

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy
Online Meeting
9 October 2025 at 19:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 104th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 9 October 2025 at 19:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Chris and a recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Chris opened the meeting by introducing the agenda.

Agenda

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

Discussion

1. WSIS+20 Zero Draft

Chris opened the meeting with reflections on the *WSIS+20 Zero Draft* and the 75 responses submitted. The group discussed the main themes emerging from the consultations, noting that one of the most debated proposals concerns the possibility for the Office of the Envoy on Technology (ODET) to become the permanent Secretariat of UNGIS.

Participants expressed concern that such a move would centralize control and weaken the open, multistakeholder, and decentralized governance model that underpins WSIS and the IGF. The [Konstantinos Komaitis' article](#) was mentioned as a strong articulation of these risks.

Poncelet Ileleji underlined the importance of ensuring the sustainability of National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs), calling for stronger commitment from national governments to integrate NRIs into their digital and ICT policy frameworks. **Ana Neves** highlighted the challenges of engaging policymakers and communicating the value of the IGF process to those unfamiliar with its mechanisms, particularly in governmental and diplomatic settings. She also pointed to the need for more strategic coordination within the MAG and across IGF bodies.

Flavio Wagner clarified that the Brazilian government's submission differs from that of CGI.br, illustrating divergent national positions. **Wout de Natris** emphasized the need to streamline and accelerate internal working methods, to avoid losing momentum in policy processes dominated by more centralized entities.

Anriette Esterhuysen offered a structural reflection on the IGF's governance, noting that while the Forum has multiple strengths—such as inclusiveness and diversity—it still lacks sufficient institutional leadership and coordination among its components (MAG, Secretariat, Leadership Panel, DCs, and NRIs). She suggested that the IGF's fragmented structure limits its ability to act effectively and that this is both a political and organizational challenge.

Juan Fernández (Cuba) reported that the G77 draft contribution includes a proposal to establish a task force to determine the role of the IGF within the WSIS and GDC frameworks—an initiative that could help clarify institutional responsibilities. **Fiona Alexander** confirmed that she is scheduled to intervene during the upcoming WSIS+20 consultations and offered to reflect the group's shared positions in her remarks.

Following the discussion, it was agreed to prepare a concise set of **common talking points** to be circulated on the mailing list ahead of the WSIS+20 consultation meetings. **Titti Cassa** proposed organizing a **short webinar after the consultations** to explore key and potentially disruptive proposals with invited experts. Participants also considered reaching out to UN agencies such as ITU and UNESCO to understand their perspectives on the WSIS coordination model.

2. IGF Secretariat Update (Anja Gengo)

Anja Gengo provided an update on the Secretariat's ongoing activities.

She informed the group that a survey among NRIs had been launched to assess their current status, operational models, and sustainability prospects (open until 20 October).

On the Youth and Parliamentary Tracks, she announced:

- A youth capacity development workshop on *social media regulation* organized with APRIGF on 11 October.
- Preparations for sessions with Members of Parliament from the Asia-Pacific and Latin American regions, and an increasing engagement from the European Parliament, following a successful visit to the IGF Secretariat.

The Secretariat is also improving the visibility and accessibility of intersessional outputs on the IGF website, using the *Policy Network on AI* as a reference model for presentation and layout.

On the communications front, several initiatives are ongoing in cooperation with GIZ, including interviews and videos to highlight the IGF's role within the WSIS+20 process and to strengthen its global visibility.

Finally, **Anja** noted some staff changes, including the appointment of Hermann as new youth focal point and the temporary secondment of two staff members (Celine and Eleonora) to DESA for WSIS+20-related support.

3. Other Developments: GDC, AI Governance, and MAG Work

In the subsequent part of the meeting, participants discussed broader developments related to digital governance and the internal coordination of the IGF ecosystem.

Wout de Natris raised the issue of clarifying roles and expectations between the MAG, Dynamic Coalitions (DCs), and NRIs, suggesting the appointment of liaison representatives to strengthen coordination. **Jennifer Chung** supported this idea, noting that structured communication would help align workstreams while maintaining each group's autonomy.

Adam Peake provided information about WSIS+20-related sessions planned at the **ICANN meeting in Dublin**, encouraging participants to engage with co-facilitators and government delegations.

Wout de Natris announced a new partnership of the **Dynamic Coalition on Internet Standards** focused on *post-quantum cryptography* and its applications in DNS and routing, reflecting the growing relevance of quantum-related topics in the IGF context.

The next meeting of the WG-Strategy will be held on 23 October September, at 6:00 AM UTC.

List of participants

1. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
2. Anna Neves, Chair of the CSTD
3. Anriette Esterhuysen, former IGF MAG Chair
4. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
5. Titti Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member, Government of Italy
6. Jennifer Chung, IGF MAG member
7. Adam Peake, former IGF MAG member
8. Fiona Alexander, former IGF MAG member
9. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
10. Juan Fernandez, IGF MAG member
11. Hossam Elgamal, IGF MAG member Poncelet Ileleji, Independent Expert
12. Justin Fair, IGF MAG member
13. Ellen Taylor, ISED Canada
14. MaheenHaq, Independent Expert
15. Sarah L. Paquette, Independent Expert
16. Sofia Longwe, Independent Expert
17. Manal Ismail, Independent Expert
18. June Parris, former IGF MAG member
19. Valeria Betancourt, IGF MAG member
20. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
21. Jasmine Ko, Independent Expert
22. Washington Jiang, Independent Expert
23. Wout De Natris, Independent Expert