

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

Summary Report

The 80th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 25 July at 13:00 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. GDC update
2. IGF strategic vision
3. Update from the IGF Secretariat
4. WSIS+20
5. AoB

Discussion Points

1. GDC Update

There were discussions on the next steps after the silence period was broken including the concern over lack of any information on the next steps.

Chris highlighted that the WSIS+20 mailing list of ICANN and WG-Strategy mailing list were good resources for getting information on the GDC process.

Fiona and Wolfgang expressed dismay at the process and the lack of clarity. Chris agreed on the lack of transparency and clarity in the silence period.

Rudy Nolde shared that the Co-Facilitators are presently involved in bilateral talks with the countries who broke the silence and are expecting to have something by the end of this week.

Titti also opined that she heard that the new version next Friday

On the next steps Justin explained that after silence is broken there are informal discussions on where compromise can be found in some of the issues discussed. He also confirmed that a new document is expected by the end of this week, since next week the negotiation of Pact of the Future starts.

Justin shared that within New York such a process is very normal; however, he suggested that if tech discussions are held, it would be helpful to reiterate the expectations of how tech discussions are different from other discussions.

Isra shared that this is a good opportunity for the multistakeholder Internet communities to demonstrate how the NM+10 principles on multilateral processes to adopt multistakeholder processes can be adopted by the GDC process.

Anriette expressed concerns over the duplication of efforts, She reiterated the need to keep the processes more inclusive and expressed worry that we will lose that by concentration in New York

Wolfgang questioned if there is an option to kill the whole project. With WSIS+20 at the horizon, there is no real need to have something like the GDC, he opined. Rather, he suggested adding a "digital chapter" in the Pact for the Future" would be enough. He suggested the need to have a big picture on the adoption of the SDG of WSIS in the Summit of the Future.

Valeria shared the civil society joint brief on the UN Global Digital Compact, 'What's at stake for internet governance and human rights' (<https://www.apc.org/node/40255>).

Fiona shared a link to the post: <https://cepa.org/article/un-attempts-ai-power-grab-the-west-is-unhappy/>

2. IGF Strategic Vision

Chris shared the [strategic vision document](#) and presented the new section "WG Strategy Proposed Action Items" added to it.

Elizabeth Olouch questioned if there is an opportunity to comment on the document. While creating the document she cautioned of being mindful that each organisation has their own processes and that should be taken into consideration to maintain the balance.

Wolfgang suggested that we should start a discussion on how to institutionalise the IGF and create an independent IGF. Anriette suggested adding a section for options on an 'IGF post WSIS+20' that can include Wolfgang's idea.

Isra, Anriette and Amrita supported the proposed action items. He shared that it is good that the IGF is evolving but it's important to create the right incentive for stakeholders to participate in the system.

The WG members were urged to **comment on the document by 31 July**.

Anriette questioned where the IGF Leadership Panel is in all these discussions and if we can invite them to comment.

3. Update from the IGF Secretariat

Celine shared that the meeting notes of the second open consultation and MAG meeting will be published soon. Working groups have been set up for the four main sessions and the WGs are to share the draft outline by 19th August (before the MAG meeting on 20 Aug).

She shared that the proposers of shortlisted workshops have been contacted and the schedule is being created. The IGF2024 website is expected to be ready by next week and the registration platform for IGF2024 is now open: [19th Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum \(15-19 December 2024\): Overview · Indico.UN](#)

4. WSIS+20 Review

Isra opined that since everyone is waiting for the GDC outcomes, as far as Internet Society is aware, there are no discussions on the WSIS+20 review at the moment.

AOB

The next call will be on 15 August 19 UTC.

List of participants

1. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, CCAOI
2. Ana Christina Neves, Chair of the CSTD
3. Anriette Esterhuysen, former IGF MAG Chair
4. Avri Doria, Independent Expert
5. Celine Bal, IGF Secretariat
6. Céliane Pochon, Independent Expert
7. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
8. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
9. Elizabeth Oluoch, ICANN
11. Charles Shaban, Independent Expert
12. Fiona Alexander, former MAG member
13. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
14. Isra Rosas, (ISOC)
15. Juan Fernandez, Independent Expert
16. Junko Kawauchi, Independent Expert
17. Kenneth Merrill, NTIA
18. Justin Fair, IGF MAG member
19. Lito Ibarra, IGF MAG member
20. Muriel Alapini, Independent Expert
21. Rudy Nolde, German Government
22. Saba Tiku, IGF MAG member
23. Tracy F. Hachshaw, Independent Expert
24. Valeria Betancourt, APC
25. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, University of Aarhus
26. Wout De Natris, Independent Expert
27. Xiao Zhang, IGF MAG Member
28. Yuging Ying, Independent Expert