OVERVIEW OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
IGF STRENGTHENING & STRATEGY

Update for Second Open Consultation of the MAG
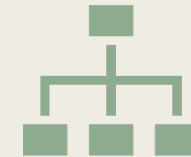
Who we are

The [MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy](#) was established in 2020 by the MAG

Objective is to develop proposals of actions, implementable in the short and medium term on:

- Strengthening the IGF

- Strategically positioning the IGF in the evolving digital cooperation landscape

The [charter of the WG-Strategy](#) defines the scope of work and main activities.

Overview of how the WG operates

- Includes 90 subscribed members

- Anyone interested can join the WG Strategy using this link

- The WG has regular meetings once a month

- Attendance in monthly calls ranges from 15-40

- Discusses topics of strategic importance such as how the IGF could implement the advice from UN SG included in Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and on the "Our Common Agenda" report.

- Meetings are attended by the Office of the Envoy on Technology, who provides updates on the Roadmap activities.

- Regular updates are also provided by the IGF Secretariat, the Youth, NRI initiatives, Parliamentary Track, and from all WG participants.

What we have done in

Year 2020

Analysis of the results and recommendations of the previous WGs (CSTD WG on IGF Improvements Report, IGF Retreat, the Multiyear Strategic Work Programme WG, the Working Group on IGF Improvements.

Discussion of the IGF+ model and how to operationalize the new features included in the model (accelerator and policy incubator), taking into account the IGF intersessional activities.

Drafting the Response to the Options Paper document to give a contribution to the Options Paper issued by the co-champions of the Recommendations 5A/B of the HLPDC.

Create a link with the Office of the Envoy on Technologies and sharing of the information on the Roadmap activities on the IGF website (minutes).

Discussion on how to operationalize the MHLB and drafting of the three proposals discussed by the WG.

Support to the MAG chair on the organization of webinars to discuss the main topics included in Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. Support to the IGF 2020 preparatory phase.

Sessions co-organised with MAG Chair

The IGF and linguistic diversity: challenges and achievements and possible next steps

The IGF as a platform for capacity building

Perspectives on IGF outcomes and outputs: Representation, legitimacy and follow-up in multistakeholder policy processes

Participation and inclusion from 2006 to 2019: achievements and challenges

IGF+ and a new multistakeholder high-level body (MHLB)

NRIs and YIGF initiatives: Challenges, achievements and possible next steps

IGF intersessional work now and in the future: Best Practice Forums and Dynamic Coalitions

What we have done in Year 2021

Shared recommendations "Proposals on strategic improvements to the IGF and operational measures in 2021" on how to have a more strategic, impactful and inclusive IGF.

Collected feedback from the MAG on multiyear plan & follow up activities.

Conducted mapping exercise of the UN SG's Roadmap for digital Cooperation and IGF Activities.

Shared a list of priorities that have been included in the Action areas selected as priorities by the WG for further action documents.

Supported MAG Chair to co-organize sessions in the preparatory and engagement phase.

Collected comments on the Common Agenda/Report from UN SG & shared with the MAG who in turn sent it to SG's office.

Support the multi-year plan.

Recommendations to the MAG

Shared a set of recommendations "[Proposals on strategic improvements to the IGF and operational measures in 2021](#)" on how to have a **more strategic, impactful and inclusive IGF.**

■   **Issue Teams**

MAG adopted an issue-driven approach in designing the IGF 2021 program. It was suggested that **issue teams be extended/open to non-MAG members, experts and representatives** of decision-making bodies and institutions focused on that specific issue.

■   **Multi-year Plan**

Suggested to the MAG **to adopt a multi-year plan** to anticipate key policy areas for the IGF to be addressed in the remaining years, until 2025. The WG considers the **multiyear plan a key element to:**

 - **Provide more continuity & further engagement on topics/discussions** of the previous years

- **Create linkages** between the IGF & other institutions & decision-making bodies dealing with the same IG policy issues.

Collected Feedback from the MAG

Collected inputs from the MAG (via questionnaire) on the options to be included in the multiyear plan & gather feedback on the follow-up activities.

The response from the MAG reflected that it considers it important to include the following activities in the multi-year plan:

1. Implementation of the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and the IGF's role in both the Roadmap and supporting digital cooperation broadly.

2. Improve IGF communications and outreach.

3. Strengthen interaction between the IGF and international decision-making bodies and processes, ranging from treaties and negotiations taking place in the UN system and in other international fora (e.g. G20, G8, ITU) to decisions made in multistakeholder bodies (e.g. ICANN), by industry bodies, or sector specific spaces (such as those of the private sector, technical community or civil society).

Conducted Mapping Exercise

Conducted mapping exercise of the UN SG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and IGF Activities

- The WG initiated a [mapping exercise](#) between the eight areas of the UN SG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation with the IGF activities.

- The objective was to create more synergies and integration among IGF and UNSG's activities related to the Roadmap implementation.

- The results were shared with the MAG and the IGF Secretariat.

- As this is evolving, this will be a living document.

Suggestions on IGF Priority areas

Shared with the MAG a list of priorities that have been included in the [Action areas selected as priorities by the WG for further action](#) documents.

■ The priority 1 of the document suggests " **Strengthen interaction between the IGF and decision-making bodies. ....**"

■ As path forward it was suggested to:

   – **Integrate multi-directional communication between the IGF and decision-making bodies for** the evolution of the IGF, in particular, into the establishment of a multistakeholder high-level body (now possibly the **IGF Leadership Panel**)

   – **Invite relevant decision-making bodies to use the IGF as a platform** and encourage them to participate consistently.

   – **Identify relevant decision-making bodies** and include processes for liaising with them effectively in the IGF communication and engagement strategy.

   – **Communicate** elements of IGF work, discussions and overall outcome document with specific decision-making bodies highlighting 'messages' and other content that is of specific relevance to their area of activity.

   – Based on the multi-year plan, **engage relevant decision-making bodies** proactively, invite them to participate in IGF intersessional work, *inter alia*, in BPFs, DCs and in the bottom-up program development process.

Co-Organising Sessions

Supported MAG Chair in co-organizing two sessions in the preparatory and engagement phase

- 16 Years of IGF Evolution and Strengthening – Taking Stock and Looking Forward
- State of Multistakeholder Internet Governance and the IGF

Sessions were well accepted & attended by over 200 participants (approx.)

Collect comments on the Common Agenda

- Discuss and collect comment on the Common Agenda/Report from UN Secretary-General

- The inputs where then emailed by the MAG to the UN SG's office.

What we have done so far in Year 2022

- Drafted and shared an input document with the MAG on the EGM.

- Compiled and shared with the MAG a synthesis of the key takeaways from the Synthesis Document of IGF2021 that the MAG can prioritize.

- Shared with the MAG the activity plan of the activity plan of the WG for 2022, which was approved by the MAG.

    Three priorities identified:

    1. *Foster linkages to Tech Envoy's Office*
    2. *Facilitate input to the GDC and Our Common Agenda plans*
    3. *IGF multi-year plan*

- Shared with the MAG for comments and to approve a draft communication that the MAG can send to request stakeholders to participate and comment on the Global Digital Compact (GDC).

Ongoing activities

- Awaiting update from the MAG on the draft letter on the GDC.

- Drafting MAG input to GDC survey on IGF evolution**

- Requested the NRIs and DC to update on an ongoing basis on the **mapping exercise of the UN SG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and IGF Activities**

Some proposed activities in 2022

- Providing input to the MAG on ways to engage in The Common Agenda and the Digital Summit.

- Continue supporting the MAG on the IGF priorities.

- Continue developing linkages with Strategic departments and bodies discussing issues of digital cooperation, the Common Agenda, etc.

- Continue supporting the multi-year plan and gather the relevant resources, engage in events that lays out the steps involved in the WSIS+20 process - pertaining to IGF renewal.

- Continue to serve as an exchange channel between the Tech Envoy's Office & the MAG/IGF on the different initiatives and discussions related to the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and the "Our Common Agenda" report.

- Contribute supporting the IGF/ MAG to offer the IGF as a platform for widespread bottom-up participation in the Global Digital Compact process, through the annual programme and intersessional work (including NRIs) as proposed in the letter sent to the UN SG by the MAG last November.

Benefits of this WG for the MAG

Provides a forum to discuss topics which cannot be discussed during the MAG meetings.

Helps build capacity of existing MAG members.

Facilitates knowledge exchange between existing and past MAG members on issues important to the IGF.

Supports the MAG by providing practical suggestions on how MAG can prioritize, operationalize or implement any of the suggestions it receives.

Provides the MAG with recommendations on issues of strategic importance to the IGF.

Link with the Office of the Envoy on Technology for a common exchange of information.

Thank You.

- Working Group Co-Facilitators

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  - *Roman Chukov*

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