

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting XVI

25 March 2021 at 2 p.m. UTC

Summary Report

The sixteenth virtual meeting of the IGF 2020 MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on March 25 2021 at 2 p.m. UTC. The meeting was hosted and moderated by the Group's co- chair Livia Walpen and chat moderated by Amrita Choudhury. 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-chair opened the meeting by introducing the agenda:

Agenda

1. MHLB: Results of the [Public Consultation on paragraph 93\(a\) of the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation \(MHLB\)](#); next steps; non-paper by Wolfgang
2. Next steps to follow up on the WG-strategy's proposals ([Proposals on strategic improvements to the IGF and operational measures in 2021](#))
3. [WG's January recommendations on IGF 2021](#) (Recommendations 1.8 and 1.9 to establish Issue Teams)
4. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology;
5. Parliamentary Track;
6. AOB

A. Public Consultation on paragraph 93(a) of the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (MHLB); non - paper by Wolfgang

Summary of key points:

Chengetai Masango shared a [summary on the consultation](#) wherein the IGF Secretariat received 85 contributions. He mentioned that while the results were broad there were commonalities such as a call to enhance the IGF through the Multistakeholder High-Level Body (MHLB), and not to take away from the MAG. Regarding funding of the MHLB, Chengetai shared that most respondents suggested it should be funded by the IGF Trust fund. On its relationship with the

MAG, many were against a separate body being set up. The option that seems to have received the most support is to create the MHLB within the MAG. Chengetai also shared that some stakeholders had urged further consultation.

The next steps he suggested is for UNDESA, IGF secretariat and Office of Tech Envoy to tabulate results and do further analysis to come up with some formulation that is agreeable for most, which would then be presented as a joint memo to the Secretary General.

Jason Munyan added that while analysing and coming up with the formulation, they would be referring not only to the comments received but also the options paper, the comments received to options paper and the other notes shared during the Open Consultation and MAG Meeting held in February.

Anriette asked on timeline and if all inputs were taking into consideration including those of the WG on IGF Strengthening and Strategy. Chengetai confirmed the same. Regarding the timeline, Chengetai estimated that the memo to the Secretary General should be ready within 2 months.

Ben Wallis questioned the timeline and if even the members of the MHLB would be selected by then. He also noted the different approach used by the IGF Secretariat to share the comments received on MHLB consultation observing that the results were grouped on stakeholders. On this last point, Chengetai explained that this approach guarantees that all stakeholders are included and better explain the position and representativeness of the different stakeholders.

Anriette questioned what the process would be in selecting the members of the MHLB and will a NomCom be set up as proposed by Wolfgang. Chengetai responded that the option along with the current process followed by MAG are being considered and that the Secretary General would take the decision.

Wolfgang explained the non- paper "[Mission and Composition of a Multistakeholder High Level Body \(MHLB\) of an IGF+](#)" he shared among WG's participants saying that the document was intended to give some concrete ideas on how to form the MHLB and on the options nomination process. He added that there is a need to rethink the inner structure of the MAG.

Next steps: to wait for more updates from UNDESA and IGF Secretariat.

B. Next steps to follow up on the WG-strategy's proposals

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:

- Livia asked the group to consider if it may be helpful to create a survey and seek inputs from the MAG on what could be the priorities of the WG this year.
- Anriette added that there are several concrete suggestions in [both](#) the "priorities" document and in the "strategy" document which it would be good to present to the MAG to see what would be most helpful. She cited the example that based on the suggestion of the WG, the MAG is organising consultation with Youth IGF initiatives to develop youth participation.
- Flavio opined that the MAG should indicate priorities for the WG, from the various ideas the WG has shared.
- Ben Wallis pointed to the suggestions in section two.
- As the IGF is focussed to have issue drive discussion for being outcome driven, Joyce suggested that the WG could help the MAG by preparing a document on what "outcome based" might mean exactly.

Next steps: the co-chairs would come up with a questionnaire to deliberate in the next meeting.

C. 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 activities started by the Office of the Envoy on Technology. Below are some of them.

- Spoke at the [Webit conference](#) on the challenges and opportunities, a decade of action of the SDGs.
- Participated in the Carnegie Councils events on [Catalyzing Cooperation: Working together across artificial intelligence governance initiatives](#).
- In the area of capacity building the co champions UNDP and ITU has started a draft design of a mapping that will be done within the United Nations system on capacity building for some of the resources and types of training being provided. Various entities within the UN, have been approached on the types of capacity building that they provide, and currently work is underway to put together this inventory.

- The International Peace Institute in partnership with Microsoft in the EU, delegations to the UN met over a virtual Roundtable discussion on connecting disconnected human rights risks and opportunities and that events took place under Chatham house rules, but there will be a report shared shortly.
- The recognition group on digital human rights has sought input from the key constituents of that group on a concept note for the system wide guidance in the UN system on due diligence and new technologies. The next steps would be formulating that draft guidance within the UN system.
- Within the UN there have been meetings of the working groups on hate speech, the Secretary General's Call to Action on human rights, new frontiers task team. There have been the fifth meeting on the Interagency dialogue on information and data transparency, discussions on data governance and peace keeping, formation of a new working group on freedom of expression, social media.
- The UN team had a meeting with the country team and the resident coordinator to go over the roadmap and to see how the country teams can help in implementing the roadmap.

On upcoming meetings Jason shared:

- Virtual launch of a new coalition for digital environmental sustainability on 31 March.
- High Level thematic debates organized by the Office of President, General Assembly on 27 April.
- The Sixth Annual Science, Technology and Innovation ([STI Forum](#)) will be held from 4-5 May under the theme science, technology and innovation for sustainable and resilience COVID-19 recovery, an effective pathway of inclusive actions towards the SDGs. The last day to apply for organising a side event is April 9. There is a call for inputs to Interagency tasks team reports on lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic for the science politics, society interface and rapidly emerging frontier technologies and emerging science issues for the SDGs.

E. Update on parliamentary track:

Summary of key points:

On the Parliamentarian track, Wolfgang updated that the German project was finished and a report created by the German MAG Member from the German Ministry has been handed over to the MAG Members.

Wolfgang explained that the three concrete proposals on the table: (1) one is the preparation for the next round table by the Polish Host IPU, UNDESA and IGF Secretariat (2) the second is the intersessional work, work plan on what Parliamentarians could do between the annual round table and (3) The third is the formation of the Informal Parliamentarian IGF Group (IPIG) recommended in the output document from the last round table. He shared currently there is no progress on the last point.

Parliamentarian track all agrees that it should be there, the next step is to deliberate on how and this needs more clarity.

Next steps: waiting for feedback from IGF Secretariat, UNDESA and the local Host.

Next meeting: the next virtual meeting of the WG is planned for **April 8 - 1 PM UTC**.

Annex 1:

List of participants

1. Amrita Choudhury, CCAOI, MAG Member
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
11. Giacomo Mazzone (Independent expert)
12. Jason Munyan, HLPDC Secretariat
13. Joyce Chen , APNIC, MAG Member
14. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
15. Jyoti Panday, Internet Governance Project, India
16. Livia Walpen, Government of Switzerland, MAG Member (host country rep)
17. Luis Bobo, IGF Secretariat

18. Markus Kummer, IGFSa
19. Paula Martins, APC, Independent expert
20. Paul Charlton, Government of Canada, MAG Member
21. Peace Oliver, Independent Expert
22. Przemyslaw Typiak, Government of Poland
23. Roberto Zambrana, ISOC Bolivia, MAG Member
24. Roman Chukov, Mag Member, Russian Government
25. Sophie Peresson, MAG Member, ICC
26. Tereza Horejsova, DiploFoundation, MAG Member
27. Wim Degezelle, Independent Expert
28. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, University of Aarhus, past MAG Member