

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting XXII

1 July 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC

Summary Report

The 23rd virtual meeting of the IGF MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on the 1st of July 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC. The meeting was hosted by Group's co-chair Concettina Cassa and moderated with the support of the co-chair Roman Chukov. 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. Mapping between the IGF and the UN SG's Roadmap for digital cooperation activities
2. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology
3. EuroDIG 2021 main findings (Sandra Hoferichter)
4. AOB
 - a. Update from the IGF Secretariat/UNDESA on the Parliamentary Track.
 - b. Youth Involvement in the IGF process

1. Mapping between the IGF and the UN SG's Roadmap for digital cooperation activities

The subgroup assigned to the mapping exercise between the UN SG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and the IGF activities has been activated. A draft document mapping these activities in a [table](#) was presented by the co-chair and discussed among the WG participants. The table groups the eight areas designated in the Roadmap and cross-compares the activities suggested in the Roadmap with current IGF activities in columns. The final column is dedicated to comments and synergies which participants identify as areas for potential, productive cooperation.

Participants expressed concerns about the clarity of the mapping exercise, suggesting the need for a clear definition of the goals the group aims to achieve through it, and a specification of the activities which should be included. It was suggested only IGF activities relevant to those of the Office for the Tech Envoy be included, so that synergies and opportunities for cooperation are focused upon.

Recommendations for the nature of the document included: extending the timescale to future IGFs, including an annexe to report on past IGF activities for reference purposes, maintaining

it as a permanent living document - edited on a rolling basis and archived for reference purposes every 4-6 months, broadening the IGF activities considered to include those of Best Practice Forums and Dynamic Coalitions.

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

Jason Munyan gave an update to the WG Strategy members on the activities and developments regarding the UN SG's Roadmap on Digital Cooperation.

He listed a series of activities, meetings and documents involving the Office of the Tech Envoy and related to the eight areas designated by the Roadmap.

In Global Connectivity, he informed participants of the upcoming roundtable on the 8th of July and the meeting on Satellite technology for connectivity co-organised with the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs, as part of the ITU's event on "Emerging Technology for Connectivity: Accelerating Digital Transformation in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs".

In Digital Public Goods, a virtual roundtable was held to launch the five-year strategy of the Digital Public Goods Alliance. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UPjZGZSAOkM>.

In Digital Inclusion, the Gender Equality Forum is currently ongoing. <https://forum.generationequality.org/home>

In Digital Human Rights, he informed that the Office of the Tech Envoy held a principal level meeting of the working group on hate speech, including several UN entities for a discussion on the central challenges in this area.

In Digital Trust and Security, the Security Council held its first ever open debate on maintaining peace and security in cyberspace. This follows concerns on an increase in the frequency of malicious incidents online and the scale and pervasiveness of cyber insecurity. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14563.doc.htm>.

In Artificial Intelligence, the second UN counterterrorism week led to the publication of the following reports shared in the meeting.

Building knowledge on counterterrorism in the Age of Artificial Intelligence: Risks, Opportunities and Safeguarding Human Rights. <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k13/k13te7dqln>

Algorithms and Terrorism: The Malicious use of Artificial Intelligence for Terrorist Purposes.

<https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/malicious-use-of-ai-uncct-unicri-report-hd.pdf>

Leveraging Artificial Intelligence to Combat the Terrorist Use of the Internet and Social Media – A Focus on South and South East Asia.

<https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism/files/countering-terrorism-online-with-ai-uncct-unicri-report-web.pdf>

In Global Digital Cooperation, the final report on guidance for the MHLB is expected to be shared publicly soon.

In Digital Environmental Sustainability, the Assistant Secretary-General Ms. Spatolisano stressed the impact of mobile technologies on the progress towards sustainability at the World Congress. Alongside this, the Codes coalition has expressed the need for an acceleration in the plan on digital sustainability. The latest draft of the CODES flagship report is available at:

https://www.sparkblue.org/system/files/2021-06/Digitalising_environmental_sustainability_draft_v2_June_28_2021.pdf

3. EuroDIG 2021 main findings

Sandra Hoferichter outlined the preliminary main findings from EuroDig 2021. The final findings will be available once outstanding data on feedback has been received.

She reported fewer challenges in organising the convention this year due to the repetition of the preparation process for 2020, with a similar team.

The new Gather platform, used to provide a more enriching online experience of the event, posed a challenge to many participants who experienced difficulties in navigating it and accessing Zoom links for meetings.

The strain on human and financial resources for the EuroDig team this year was highlighted as a challenge to consider ahead of the 16th annual IGF meeting. More coordination may be needed to support the hybrid format in 2021, than in past annual IGF meetings.

Parliamentarians actively participated in the EuroDig sessions, however their dedicated roundtable was cancelled, as no participant could join at that time. Strong representation from the scientific and private sector communities was reported, with representatives from UNESCO and the Chamber of Commerce being included as participants this year.

WG participants added comments on the growing issue of overlapping online events, as a new challenge in the absence of physical events. The need to focus on interactivity and intuitively easy accessibility features was emphasised, particularly as key factors for improving participation and reducing online fatigue.

4. AOB

- a. Update from the IGF Secretariat/UNDESA on the Parliamentary Track.**

The IPU has sent the “Save the date” for a Parliamentary event at the 16th Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Katowice (Poland) on 7 December 2021. This will remain open until the end of July.

b. Youth Involvement in the IGF process

No updates have been presented on the youth track.

Next meeting: the next virtual meeting of the WG is planned for 22 July - 1 PM UTC.

Annex 1: List of participants

1. Adam Peake, MAG Member,
2. Amrita Choudhury, Group’s Co-Chair, CCAOI, MAG Member
3. Carlos Alberto Afonso, Executive Director, Nupef Institute, MAG Member
4. Concettina Cassa, Group’s Co-Chair, Government of Italy, past MAG Member
5. Esteve Sanz, EC/DG-CNECT
6. Fredric Cohen, Independent expert
7. Fiona Alexander, Independent expert
8. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br/ Federal University of do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, past MAG Member
9. Jason Munyan, Office of the Envoy on Technology
10. Joyce Chen, MAG Member, APNIC
11. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
12. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
13. Livia Walpen, Group’s Co-Chair, Government of Switzerland, MAG Member (host country rep)
14. Markus Kummer, IGFS
15. Molly Hammond, IGF Secretariat
16. Nigel Hickson Government of UK
17. Paul Charlton, Government of Canada, MAG Member
18. Paula Martins, APC, Independent expert
19. Poncelet Ileleji, Independent Expert
20. Roberto Zambrana, President, ISOC Chapter Bolivia, MAG Member
21. Roman Chukov, Group’s Co-Chair, MAG Member, Russia
22. Timea Suto (ICC)
23. Tereza Horejsova, MAG Member
24. Wim Degezelle, IGF Secretariat
25. Velimira GRAU, EC/DG-CNECT
26. Sandra Hoferichter, EuroDig