

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting

18 December 2025 at 14.00 UTC

Summary Report

The 107th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 18 December 2025 at 14:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Amrita Choudhury. A recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Agenda

1. WSIS+20 outcomes and implications for the IGF
2. IGF improvements and WG priorities for 2026
3. Update from the IGF Secretariat
4. Any other business (AoB)

Discussion

1. WSIS+20 Outcomes and Implications for the IGF

1.1 General reflections

Participants welcomed the adoption of the WSIS+20 outcome document by consensus, including the agreement on a **permanent mandate for the IGF**, and highlighted the significance of this achievement. The outcome was described as comprehensive and community-driven, providing a strong basis to build on existing IGF strengths and to reinforce national and regional IGF processes.

Several speakers emphasized that the permanent mandate increases the responsibility of the IGF community to **strengthen its internal governance structures**, including working groups and sub-structures, while preserving the multistakeholder nature of the Forum.

1.2 Consensus process and political context

Participants noted that the WSIS+20 negotiations were particularly challenging, especially in the final stages. Appreciation was expressed for the work of the co-facilitators and for the achievement of consensus without a vote. The importance of maintaining broad political support for the IGF across stakeholder groups and regions was underlined.

1.3 Government participation and paragraph 101

A significant part of the discussion focused on references to government participation in the WSIS+20 outcome document, in particular **paragraph 101** and earlier proposals related to an intergovernmental or government track within the IGF.

Key points raised included:

- strong support for preserving the **multistakeholder and non-decision-making character** of the IGF;
- concerns that a formal intergovernmental track could alter the nature of the IGF and lead to fragmentation or silos;

- recognition that some governments, particularly from developing countries, are seeking clearer pathways and incentives for meaningful participation in the IGF;
- differing views on whether a government-focused track or mechanism could be useful if designed in an **open, inclusive and well-integrated manner**.

Several participants noted that the term “track” is ambiguous and may not adequately reflect the range of engagement models under discussion.

1.4 Role of other UN fora (CSTD and coordination)

Participants highlighted the strengthened role of the **Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD)** in the WSIS+20 outcome. It was noted that:

- CSTD could provide an appropriate intergovernmental space for certain policy-oriented discussions;
- stronger coordination between IGF intersessional work, IGF annual outcomes and CSTD deliberations would be important;
- operationalizing such coordination would be complex but necessary to meet expectations expressed in the outcome document.

1.5 Funding and institutional implications

The permanent mandate of the IGF raised questions regarding future funding and resourcing, including:

- potential discussions in the UN Fifth Committee;
- the need to balance increased institutional stability with the continued importance of voluntary contributions;
- possible links with broader UN reform and efficiency processes.

Participants agreed that funding-related discussions would require careful attention in the coming months.

2. IGF Improvements and Working Group Priorities for 2026

2.1 Presentation of the [“Strengthening the IGF”](#) document

Titti Cassa presented a draft discussion document prepared by the co-chairs, which consolidates the discussions and inputs developed within the Working Group over recent months and the indications included in the document drafted by the WG on Workshop Processes. She clarified that the document is intended as a working basis to support a structured discussion on the future evolution of the IGF.

The document identifies key challenges facing the IGF and outlines strategic directions to strengthen the IGF ecosystem, including the MAG, the Leadership Panel, the Secretariat, the annual IGF meeting, intersessional work and National and Regional Initiatives (NRIs), with a view to enhancing impact and institutional coherence.

It was noted that, building on existing experiences with stakeholder-specific tracks, a government-dialogue space or mechanism could be explored as one possible way to encourage greater government engagement and to strengthen links between IGF discussions and policy implementation, while preserving the multistakeholder nature of the IGF. Participants emphasized the importance of clearly defining objectives before considering specific modalities.

2.2 Next steps

- Participants were invited to review the draft document and provide written feedback.
- Further discussion was deferred to a subsequent meeting to allow sufficient time for reflection.
- The importance of preparing inputs ahead of the call for the new MAG was highlighted.

3. Update from the IGF Secretariat

No update was provided by the IGF Secretariat.

4. Any other business

The next meeting was confirmed for **15 January 2026 at 13.00 UTC**.

List of participants

1. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
2. Anriette Esterhuysen, former IGF MAG Chair
3. Bruna Santos, Group's Co-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. Christine Arida, former IGF MAG member
7. Valeria Betancourt, IGF MAG member
8. Peter Koch, Independent Expert
9. Cheryl Miller, IGF MAG member
10. Dino Dell'Accio, UNJSPF
11. Fiona Alexander, former IGF MAG member
12. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
13. Craig Stanley Adamson, UK Government
14. Jorge Perez, IGF MAG Member
15. Henry Wang, Independent Expert
16. Lilian Chamorro, Independent Expert
17. Sofia Longwe, Independent Expert
18. Nabel Yasin, Independent Expert
19. Juan Fernandez, IGF MAG member
20. Manal Ismail, Independent Expert
21. June Parris, former IGF MAG member
22. Jorge Perez, IGF Spain coordinator
23. Poncelet Ileleji, Independent Expert
24. Teresa Horejsowa, IGF MAG member
25. Tiago Martins, Independent Expert
26. Tracy F. Hachshaw, Independent Expert
27. Wim Degezelle, IGF Secretariat