

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting

15 January 2026 at 13.00 UTC

Summary Report

The 108th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 15 January 2026 at 13:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Chris Buckridge. A recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Agenda

1. WSIS+20 outcomes and implications for the IGF
2. IGF improvements and WG Strategy priorities for 2026
3. Update from the IGF Secretariat
4. Any Other Business (AOB)

1. WSIS+20 Outcomes and Implications for the IGF

Chris opened the meeting, welcomed participants to the first WG Strategy meeting of 2026, and introduced the agenda. Participants reflected on the implications of the WSIS+20 Review outcomes, with particular emphasis on the permanent mandate of the IGF.

Key points raised included:

- The permanent mandate creates heightened expectations for the IGF to deliver concrete, high-quality outcomes.
- The IGF community bears a collective responsibility to ensure strong MAG composition, effective processes, and meaningful outputs.
- Several speakers highlighted the need for the IGF to demonstrate relevance, impact, and strategic focus in the coming cycle.

Specific suggestions included:

- Revisiting the Zero Day format to allow for longer, in-depth policy discussions, particularly in light of WSIS+20 implementation needs.
- Strengthening intersessional work and ensuring alignment with the WSIS+20 outcome document.
- Recognizing the increased engagement of governments during WSIS+20, including through expert participation in national delegations and the use of multistakeholder sounding boards.

2. IGF Improvements and WG Strategy Priorities for 2026

The discussion moved to ongoing work on IGF improvements and the role of the WG Strategy in shaping priorities for 2026.

Main discussion points:

- The importance of developing a shared strategic vision for the IGF, complementing the operational recommendations developed by the Working Group on Workshop Processes.
- Participants underlined the value of the [document](#) initiated in December 2025 and suggested building upon it to articulate a clear strategic layer for the IGF's evolution as a permanent forum.
- The need to consolidate existing recommendations into more concrete and actionable guidance for the 2026 MAG and the Secretariat.
- Emphasis on moving “from dialogue to impact,” including clearer pathways for transmitting IGF outputs to relevant UN bodies and policy processes.
- Strong support for prioritizing government engagement, in line with the WSIS+20 outcome document, while carefully managing associated risks and preserving the multistakeholder nature of the IGF.

Coordination between the WG Strategy and the Working Group on Workshop Processes was highlighted as a next step, with facilitators from both groups planning to meet to align their outputs.

3. Secretariat Updates

The IGF Secretariat provided updates, including:

- Launch of the Call for MAG 2026 Nominations, with a deadline of 26 February 2026 (end of day UTC).
- Ongoing internal planning to ensure readiness once the new MAG is appointed.
- Preparatory work on outreach, advocacy, and capacity development initiatives, including continued cooperation with development partners.
- Updates on Youth Track activities, NRIs consultations (including the first NRI call on 19 January 2026), and Dynamic Coalitions' upcoming discussions on WSIS+20 implementation.
- Progress on improving the IGF website and communication tools.
- Information on the expected timeline for confirming the IGF 2026 host country, with a possible announcement anticipated in February.
- Preliminary indications that IGF 2026 is likely to take place between October and December 2026, subject to confirmation.

The Secretariat also clarified issues related to MAG rotation, staggered terms, and continuity to preserve institutional memory.

4. Any Other Business (AOB)

Participants discussed:

- Concerns about timing constraints for the 2026 MAG and the risk of limited space for innovation due to late appointments.
- The role of the current MAG in providing process-related recommendations without pre-empting decisions of the 2026 MAG.
- Open questions regarding the implications of the IGF's permanent mandate for governance structures, including the MAG and Leadership Panel.

The next WG Strategy meeting is scheduled for **29 January 2026 at 6 AM UTC**.

List of participants:

1. Chengetai Masango, Coordinator of the IGF Secretariat
2. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat, NRIs coordinator
3. Amrita Choudhury Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
4. Ana Neves, IGF MAG Member
5. Anriette Esterhuysen, former IGF MAG Chair
6. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
7. Titti Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member, Government of Italy
8. Adam Peake, former IGF MAG member
9. Desiree Milhoshevich, IGF MAG Member
10. Elizabeth Oluoch, ICANN
11. Eunice Alejandra Perez Coello, Independent Expert
12. Valeria Betancourt, IGF MAG member
13. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
14. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
15. Heman Johansen, Independent Expert
16. Hossam Elgamal, IGF MAG member
17. Poncelet Ileleji, Independent Expert
18. Cheryl Miller, IGF MAG member
19. Fiona Alexander, former IGF MAG member
20. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
21. Craig Stanley Adamson, UK Government
22. Ellen Taylor, ISED Canada
23. Jennifer Chung, IGF MAG member
24. Jose Felix Hernandez, IGF Spain
25. Lito Ibarra, IGF MAG member
26. Peter Koch, ICANN
27. Dofel, Sook-Jung, IGF MAG member
28. Timea Suto, IGF MAG Member
29. Veni Markovski, former IGF MAG Member
30. Wout De Natris, Independent Expert
31. Xiaobo Yang, Independent Expert
32. Nabel Yasin, Independent Expert
33. June Parris, former IGF MAG member

34. Teresa Horejsowa, IGF MAG member