

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy
Online Meeting
4 July 2024 at 05:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 79th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 4 July at 05:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Amrita Choudhury, and a recording of the meeting is available upon request.

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

Agenda

1. Open Consultations and MAG meeting
2. IGF strategic vision
3. GDC update
4. Update from the IGF Secretariat
5. Proposals for WSIS +20
6. AoB

Discussion

1. Open Consultations and MAG meeting

Chris provided an update on the meetings that took place in the last week of June, noting that the workshops had been selected, that there had been extensive discussion on the main sessions (which will reflect the themes as developed),

Anriette noted that there is a call for new speakers to be in the IGF, and that to get new speakers requires long lead time, so she encouraged the organising teams to move quickly to identify and reach out to speakers.

Valeria noted that some of the questions about safety of IGF participants were not addressed in a way that resonates, so it would be useful to have some further efforts on this. Chris noted that there was a private meeting with the Secretariat, host, and some MAG members that will hopefully produce some positive clarification and progress. He also noted that there have been some useful discussions about the Code of Conduct for the IGF and the processes relating to it - the Secretariat is also working with the UN bureaucracy to develop this.

2. IGF strategic vision

Titti and Chris gave an update on the [strategic vision document](#).

Jordan gave an update on the discussions about NETmundial+10 follow-up that took place in Geneva, and noted that there is a rough Terms of Reference for a process to develop this follow-up and depositary role

It was noted with the next meeting on 18 July, this may be a good deadline to finalise the document.

Anriette also noted that it's important to reference previous documents (including links) and earlier recommendations that may not have been implemented. (an annex with Flavio's spreadsheet on follow up).

3. GDC update

Jorge gave an update on the Global Digital Compact (revision 2 is now public); he noted there were some contentious discussions about the section on AI following the presentation of the draft to the New York Permanent Representatives on 1 July. He noted the somewhat unusual discussions between Member States and the Office of the Tech Envoy (OSET), mediated by the Co-Facilitators. He noted the hope of Member States to engage in some traditional negotiation and language development, which has not occurred to date. He noted that the AI section and proposed new structures remain the most contentious areas of debate.

Valeria asked about plans or interest to organise events in the sidelines of the Summit of the Future - Anriette noted that the MAG had discussed holding such an event, and there was broad support, though Chris noted that it's not clear what stakeholders will actually be onsite at the Summit. However, Chris noted the organisations going on for the [Action Days](#) and an [SDG Digital](#) event. Amrita also noted that it would be good to know whether the Leadership Panel members plan to be at the event, and to hear about any other events that are being developed by other organisations (e.g. APC).

4. Update from the IGF Secretariat

Celine noted that there will be notes shared about the OC/MAG meeting by mid-July; she also noted that concerns about the programme of the OC, and will reflect this in future events. She noted that workshop organisers have been notified about the acceptance (or not) of their session into the IGF programme (organisers of accepted proposals have been asked to confirm their participation, including on-site presence). She noted that MAG members have been asked to come with suggestions for speakers and further planning for the next MAG meeting on 20 August. She also mentioned that the IGF website should be launched from 15 July (also including registration via Indico).

Re. the Summit of the Future, Celine noted that a lot of LP members will be in New York in person; she noted that Carol will provide an update (as MAG liaison to the LP).

Re. the Code of Conduct, there are plans to make the information more prominent and extensive.

Amrita asked how many sessions there will be at the IGF 2024; Celine noted that the Secretariat is still working on it, but the rough first draft suggests 250 sessions, which is fewer than 2023, reflecting calls for a more focused agenda. The sessions will start at 9:30 and finish at 18:00 (local time), which is also reduced from 2023.

Celine noted that the workshop acceptances have been published on the website, but there will be a public newsletter go out from the Secretariat soon.

5. Proposals for WSIS +20

Anriette gave a review of the suggestions that were sent to the WG-Strategy list on 21 June. she noted that there had been discussions with the MAG, and specifically that there should

be focus in the 2024 IGF agenda to inform participants (as well as others, including NRI communities) about the WSIS process. It was also stressed that there should be discussion in the IGF 2024 main session programme about the WSIS+20. The other sessions focused on WSIS+20 (or related issues) can also be identified, and communicated to participants. There was a need for the IGF to collate input from NRIs and other intersessional structures to the CSTD report to ECOSOC - there is a need for greater communication around this. Finally, there is a need to prepare for further phases in the WSIS+20, and specifically to think about collective goals for a post-WSIS+20 IGF.

Chris agreed that tagging sessions will be very useful, and Celine confirmed that this will be possible with Sched (the application for agenda management - though this is still being finalised). She also noted that there will certainly be a WSIS-related session in the main room (potentially also as part of the High Level meeting).

6. AoB

Chris noted that there had been 20 responses to the survey about the rotation of timeslots - results indicated that half felt that rotating allowed them to attend more sessions, but 80% felt that we should continue rotating timezones. (The 13:00 UTC remains the most popular timeslot).

The next call will be on 18 July at 13:00 UTC.

List of participants

1. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, CCAOI
2. Anriette Esterhuysen, former IGF MAG Chair
3. Celine Bal, IGF Secretariat
4. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
5. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
6. Jordan Carter, IGF MAG Member
7. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
8. Junko Kawauchi, IGF MAG Member
9. Markus Kummer, former IGF MAG Chair
10. Tracy Hackshaw, Independent Expert
11. Valeria Betancourt, APC
12. Xiao Zhang, MAG Member
13. Xiaobo Yang, Independent Expert