

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting XIV
18 February 2021 at 2 p.m. UTC

Summary Report

The fourteenth virtual meeting of the IGF 2020 MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on February 18 2021 at 2 p.m. UTC. The meeting was hosted and moderated by the Group's co- chairs, Concettina Cassa and Anriette Esterhuysen. The list of participants is annexed to this report. The recording of the meeting is available only to the meeting participants upon request.

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

Agenda

1. [Proposed activities for 2021](#) and next steps to follow up on the WG-strategy's proposals ([Proposals on strategic improvements to the IGF and operational measures in 2021](#))
2. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology;
3. Update on IGF strengthening/improvements from UNDESA and the Secretariat;
4. Parliamentary Track;
5. Updates on the other WGs related to the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation from WG-strategy participants;
6. AOB.

Adam Peake gave an update on the new WG activated by the MAG focusing on hybrid meetings. He shared the importance of getting feedback from the WG's participants on their expertise and knowledge on hosting meetings online.

The co-chair Anriette gave an update on the agenda of the Open Consultations and MAG meeting held from the 22 to the 24 of February saying that the agenda included an update by the MAG Working groups. On this point it was decided to give an update to the MAG on the main recommendations included in the two documents mentioned at point 1) of the agenda.

A. [Proposed activities for 2021](#) and next steps to follow up on the WG-strategy's proposals ([Proposals on strategic improvements to the IGF and operational measures in 2021](#))

Output Documents:

1. [Action areas selected as priorities by the wg for further action](#)
2. [Proposals on strategic improvements to the IGF and operational measures in 2021](#)

Summary of key points:

Titti informed the participants that the document [ACTION AREAS SELECTED AS PRIORITIES BY THE WG FOR FURTHER ACTION](#) was updated to include the proposal from Paul Blaker on "outcomes".

Next steps:

WG's participants agreed to leave the document open for comments for two or more days before approval. Titti will share the final version to the WG Strategy's mailing list.

B. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology;**Summary of key points:**

Jason Munyan gave an update to the WG's participants on the ongoing activities. He shared that the priority theme of the Commission for Social Developments will be "*Socially just transition towards sustainable development: the role of digital technologies on social development and well-being of all*". Regarding the "*One stop digital shop/hub on human rights mechanisms*", Jason confirmed that it will be launched before the Human Rights Council. He informed the WG on some internal discussions held within the UN on Freedom of speech and content moderation. He also informed the WG on the open consultation on the Multi stakeholder High Level Body that UNDESA is going to launch in the next few days.

On the question related to the role of Maria Francesca Spatolisano raised by Ben Wallis, Jason explained that she is Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs and she is the current officer in charge for the Office of the Envoy on Technology. In the second role, she is acting in her personal capacity.

C. Update on IGF strengthening from UNDESA and the Secretariat**Summary of key points:**

Chengetai gave an update on the website re-development saying that they are concentrating on the back end and will start some focus groups to talk to the users of the website usability and accessibility. He also informed that the consultant for the dynamic coalitions has been contracted and that they are managing the other applications they activated.

Anriette informed WG's participants about the two policy networks the IGF Secretariat will be leading in 2021 with the consultants support.

- 1) Policy Network on environment and digitization (already started)
- 2) Policy network on meaningful access a that will be an evolution of best practice forum on connectivity (to be approved by the MAG)

D. Update on parliamentary track;**Summary of key points:**

Chengetai Masango said that there were no updates on parliamentary track. He recalled the importance to have the parliamentary track and to involve the host country, leadership from the host country and the UN, the IPU and German Government.

Mattia Fantinati raised the question if the parliamentary track will involve only parliamentarians from the host country or if the approach will be to involve formally

parliamentarians all over the world. He suggested that in the last case the invitation to parliamentarians should be sent by the UNSG.

Chengetai replied that the interaction with the parliamentarians, at least for communication purposes, and the topic that is going to be discussed, is going to be led by the host country, whatever will be the host country and that of course there will be constant UN involvement (UN as whole). He added that a call focusing on this subject would be scheduled after the next MAG meeting.

Anriette Esterhuysen recalled the suggestions discussed in the Strategy MAG Working Group, to encourage involvement of parliamentarians in the intersessional activities and in the NRIs. She asked Chengetai to clarify the efforts that will be done at this year's program content, to involve parliamentarians and to bring them in the IGF 2021 and to integrate and engage parliamentarians in a more holistic way in all intersessional works.

Chengetai confirmed that they intend to engage parliamentarians from the whole world and that this will be done not just looking at one session but through the intersessional works. He added that this activity needs to start early, especially if there is going to be some joint output document that cannot be drafted in 90 minutes. The work will be done through the National and Regional initiatives, involving also the countries that do not have national and regional initiatives.

Next steps:

A virtual meeting will be scheduled by the Secretariat to discuss further the Parliamentarian track.

Next meeting: the next virtual meeting of the WG is planned for **March 4 – 2 PM UTC.**

Annex 1:

List of participants

1. Adam Peake, MAG Member, ICANN
2. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
3. Anriette Esterhuysen, IGF 2020 MAG Chair, Group's Co-Chair
4. Ben Wallis, Microsoft, Independent Expert, past MAG Member
5. Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat
6. Chris Disspain, Independent Expert
7. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy, past MAG Member
8. Eileen Cejas, Youth IGF Argentina, Independent expert
9. Esteve Sanz, European Commission rep on the MAG
10. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br/ University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, past MAG Member
11. Jason Munyan, Office of the Envoy on Technology
12. Joice Chen, Independent Expert, MAG Member
13. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert

14. Livia Walpen, Government of Switzerland, MAG Member (host country rep)
15. Luis Bobo, IGF Secretariat
16. Markus Kummer, IGFSA
17. Paula Martins, APC, Independent expert
18. Pablo Hinojosa,
19. Nigel Hickson Government of UK
20. Paul Charlton, Government of Canada, MAG Member
21. Peace Oliver, Independent Expert
22. Roberto Zambrana, ISOC Bolivia, MAG Member
23. Roman Chukov, Mag Member, Russian Government
24. Sophie Peresson, MAG Member, ICC
25. Susan Chalmer, MAG Member, NTIA
26. Tereza Horejsova, MAG Member
27. Wim Degezelle, Independent Expert
28. Wai Min Kwok, UNDESA