

# **MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy**

## **Online Meeting 76 16 May 2024 at 19:00 UTC**

### **Summary Report**

The 76th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 16 May 2024 at 19:00 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. GDC
2. WSIS High Level Meeting  
IGF Session
3. [IGF strategic vision](#)
4. Update from the IGF Secretariat
5. WSIS +20 review
6. AoB  
Updates on NETmundial +10 Next Steps

### **Discussion Points**

Chris opened the session and introduced the agenda.

#### **1. Global Digital Compact**

Chris asked the participants to share their considerations on the second draft of the GDC he shared in the WG Strategy's mailing list. He observed that in the new draft, Internet governance is still a very limited subset of the broader digital governance digital policy and that the scope of the IGF in terms of follow up to the broader GDC scope is limited. Further, he noted that par. 73 seems to limit the role of the IGF to the promotion of the GDC in the NRIs.

Fiona observed that the new draft is quite positive in recognising the role of the WSIS and consequently of the IGF being the IGF a WSIS output. She expresses some concerns on par. 70 of the document that indicates the activation of a new office in New York for the GDC's coordination.

Wolfgang also expressed positive comments on the new draft, observing that it reflects the definition included in the Tunis Agenda about the evolution and the use of the Internet that it is seen as a two-layered system, the technical (micro cosmos) and the political layer (macro cosmos), or the governance of the Internet and the governance on the Internet. He also expressed a number of concerns on AI and on para. 47 where when referring to the governance of new and emerging technology, the stakeholders are not mentioned. Also the establishment of the 2 AI bodies, the International Contact group on AI governance and the international scientific panel on AI and emerging technologies seems to be a duplication. Further the establishment of an office within the Secretariat seems to be not needed while

there is a need to strengthen the IGF Secretariat in Geneva. He also expressed some concerns with the high-level review of the Global Digital Compact at the 81st UN General Assembly, saying that in the negotiations it should be clear that this has to be coordinated with the work done by the Internet Governance Forum.

Jorge shared the comments to the GDC draft raised by the Swiss Government saying that the new draft does not respond effectively to the views expressed by Member States and that there is still a lot of work to do to ensure effectiveness and avoidance of duplication.

Isra pointed out how it is important to evidence the work done by the IGF and its intersessional activities in relation to the digital governance and SDGs.

Amrita observed that Para 73 of the GDC draft seems to limit IGFs work on GDC to just have an annual track and that in Para 27 the role of the IGF seems to be limited to Internet only.

Justin mentioned that there will be further consultations on GDC on 20, 21 and 23 of May.

## **2. WSIS High Level Meeting, IGF Session**

Celine gave an update on the two sessions that the IGF is organizing at the WSIS forum. The first one is on May 28th on GDC and WSIS and the second session is on May 30 on the IGF 2024.

Chris observed that WSIS will include several sessions related to Internet governance activities.

Carol said that the WSIS will be an opportunity for the IGF to speak with an audience that ordinarily may not speak to and that it's an important moment to share an IGF strategy. She added that it's important that we think about what we want the IGF to do and look like, as if the GDC didn't exist.

Bertrand de la Chapelle agreed with Carol that WSIS is a good opportunity to promote the IGF but certainly not a sufficient space to discuss the future of the IGF, as 20 minutes of open discussion at the end of the session are not enough. He added that there is a lack of institutional leadership needed to turn the IGF into what it can be and that the IGF doesn't have adequate resources and structure.

## **3. IGF strategic vision**

Titti illustrated the document on the IGF vision saying that it reflects on how to strengthen the role of the IGF starting from the IGF mandate. It includes 1) some reflections on the use of the IGF as a platform to monitor and follow up the GDC, 2) the discussions held during the Netmundial +10 to have the IGF to support multilateral processes and 3) how to spread the multistakeholder model over the UN Agencies and other institutions. The document also includes some elements related to digital governance issues managed by the IGF over the last 20 years. She added that it is important to agree on the IGF vision, drawing a picture of all the elements, tools and the connections included.

Carol intervened saying that she will work to improve the document.

Bertrand de La Chapelle said that there are two options:

1. Option 1: to look at how we can leverage the existing mandate to make the IGF work better and improve it incrementally.
2. Option 2: to think about what a new IGF mandate would be. This wouldn't mean restructuring anything, because all the different components are already there (the Secretariat, the IGF Fund, the MAG, the MAG Chair, the Leadership Panel, the regional and national IGFs, the Dynamic Coalitions, Policy Networks, etc.). We don't need probably anything more but we need to structure or think about how the IGF could be structured in a way that creates a real mandate, a real charter. We need to really ask ourselves what would be the institutional leadership that is needed.

All were encouraged to update their comments and suggestions in the document, including in relation to the diagram depicting the IGF ecosystem.

#### **4. AoB**

##### **Updates on NETmundial+10 Next Steps**

Bruna asked to include in the next agenda a discussion on the NETmundial+10 principles and follow up.

The next call will be held on Thursday, **June 6 at 13:00 UTC**.

##### **List of participants**

1. Alishah Sharif, Independent Expert
2. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, CCAOI
3. Ana Christina Neves, Chair of the CSTD
4. Bertrand de la Chapelle, Internet and Jurisdiction
5. Bill Drake, Columbia University
6. Bruna Santos, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
7. Carol Roach, IGF MAG Chair
8. Charles Shaban, Independent Expert
9. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
10. Celine Bal, IGF Secretariat
11. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
12. Desiree Miloshevic, Independent Expert
13. Elisabeth Oluoch, ICANN
14. Fiona Alexander, former IGF MAG member
15. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
16. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
17. Peter Koach, Independent Expert
18. Isra Rosas, ISOC
19. Kenneth Merrill, NTIA
20. Jennifer Chung, former IGF MAG member
21. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
22. Justine Fair, IGF MAG member
23. Markus Kummer, former IGF MAG Chair

24. Neil Dundas, IGF MAG member
25. Peter Koch, Independent Expert
26. Philippe Schulte, BMDV, German Government
27. Saba Tiku, IGF MAG Member
28. Tracy F. Hackshwan, Independent Expert
29. Wim Degezelle, IGF Secretariat
30. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, University of Aarhus
31. Wout De Natris, Independent Expert
32. Xiao Zhang, IGF MAG Member