

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy
Online Meeting
11 September 2025 at 06:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 102nd virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 11 September 2025 at 06:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Amrita and a recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Amrita opened the meeting by introducing the agenda.

Agenda

1. WSIS+20 Draft 0
2. Update from the IGF Secretariat
3. Upcoming MAG work / IGF evolution
4. General updates: GDC and AI governance
5. Any other business (AoB)

Discussion

1. WSIS+20 Draft 0

Markus noted that the specific IGF intersessional work items are not mentioned, and the draft would be strengthened by their inclusion - the DC Coordination Group plans to make a submission to this effect. However, by and large, DCs are satisfied with how the Zero Draft represents their concerns in relation to their specific issues. There was one comment though, that the language on accessibility feels a little tokenistic, and could be strengthened. He also noted that some members of the DC Coordination Group will be on site in New York.

Chris noted that the IMSB has published a [new blog post](#), including a calendar of engagement opportunities where the IMSB plans to attend. He noted that the Co-Facilitators will be onsite at the ICANN meeting in the last week of October.

Theresa noted that, while not speaking for the IMSB, there is a general sense that it is a strong draft, and encouraged stakeholders to be pragmatic in proposals to make it as effective as possible. She noted that the stakeholders need to take full advantage of the inclusivity of the process. She also noted that the Co-Facilitators will be taking part in a plenary session on Monday of the ICANN meeting in Dublin.

Jorge noted that the Swiss are developing their reaction to the Zero Draft and are listening to all stakeholder views. He agreed that tactics are important, and suggested not taking anything in the Zero Draft for granted, and what is missing and could be added for inclusion in the negotiation (he noted that this may include the SPMGs or the strength of some language). On the Internet governance/IGF elements, the question is whether it is an issue or a mechanism

applicable to all issues - currently it leans more to the former, which would serve to narrow the scope of the IGF and IG discussions. He urged the IMSB to consider how to address this. He noted that the Swiss will have their delegation in New York to play an active role in negotiations.

Amrita noted the need to identify priorities. Valeria seconded this, noting that many elements will likely be trimmed in the negotiation process - red lines are essential in navigating this process. She noted the importance of tweaking some elements, including on the Internet governance section, and the need to identify the continuity between Internet, data governance, AI, and other emerging technology issues. It is essential that the IGF not be narrowly scoped.

William noted that the draft makes the IGF permanent, which is welcome, but how does this marry with the existing Tunis Agenda mandate for the IGF - does this require a new mechanism to maintain/update that mandate, or is it "permanent" in name only, with states reviewing the mandate regularly in any case. Chris noted that there had been some discussion of the mandate in relation to the potential IGF "rebrand". Amrita agreed that this is an important issue, and that the IMSB has not yet had a chance to consider this specific issue.

Markus noted that the Tunis Agenda contains a definition of Internet governance, including supporting paragraphs that make the breadth of that definition clear.

2. Update from the IGF Secretariat

Anja noted that the ["IGF Achievements"](#) paper developed by the IGF Secretariat has been published. She also noted that they have been working to socialise the outputs of the 2025 IGF, including recently at the ITU Council Working Group on Internet-related Public Policy Issues. The [Messages](#) have also been sent out. She noted the Secretariat is managing funding to a number of NRIs, including travel funding for several NRIs. She noted projects with public sector actors in the Asia Pacific, and with the APrIGF, particularly with youth. The intersessional work is also underway, and the Secretariat is focused very much on communication around these efforts, including refreshing web pages for these initiatives.

On WSIS+20, she noted that the NRIs responded to the Elements Paper, and may respond to the Zero Draft; the youth coalition is also planning a response. On the recent meeting of the Leadership Panel, Anja noted that they are focused on their work leading up to the WSIS+20 event in December, and also met with Guy Ryder, USG for Policy at the UN.

Amrita noted that the APrIGF organising team is currently dealing with the disruption in Nepal, and the event may have to transition to an online meeting. The Parliamentary Track for the APrIGF will not happen, as the Nepalese Parliament has been dissolved.

Chris asked about the Secretariat's thoughts on MAG meetings for the remainder of the year. Chengetai noted that there is still work for this 2025 MAG to do, particularly on MAG working methods; however, there is insufficient funding for an additional formal in-person meeting this

year, but they are looking at possibilities for an informal F2F meetings in the sidelines of pre-existing events.

3. Upcoming MAG work / IGF evolution

Chris presented the work that has been developed so far on [proposed focus areas](#) for the MAG's work. He suggested that, while this work needs to be trimmed, it may be useful to work with these headings and identify gaps/issues and ideas/suggestions.

Amrita agreed that there is a need to prioritise. She highlighted MAG selection processes as something that has been identified as a challenge.

Chengetai felt that MAG selection is something that falls to the individual stakeholder groups, each of which have their own processes. He suggested that stakeholder members in the MAG could come up with protocols for their own stakeholders, but this would need to be agreeable to the broader community. He felt that the work laid out is a year's worth of work, but that it could be broken into bite-size chunks - he recommended focusing on the first ask, which is MAG working methods.

Amrita noted that MAG selection is a black box in terms of final selection, and Chris agreed this has been a source of some frustration in stakeholder groups. Chengetai agreed that the UN (SG's office) has a formula to apply which can contradict stakeholder group nominations.

Wout suggested that some issues are internal, some are external - it might make sense for the internal work to establish mechanisms to address the external issues more long term. He noted that the NL IGF has discussed how to influence the MAG on issues that are important - it was noted that there needs to be an early-stage process (January) to identify topics. The NL IGF itself may look at holding its own Q1 meeting to facilitate this. On intersessional sessions, he noted the importance of this work has been identified, and particularly ensuring prominence of intersessional work outcomes needs attention.

Amrita noted that the Secretariat currently seeks to engage early in the year, but there may be a need to highlight for NRI communities that their input should be ready at this point.

4. General updates: GDC and AI governance

Henry noted that he had attended the Asia AI Safety Summit, where AI governance was discussed. His impression was of concerns, but few solutions - concerns are being discussed in the context of the traditional Internet; the IGF currently sits as the only global, bottom-up space for discussion of these issues, and offers an important chance for the IGF to further establish its influence and importance.

5. Any other business (AoB)

The next meeting of the WG-Strategy will be held on Thursday, 25 September, at 13:00 UTC.

List of participants

1. Amrita Choudhury Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
2. Chengetai Masango, Head of the IGF Secretariat
3. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
4. Christine Arida, Former IGF MAG member
5. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
6. Titti Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member, Government of Italy
7. Jorge Cancio, Swiss Government
8. Nabel Yasin, Independent Expert
9. Manal Ismail, Independent Expert
10. Tereza Horejsova, IGF MAG Member
11. Theresa Swinehart, IGF MAG Member
12. Valeria Betancourt, IGF MAG member
13. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
14. Jasmine Ko, Independent Expert
15. Lito Ibarra, IGF MAG member
16. Markus Kummer, former IGF MAG Chair
17. William Lee, Australia Government
18. Henry Wang, Independent Expert
19. Washington Jiang, Independent Expert
20. Wout De Natris, Independent Expert
21. Jasmine Ko, Independent Expert
22. Fundetel, Independent Expert
23. Gunela Astbrink, former IGF MAG Member
24. Ephraim Percy Kenyanito, Independent Expert