

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

**Online Meeting XX
20 May 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC**

Summary Report

The Twentieth virtual meeting of the IGF MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 20 May 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC. The virtual meeting was moderated by Livia Walpen and the chat was 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 moderator opened the meeting by introducing the agenda:

Agenda

1. Results of the questionnaire for the MAG
2. Comments on the Preparatory Phase document of the IGF 2021
3. Comments on the document drafted by the IGF Workshop Evaluation Group
4. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology
5. AOB
 - a. Update from the IGF Secretariat/UNDESA on the MHLB
 - b. Update the IGF Secretariat/UNDESA on the Parliamentary Track.
 - c. Youth Involvement in the IGF process

Discussion Points

1. Results of the questionnaire for the MAG

The responses of the 16 MAG members to the [questionnaire](#) were shared with the group. While the rather poor response rate was observed by the group, most attendees expressed that the responses reaffirmed the objectives and mandate of the working group, particularly with regards to the implementation of the UNSG's Roadmap on Digital Cooperation

On the point that the working group focuses on IGF communications and outreach, concerns of duplicating work of other existing groups was raised by Ben Wallis. Adam Peake clarified that the working group could advise strategically to the working group on communication.

Jorge Cancio stated that the responses provide good guidance for the working group to look at all the eight areas of the roadmap and not just focus only on digital cooperation architecture (area number 8 of the roadmap). To help the IGF, Jorge proposed a mapping exercise between the roadmap areas and the work already being done in the IGF. This would help to understand what more needs to be done. This would help to raise awareness of work already done by the IGF and avoid duplication. The mapping exercise could be done along with the IGF Secretariat and office of the Tech envoy in a flexible and informal manner. There were expressions of support to this suggestion.

Paula suggested that the main focus of this group should be to strengthen the IGF rather than focussing on all 8 points of the roadmap.

Adam cautioned the group to consider if we are losing the bottom up process in the IGF and how we could strengthen the bottom up process.

2. Comments on the [Preparatory Phase document of the IGF 2021](#)

Written comments were invited from the group by the 3 June meeting, where the comments would be discussed and then based on input received, a feedback would be shared to the MAG.

3. Comments on the document drafted by the IGF Workshop Evaluation Group

Roberto Zambrana presented the [document](#) drafted by the IGF Workshop Evaluation Group. He explained the IGF2021 evaluation form, its content including the six criterias based on which MAG members would be evaluating the workshop proposals. He encouraged group members to submit written comments to the draft documents and urged interested members of the group to participate in the workshop evaluation group.

4. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology

Jason Munyan provided an update to the WG Strategy members on the activities and developments initiated by the Office of the Envoy on Technology

In the area of digital public goods, the Tech envoy's office had a discussion with the office of information, communication technologies within the UN, to see how digital public goods or open source can be used in the UN system and this work would continue in the digital goods alliance.

In the area of capacity building a round table is being held and the group would be launching a platform on capacity building. The digital capacity-building platform will be: <https://digital-capacity.org/>

In the area of digital human rights there will be a virtual Roundtable on digital human rights on 9 June 11:30am EDT. There would also be a private meeting during RightsCon. To participate in the session Jason urged interested people to register and then send him a request (jason.munyan@un.org).

He mentioned that based on the inputs provided on the draft guidance on participation and civil society online, the guidance is being improved to reflect the inputs. In that context Jason shared that they are working with the OHCHR to develop a short strategy on how to enhance participation and engagement of civil society.

In the area of artificial intelligence, the co champions of the recommendation group would be meeting to discuss next steps. There would be another roundtable to discuss the next steps.

Responding to Timea Sutto's question on how to find out more of the AI body and roadmap consultations, Jason shared the [link](#) to the page for the consultations on AI.

In the area of digital trust and security, there was a meeting on the impact of emerging technologies on international peace and security.

In the area of environment, Jason shared that the coalition led by unit CODE is working on a zero draft report on a digital planet for sustainability.

5. AOB

a. Update from the IGF Secretariat/UNDESA on the MHLB

No updates on Digital Cooperation and MHLB

b. Update the IGF Secretariat/UNDESA on the Parliamentary Track

Chengetai Masango updated that there was a meeting of the three principles, UNDESA, IPU and host country. Interest has been expressed on a capacity building track for parliamentarians, in order to build their capacity and understanding on Internet governance. In that context he would get in touch with Wolfgang Kleinwächter.

He suggested that discussions are on for formalising the intersessional activities like capacity building, the final round table that would be held at IGF 2021 which the President of the Parliament of the Polish Parliament is supporting

c. Youth Involvement in the IGF process

Jason Munyan shared about their discussion with Youth envoy and asked the group if they could be involved in the IGF.

Eileen Cejas highlighted the initiatives of the Youth coalition on IG, including work on a policy paper that is expected to be published in June, plans to organise a wiki contest on IG, etc. These include,

(1) Wiki contest Youth in IG: The initiative is to edit articles on Wikipedia and Wikidata in four languages (SPA, ENG, FR, PT) and is open to young people aged between 18-35 years. The registration is still open. (ref link: https://bit.ly/Wikicontest_Youth_in_IG_Form)

2) UNDESA Policy Brief: the Youth Coalition on Internet Governance and SPI are collaborating with UNDESA on the elaboration of a policy brief for their initiative called "Emerging Issues in Youth Policy: Addressing Emerging and Frontier Issues with and For Youth." The final document will be published in June.

3) RightsCon : Three sessions are being organised.

4) EuroDIG: YCIG is hosting a pre-event session called "Youth Guide to Smart Cities, the Environment, and the Internet" on 28 June 2021 | 17:00-18:00 CEST

Anja Gengo updated the Host Country in collaboration with the IGF Secretariat and is planning a number of webinars, including a competition for youth. She suggested inviting Anna from the Polish Government to join the next call to provide a brief.

d. Circulating Working Group documents within IGF community

Based on the proposal of the moderator, it was agreed that the document [Proposals on strategic improvements to the IGF and operational measures in 2021](#) would be shared with the NRIs, DCs groups, BPFs and PNE, to create awareness of the work done by this working group.

Next meeting: the next virtual meeting of the WG is planned for **3 June - 1 PM UTC**.

Annex 1:

List of participants

1. Adam Peake, MAG Member,
2. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, CCAOI, MAG Member
3. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
4. Ben Wallis, Microsoft, Independent Expert, past MAG Member
5. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy, past MAG Member
6. Eileen Cejas, Youth SIG / Coordinator of Youth IGF Argentina & Youth LACIGF, Independent expert
7. Fiona Alexander, Independent expert
8. Fredric Cohen, Independent expert
9. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent expert
10. Jason Munyan, Office of the Envoy on Technology
11. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
12. Joyce Chen, MAG Member, APNIC
13. Livia Walpen, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Switzerland, MAG Member (host country rep)
14. Luis Bobo, IGF Secretariat
15. Markus Kummer, IGFS
16. Paul Charlton, Government of Canada, MAG Member
17. Paula Martins, APC, Independent expert
18. Przemyslaw Typiak, Government of Poland
19. Rita Wehbè, Independent expert
20. Roberto Zambrana, ISOC Bolivia, MAG Member

21. Roman Chukov, Group's Co-Chair , Mag Member, Russian Government
22. Timea Suto (ICC)
23. Wim Degezelle (IGF Secretariat)
24. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, University of Aarhus