion

1. Strategic vision

Titti opened the discussion about the Strategic Vision document and asked whether there were comments about the title and content. There are some reflections on the voices raised in NetMundial+10 and other spaces about the IGF continue to serve as the core space for the discussion of new initiatives. Conclusion of the document is that the IGF is the best place to monitor and implement the GDC.

Chris highlighted that the key point of the document is to build an strategic vision for the IGF, while the document currently reads more like a white paper, and may benefit from a separate strategy section.

Anriette added that it might be worth creating a section on the current mandate and one on the IGF's evolution. The review of the IGF's mandate will be framed by the Tunis Agenda, it would be helpful to reflect on the vision more directly related to the TA, but then also to include proposals on the IGF's role in emerging developments like the GDC and its follow up.

Bruna highlighted the importance of adding references to the NetMundial+10 statement. Wout questioned the reference to the IGF as a regulatory body; mentioned that the Intersessional work is responsible for producing outputs and so on. He urged us to add the reference to outputs there.

Wolfgang mentioned that the outputs so far are the messages, but we lack the channels to communicate them to the correct recipients and so on. The role of the IGF is a clearing house. Brunna discussed that maybe we can chat with the Leadership Panel in order to hear some of their learnings and hardships in communicating the IGF outputs.

Chris mentioned that the current draft of the strategy suggested four new tracks to the IGF, and referred to conversations about the future or evolutions to the IGF that might insist on the creation

of new tracks (GDC, SPGs, Judiciary...). We might not have a clear sense of what we mean by "track", but by coming to a common understanding, the concept could be more effectively deployed as an improvement mechanism. He noted ambiguity in relation to what tracks mean to the agenda, event organization, the role of the MAG, and so on. Should there be a thought review process to look at how the tracks might function and what's the use of it?

Bruna added a point about the lack of assessments on Intersessional work as well. Important to consider this assessment on tracks as well as they can result in more siloing of the work.

Jennifer highlighted that the MAG considered tracks to be a bit more complicated. MAG renews intersessional work based on funds and support from membership. The way the tracks emerged at the intersessional work and at the meeting can be quite organic. Tracks right now might have different functions and duration, but this should go through the MAG assessment and so on.

Wout added that for the Parliamentary track case, the goal was to attract some of these actors to the IGF and so on. The strategy behind it was that the program was made in such ways that people got to experience the IGF. We should avoid silos.

Chris agreed with Anriette's comment that sometimes the tracks might simply refer to "mechanisms" or capacity. However, he cautioned that such ambiguity could lead to unrealistic expectations about what is being suggested or proposed, and added that we need to do a proper assessment of what these efforts can mean in the broader scope.

Anriette added that there might be several different proposals about how the IGF could facilitate GDC follow up. We can explore these approaches and illustrate to the MAG that there might be more options. She noted that the current document is good and suggested that it should include more text from the EGM report, and perhaps other existing docs, so as to maintain institutional memory.

2. GDC update

On June 6 and 7 there will be readings section-by-section of the Rev. 1 document in the UN for Member States. On 20 June, the Co-Facilitators plan to present Rev 2, and on 21 June there will be a meeting about Rev.2. Chris mentioned work that had been done on a letter regarding the GDC Rev. 1 from MAG, but that it had been agreed that with Rev.1 now coming, the Working Group would plan to respond to that draft. Jorge highlighted that there's the intent of finalising the text by July 3rd and that the deadlines are a bit short. The 7 June session will be hosted on UN TV: <https://webtv.un.org/en/schedule/2024-06-07> (For 13:30 UTC) and the link to register for the July 21 consultation on the [website](#).

3. WSIS and WSIS +20 review

Jorge highlighted that it was a good meeting and that the chair's summary can help see some of the discussions.

Xiao mentioned the lack of resources to support CSTD work, and the possibility to work with the CSTD secretariat by contributing to the discussion.

Wolfgang shared some thoughts about the brainstorming event that took place at WSIS+20 - he is working on a paper and will share it on the DGDG website. He is looking for ideas on how the WSIS+20 input should proceed.

4. Update from the IGF Secretariat

Celine mentioned the two events in Geneva last week (the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event and the AI For Good Conference), and the booth, where the Secretariat distributed brochures in hard copy. She also shared an invitation to the Open Consultation and MAG meeting, and informed that there was an NM+10 point included in the meeting agenda.

5. PNIF update

One of the points in the 2024 proposal is to connect the work on fragmentation w/ processes and so on. Bruna shared an invitation to the call on June 19th and Wim highlighted that there are some common lines on the work and so on. We would like to make the pitch here to avoid double work and parallel lines.

6. Updates on NETmundial +10 Next Steps

Bruna highlighted the willingness to kickstart the conversation about how the SPGs will be applied to the IGF and its intersessional work. Jorge highlighted the importance of having a small MS group of NM+10 friends to take care of the implementation of the guidelines - a Dynamic Coalition was suggested as a possible approach.

7. AOB

The next meeting of the Working Group will be on 20 June at 7 PM UTC.

Chris urged WG members to provide feedback on the time rotation of WG meetings via the online survey: <https://forms.gle/r7LDzVmSGjdqNuHJ9>

List of participants

1. Alishah Sharif, Independent Expert
2. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, CCAOI
3. Avri Doria, Independent Expert
4. Anriette Esterhuysen, former IGF MAG Chair
5. Bruna Santos, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
6. Celine Bal, IGF Secretariat
7. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
8. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
9. Charles Shaban, Independent Expert
10. Dalia Mammi, AgID, Government of Italy
11. Eleonora Mazzucchi, IGF Secretariat
12. Elizabet Oluoch, Independent Expert
13. Fiona Alexander, former MAG member
14. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
15. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
16. Gryffin Wilkens Plumley, Independent Expert
17. Isra Rosas (ISOC)
18. Jennifer Chung, former MAG member
19. Kenneth Merrill, NTIA
20. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
21. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
22. Junko Kawauchi, IGF MAG Member
23. Lito IBarra, IGF MAG member
24. Muriel Alapini, Independent Expert

25. Pace Olivier, IGF MAG Member
26. Peter Koch, Independent Expert
27. Philippe Shulte, BMDV, German Government
28. Poncelet Ileleji, Independent Expert
29. Samuel Jose, Independent Expert
30. Sophia Longwe, Independent Expert
31. Wim Degezelle, IGF Secretariat
32. Wout De Natris, Independent Expert
33. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, University of Aarhus
34. Xiao Zhang, MAG Member
35. Xiaobo Yang, Independent Expert
36. Zeina BOU HARB