

IGF 2020 MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

**Online Meeting III
15 July 2020 at 13:00 p.m. UTC**

Summary Report

1. The third online meeting of the IGF 2020 MAG's Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was hosted on 15 July 2020 at 13:00 p.m. UTC. The meeting was hosted and moderated by the Group's co-chairs, Concettina Cassa and Anriette Esterhuysen. The meeting's agenda is annexed to this report, as well as the list of participants. The recording of the meeting is available only to the meeting participants upon request.

Charter

2. The co-chairs opened the meeting by informing that this group's Charter has been updated to explain that the WG cannot play a liaison role between the UN processes on the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (Roadmap) and the IGF as UN DESA is already doing so. The WG can facilitate sharing of information and this is now reflected in the Charter. The initiative on a research paper on participation in the IGF and other efforts to gather data on the IGF's fulfilment of its data discussed during the previous meeting has been excluded as a WG activity. It will be implemented as a separate initiative by the MAG chair in partnership with other institutions and all members of this group are most welcome to contribute.

Update from the HLPDC Secretariat

3. From the HLPDC Secretariat, the UN institutional protocol on the Roadmap follow-ups was explained. It was confirmed that DESA's USG Mr. Liu Zhenmin is the liaison with their team, led by the USG Hochschild. It was confirmed that communication is already in progress on specific recommendations reflecting the IGF, and beyond. They look forward to receiving an update from UN DESA on related activities being undertaken by them.
4. Following the request of the participants, it was confirmed that the high-level body the Roadmap refers to in its 93th paragraph, came out from many contributions received during the consultation period on the HLPDC Report for Digital Cooperation and that it is not envisaged as an external body to the current IGF's structure, but rather as a supporting apparatus that would help to better translate the IGFs' outcomes to the UN system and beyond. It was further added that the appointment of the Tech Envoy in 2021 is still under discussion. Participants were invited to share their ideas and views on the implementation of the Roadmap's recommendations.

IGF Plus: High-Level Body

5. Participants engaged in discussing the paragraph 93 of the Roadmap. There was a broad understanding that the proposed recommendation on establishing a new high-level body should be connected or even integrated into the MAG, possibly in a form of a steering

committee. Many noted that this body should not be external to the MAG. There was a concern expressed that this body, possibly composed of high-level and well-known personalities, would shift the attention from the IGF's processes to the appointed persons themselves. Furthermore, the accountability mechanisms of this body to the community seem difficult to set up.

6. Some, however, expressed support for establishing a new body, and noted to see it as an opportunity to bring more political visibility to the MAG, strengthen its leadership and make the Forum more impactful. It was added that this body, just as MAG, could be appointed by the Secretary-General in a bottom-up manner through community's recommendations.
7. Participants advised that there should be meaningful and effective communication mechanism between the high-level body and the MAG, particularly cautioning that the mechanism should not be merely on a Chair-to-Chair level.
8. Some noted that the MAG needs stronger leadership and strengthen role. There was an agreement that the group revisits the current MAG Terms of References (TOR) and suggest recommendations for stronger MAG's role in the IGF context. One of the examples was that the MAG should include members of parliaments.
9. On the above, a participant reminded that the Tunis Agenda that mandates the IGF, did not establish the MAG that was created on a working level by the institutional support of the IGF and the Secretary-General that appoints the group. Therefore, it was added that the Secretary-General only has the mandate to make amendments to the group's operating modalities. One of the co-chairs advised that this group provides recommendations based on their experience while serving on the MAG or actively participating in the IGF's processes.

Transitioning from IGF to IGF Plus

10. Concerns were expressed that the Roadmap only focuses on the leadership's structure of the Forum, while it does not focus on the substantive side of strengthening the IGF, especially in regard the institutional capacity, its role in capacity development, broad stakeholder engagement, better synergies with the national and regional and youth IGFs (NRIs), connections with other global intergovernmental processes that do make decisions on particular Internet governance matters (e.g. trade, cybersecurity, human rights etc.). It was added that the IGF should focus on being the meeting point for all decision makers to make themselves accountable toward people and transparently share updates on their work.
11. Participants also reminded that the IGF's mandate is to be reviewed in less than five years' time, and noted that strengthening of the IGF's process should focus on what is relevant to the momentum and what will be most sustainable and relevant for the mandate renewal in 2025.
12. It was also added that the Forum should be more outcome oriented. There was a proposal that the group revisits what the IGF 2018 MAG Working Group on Multiyear Strategic Work Programme has one in this regard, for this group to build on.

Next Steps

13. The group agreed to work on developing recommendations, through shared documents, on the three key areas:
 - a) **Improvements to the IGF.** Flavio will draft a document to include the main ideas and suggestions coming from previous IGF improvements work, in particular the outputs of the IGF retreat.
 - b) **Strengthening IGF outcomes.** Raul will draft a document with from 5 to 7 recommendations on how to make the IGF more outcome-oriented and how to link IGF to the institutions and authorities who are responsible to take decisions on policies.
 - c) **MAG TOR improvements.** We will share the current ToR of the MAG on a Google doc and invite WG members to suggest revisions.
 - d) **Possible implementation models for the Roadmap's High-level body.** A Google doc will be established for the WG to start a discussion and document suggestions for how it can be operationalised.
14. The co-chairs will work with the volunteers to communicate the shared documents and timeline through this group's mailing list.
15. The next meeting will be in two weeks' time. A doodle poll will be sent to the mailing list for choosing the best time slot.

Annex 1:

Meeting Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Implementable actions (current IGF mandate)
3. HLPDC Roadmap (Par. 93)
 - a. *Recommendations for the High-Level Body implementation*
 - b. *Moving from IGF to Digital Governance Forum*
4. AoB

Annex 2:

List of participants

1. Anriette Esterhuysen, IGF 2020 MAG Chair, Group's Co-Chair
2. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
3. Ben Wallis, Microsoft, MAG member
4. Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat

5. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, MAG member, Government of Italy
6. David Souter, Independent Expert
7. Jason Munyan, HLPDC Secretariat
8. Livia Walpen, Government of Switzerland
9. Luis Bobo, IGF Secretariat
10. Matthew Shears, ICANN Board of Directors
11. Paul Blaker, Government of UK
12. Raquel Gatto, Independent Expert
13. Raúl Echeberría, Independent Expert
14. Veni Markovski, ICANN
15. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, University of Aarhus
16. Yu Ping Chan, HLPDC Secretariat