

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting

12 February 2026 at 13.00 UTC

Summary Report

The 110th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 12 February 2026 at 13:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Chris Buckridge. A recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Agenda

1. Update from the recent MAG call and follow-up implementation actions
2. Work plan and priorities of the WG for 2026
3. Update from the IGF Secretariat
4. Any other business (AoB)

1. Update from the recent MAG call and follow-up implementation actions

Chris provided an overview of the recent MAG meeting. He noted that three substantive inputs are currently under consideration:

- The WG-Strategy [document](#) on the future evolution of the IGF
- The WG on Workshop Processes [document](#) on improvements to MAG modalities
- The results of the MAG survey (14 responses received)

It was acknowledged that while these documents contain valuable recommendations, transmitting them in their current form to the incoming MAG 2026 may risk overwhelming the new members and limiting effective implementation.

It was agreed that the Chairs of the WG-Strategy and the WG-WSP, together with interested MAG members who volunteered during the call, would initiate a consolidation process. This work will integrate the three existing inputs — the WG-Strategy document, the WG-WSP document, and the MAG survey results — taking into account the checklist derived from the WSIS+20 Outcome Document.

Anriette stressed the importance of aligning this exercise with the WSIS+20 Outcome Document. She proposed developing a checklist of the specific references and actionable elements related to the IGF contained in the Outcome Document, ensuring that the working groups' proposals reflect the expectations articulated by Member States and other stakeholders. Jennifer volunteered to initiate this review, making use of the UNDESA mapping document already available.

Ana elaborated on the survey results, noting that although participation was limited, the responses were substantive and thoughtful. She highlighted that the survey offered an important opportunity for reflection on the evolution of the IGF and the implications of the WSIS+20 Outcome Document.

She expressed concern that the incoming MAG may be primarily focused on organising the next annual meeting and may not have sufficient time to reflect deeply on strategic recommendations. She therefore emphasised the need to move decisively from reflection to implementation, ensuring that discussions translate into concrete actions and measurable impact. She suggested that the WG-Strategy could continue to play a role in supporting medium- and long-term implementation, including through the involvement of former MAG members, thereby ensuring continuity.

Flavio observed that the IGF now faces multiple streams of recommendations—from the two working group documents, the survey, and the WSIS+20 Outcome Document. He stressed the need to identify a practical mechanism to consolidate these inputs into coherent and implementable proposals. He outlined possible approaches, including assigning a more structured consolidation role to the WG-Strategy, creating a dedicated community-based group, or re-establishing a Working Group on IGF Improvements similar to that which operated in previous years. He underscored the importance of selecting a clear mechanism rather than allowing recommendations to remain dispersed.

Jutta noted that the survey responses largely reinforced and aligned with the recommendations already contained in the working group documents, rather than introducing entirely new elements. She suggested that the immediate priority should be to consolidate and harmonize the various proposals.

She further emphasized that it may not be realistic for the incoming MAG to implement all recommendations simultaneously. She proposed prioritising those elements that are time-sensitive, particularly improvements related to workshop proposal evaluation and selection, as these constitute one of the first operational responsibilities of a newly appointed MAG. Other structural or longer-term reforms could be phased in during the course of the year.

Jutta also recalled that during the transition period between the outgoing and incoming MAG, no formal decisions can be taken by the current MAG. The role of the WG-Strategy, therefore, should be to prepare clear, well-structured recommendations to facilitate informed decision-making by the incoming MAG.

Wout emphasized the importance of ensuring that working group reports lead to tangible consequences, rather than remaining purely informational. He suggested that clearer mechanisms for follow-up and accountability could strengthen impact. He also highlighted the importance of developing or reinforcing a communication strategy to ensure that outputs from the IGF cycle—not only the annual meeting—reach relevant audiences in and beyond the UN system in a form that can inform policy processes.

Titti identified three strategic priorities that should be reflected in the consolidated recommendations:

- Sustainable funding for the IGF, including potential structured community input into the Secretary-General's review of funding approaches;
- Strengthening and better leveraging the NRI network, in line with the recognition of NRIs and intersessional work in the WSIS+20 Outcome Document;
- Clarifying and potentially restructuring the role and functions of MAG members, including the consideration of thematic focal points and improved coordination with NRIs and the Leadership Panel.

Chris suggested that the consolidation process could adopt an incremental approach, distinguishing between short-term achievable priorities and longer-term strategic objectives.

2. Planning and priorities for 2026

The group discussed the future role of the WG-Strategy in the context of the incoming MAG.

Anriette suggested that before defining a detailed work plan, the group should clarify its role. She noted that WG-Strategy differs from other MAG working groups in that it functions as an open, bottom-up strategic space that includes community members and former MAG members, thereby providing continuity and institutional memory.

She suggested that the group could consider a more structured internal organization, including smaller task-oriented sub-groups with defined responsibilities and reporting mechanisms. She also emphasized the importance of maintaining constructive coordination with the Secretariat to avoid duplication of efforts and to ensure that the working group's work effectively supports Secretariat priorities.

There was broad agreement that WG-Strategy provides an important interface between the community and the MAG and that its continuity adds value to the IGF ecosystem.

It was proposed that an initial draft outline of a possible 2026 action plan be prepared for discussion. Flavio, Bruna, Juan and others volunteered to prepare a preliminary skeleton for circulation.

3. Update from the IGF Secretariat

Anja provided updates on ongoing Secretariat activities and timelines.

She confirmed that the Call for MAG 2026 nominations remains open until 26 February. Based on internal planning, the announcement of the new MAG is expected approximately four weeks after the closing of the call, with appointments anticipated by the end of March, subject to confirmation.

Regarding the IGF 2026 host country, Anja informed the group that discussions are in advanced stages with three concrete candidate hosts. The Secretariat aims to align

confirmation of the host country with the announcement of the new MAG, enabling the incoming MAG to plan with clarity regarding venue and dates. The meeting is tentatively envisaged for early December 2026, depending on the confirmed host.

She further reported that the IGF 2026 landing page has been launched to centralise information related to the upcoming cycle. The Youth Track will focus on AI governance, with preparatory work underway in coordination with youth representatives.

On parliamentary engagement, the Secretariat is cooperating with the Central African IGF for an event on 17 February, with the Chamber of Deputies in Uruguay for a one-day parliamentary summit on 24 March, and has received a request for collaboration from the West African IGF meeting in Sierra Leone in May.

Work is also underway to formalise judiciary engagement through the creation of a dedicated webpage and public mailing list.

Anja reminded participants that the Call for Thematic Inputs and intersessional work proposals remains open until 28 February, that NRI grant applications are currently under review, and that a survey on improvements to the IGF website remains open for additional input. The next IGF newsletter is scheduled for release on 15 February.

In response to a question regarding timelines, Anja confirmed that both the new MAG and the host country are expected to be confirmed by the end of March, if processes proceed as planned.

4- Any Other Business (AOB)

Wout informed the group of ongoing work within the Dynamic Coalition on Internet Standards, Security and Safety (IS3C) concerning post-quantum cryptography, including the establishment of working groups on DNS and routing transition. He noted that while the issue may not yet be proposed as a Policy Network or Best Practice Forum, it could evolve in that direction once initial outcomes are available.

The next WG-Strategy meeting will be held on **26 February** (time to be confirmed via the mailing list).

List of participants:

1. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat, NRIs coordinator
2. Anriette Esterhuysen, former IGF MAG Chair
3. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
4. Titti Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member, Government of Italy
5. Bruna Santos, Group's Co-Chair
6. Celine Bal, IGF Secretariat
7. Ana Neves, IGF MAG Member
8. Jennifer Chung, IGF MAG member
9. Angela Vibawa, Independent Expert

10. Craig Stanley Adamson, UK Government
11. Romelle Janene, Independent Expert
12. Elizabeth Oluoch, ICANN
13. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
14. Jose Amado Spinosa, former IGF MAG Member
15. Juan Fernandez, IGF MAG member
16. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil,
IGF MAG Member
17. Jutta Croll, IGF MAG Member
18. Wout De Natris, Independent Expert
19. Manal Ismail, Independent Expert
20. June Parris, former IGF MAG member
21. Timea Suto, IGF MAG Member
22. Veni Markovski, former IGF MAG Member