

## IGF 2020 MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

### Online Meeting VIII

15 October 2020 at 14:00 p.m. UTC

### Summary Report

The eighth online meeting of the IGF 2020 MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on October 15 2020 at 14:00 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.

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

1. Introduction
2. Response document to the Options Paper: next steps
3. IGF Improvements: discussion of the document drafted by Flavio and next steps
4. IGF outcomes
5. Online discussions
6. Roadmap for Digital Cooperation - Par. 93 c
7. AOB

The agenda has been updated to include item 6 suggested by Wolfgang Kleinwächter.

Following is the summary of shared updates and agreed next steps

#### A. Response to the Options Paper document

**Output document:** [https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot\\_download/10447/2267](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/10447/2267)

#### Summary of key points:

The response document has been delivered and published on the IGF website on September 29<sup>th</sup> and formally sent to the Co-champions of Recommendations 5 A/B of HLPDC report. The Working Group is waiting for a formal reply from the Co-champions. The response document received several acknowledgements during the online discussion on the "*Evolution of the IGF in the context of digital cooperation and on the proposed new multistakeholder high-level body*" held on September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Jason Munyan confirmed that the Co-champions are analysing the received inputs, including the response document and that they will continue to collect comments and contributions until the end of the vIGF 2020. Subsequently there will be a consultation between the Co-champions, UNDESA and the IGF Secretariat in order to formulate guidance for the consideration of UN's Secretary General. The final decision on the priorities and on how to proceed remains on the Secretary General.

It was noted that there are several ongoing activities on how to improve the IGF and how to respond to some needs identified by the HLPDC report currently discussed by the MAG and the WG. At the same time it is not clear who's responsible for taking the initiative to do or to lead the IGF new modalities and

mechanisms that have been identified and if the MAG can take on this process. More clarity on the process to put in place and on the implementation of the new additional mechanisms (cooperation accelerator, policy incubator, etc.) is needed, in order to avoid making the process more complex.

Jason Munyan observed that the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation represents the vision and the response of the UN Secretary General to the HLPDC report. The Roadmap covers the eight different recommendation areas and introduces other key areas such as the environment and online safety for children. He suggested that the MAG continues to collect inputs for action plans and anything else relate to the IGF itself and when the UN SG would make a decision regarding which of these options to prioritize and how to proceed, the whole process could be adapted and continue accordingly.

WG's participants observed that it is quite challenging for MAG to deal with the development and evolution of the IGF because of the MAG's mandate, but this wouldn't stop the MAG to be more proactive.

**Next steps:** continue discussion during IGF 2020 and collect more inputs.

## **B. Improvements to the IGF**

### **Output documents:**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S\\_CouhHUwkCfRWuyxlq0PBhfiQH45MoD/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1S_CouhHUwkCfRWuyxlq0PBhfiQH45MoD/view?usp=sharing)

**Summary of key points:** The facilitator, Flavio Wagner, presented the document he drafted based on the 30 proposals included the Options Paper. He explained that based on the preferences expressed by the WG's members he selected eight proposals among which to choose those to prioritize.

It was suggested to choose two or three priorities, as eight is a large number to start with. The WG's member expressed support to the following proposals:

1) <<" *Section V. Forging Links between Discussion and Decision-Making Bodies*)

**V.4. On communication between different fora: Introduce reporting between the IGF and decision-making bodies in both directions and invite decision-making bodies systematically to present their work at the IGF.**

*Note: This proposal is not being implemented yet.">>*

It was noted that the communication between the IGF and other Fora and decision making bodies is a central point specially in the 3 approaches on MHLB that have been developed by the WG.

2) <<"(From *Section V. Forging Links between Discussion and Decision-Making Bodies*)

**V.1. On establishing a policy incubator: Rather than establish a new structure, further develop the Dynamic Coalitions and Best Practice Fora which already organize intersessional work and produce recommendations and best practice proposals. They should be given a clear mandate, working procedures and principles and receive more resources and administrative support by the IGF Secretariat. The work of the Dynamic Coalitions and Best Practice Fora has to be complemented by other initiatives to link discussion and decision-making bodies.**

*Note: This proposal is not being implemented yet.">>*

It was observed that some work on this direction has already been initiated by the BPF on BPFs and could be used to implement the priority.

3) <<"(From *Section VIII. Providing Transparency and Guidance in a Complex System*)

**VIII.1. Create an observatory to provide a central entry point for information requests. Create a “database of databases” which could take the form of a virtual platform linked to the IGF+ Website and would collect information on accredited initiatives, databases and observatories.**

*Note: This proposal is not being implemented yet.”>>*

Jorge Cancio reminded that during the last MAG face to face meeting there was a strong support that IGF Secretariat would include in the IGF website the list of observatories and help desks currently playing the role of informing on digital policy issues (among them GIP and GIPO). The idea discussed on January included the possibility to have the IGF Secretariat acting as a kind of a router of requests of assistance to the right observatories and help desks.

Paul Blaker from UK government referred about the discussion held in the roundtable on Help Desk. He said that UNDP and ITU are thinking that setting up another Help Desk isn't necessary and that the best way to reach out to people that need support for more advice is to strengthen existing institutions that are already playing the role of help desk. He pointed out the need to make sure that what the WG works in line with what the other parts of the High Level Panel process are doing.

**Next Steps:** It was decided to update the document Flavio drafted to reduce the listed priorities and to include some proposals on how to approach them. The final proposals will be discussed with the Mag. It was also decided to link the identified priorities to the different sections of the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.

### **C. Strengthening the IGF outcomes**

- **Output documents:**

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_Dlq4a6D3lvv89QGbCpbd36kos4KyD6iGc\\_w4w\\_RAO4/edit#heading=h.juck72nlha3c](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_Dlq4a6D3lvv89QGbCpbd36kos4KyD6iGc_w4w_RAO4/edit#heading=h.juck72nlha3c)

**Summary of key points:** Participants were invited to continue to provide inputs and suggestions to the draft document and to participate to the next online discussions on strengthening the IGF outcomes convened by the Mag Chair and the WG.

### **D. On-Line discussions**

The co-chair Anriette shared the results and the participation to the online discussions held so far saying that they were very productive and successful. She recalled the schedule of next appointments

Ben Wallis gave an update to the participants on the next online session (October 27) that will focus on “Capacity Building “. He explained the ongoing effort to understand capacity building in the greater vision of the Roadmap for digital cooperation trying to see how IGF could support the process started by UNDP and ITU.

In response to a suggestion from the MAG chair, which emerged from her interaction with members of the technical community, WG members agreed to have an information discussion with members of the technical community on their work during 2020. In particular, members of the technical community would like to learn more about the WG-strategy's exploration of the role of the IGF in the context of its

mandate extension (WSIS+10) and with regard to the evolution of the IGF as addressed by the UN SG's Roadmap for Digital cooperation.

### **E. Roadmap for Digital Cooperation - Par. 93 c**

Wolfgang Kleinwächter recalled the importance of parliamentarians' involvement in the IGF+ model as recommended in the Options Paper and in the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation par.93 c). He pointed out that even if some sessions for parliamentarians have been included in the vIGF2020 this is not enough. He said that a concrete plan is needed to operationalize par. 93 c) of the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. He suggested to start a similar process to the one adopted for par. 93 a) of the Roadmap and to develop possible concrete options. Wolfgang will draft and share a proposal with the WG by the end of October.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting of the WG is planned for **30 October at 14:00 UTC**.

#### **Annex 1:**

##### **Meeting Agenda**

- Introduction
- Response to the Options Paper – next steps
- IGF Improvements: discussion of the document drafted by Flavio and next steps
- IGF outcomes
- Online discussions
- Roadmap for Digital Cooperation - Par. 93 c
- AOB

#### **Annex 2:**

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

1. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
2. Anriette Esterhuysen, IGF 2020 MAG Chair, Group's Co-Chair
3. Ben Wallis, Microsoft, MAG member
4. Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat
5. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
6. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
7. Fiona Alexander, Independent expert
8. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent expert
9. Jason Munyan, HLPDC Secretariat
10. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
11. Markus Kummer, IGFSA
12. Paul Blaker, Government of UK
13. Raquel Gatto, Independent Expert
14. Roberto Zambrana, ISOC Bolivia
15. Timea Suto, ICC Basis
16. Veni Markovski, ICANN
17. Wim Degezelle, IGF Secretariat
18. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, University of Aarhus