

MAG Working Group on Strategy (WG-Strategy)

Online Meeting

30 April 2026 at 13:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 113th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 30 April 2026 at 13:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Titti Cassa. A recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Agenda

1. Update from the Secretariat
2. Update from the CSTD
3. Any other business (AoB)

Discussion Highlights

1. Update from the Secretariat

- **IGF 2026 Venue & Dates**

Anja confirmed that the IGF 2026 will be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 14–18 December. The specific venue is still under finalization. She noted that the 2026 MAG will be announced shortly, after which preparations for IGF 2026 will formally begin. She added that the latest IGF newsletter has also been released.

- **Highlights from the Expert Group Meeting (EGM)**

Chengetai provided a high-level overview of discussions at the EGM, covering: Governance, structures, and operational frameworks; Strengthening the IGF ecosystem and intersessional work; Annual IGF meeting modalities and venue selection, IGF outputs and metrics. He added that the EGM report will be released tomorrow. Chengetai also highlighted the importance of consolidating existing IGF workstreams rather than expanding them further, and stressed the need for a more strategic, multi-year planning approach (e.g. three-year planning cycle). Discussions also touched upon the need for more predictable funding, including support for core Secretariat functions and translation, as well as ongoing challenges in securing host countries.

- **Community Input on Intersessional Activities**

In response to Adam's query on the large number of proposals for BPFs and Policy Networks, Chengetai clarified that this year's approach was a conscious decision to invite suggestions directly from the community. These proposals will be discussed with the MAG Chair and MAG before decisions are taken.

2. CSTD

- **Role of IGF in WSIS Process**

Juan noted that the role of the IGF and potential overlaps were not discussed. The immediate priority he added is to chart the role of the IGF within the WSIS process and establish a concrete framework to demonstrate its value. He added that while the Global Digital Compact (GDC) review scheduled for next year was part of the roadmap, it was not discussed in detail. Ana Neves also noted that the WSIS/CSTD resolution will now be negotiated on a biennial basis rather than annually, potentially allowing more space for substantive discussions in non-negotiation years.

- **UNGIS Roadmap & IGF Role**

Ana Neves reported that the UNGIS roadmap was presented, including references to the IGF's role. However, she observed that there was limited discussion on this aspect.

- **Overlap in AI Initiatives**

Ana Neves added there was a focused discussion on the overlap between the Global AI Dialogue and ITU's AI for Good initiative but with no conclusion. She added that the WSIS Forum is discussing establishing a MAG-like process to guide its work.

- **Multistakeholder Advice to UNGIS**

Flavio recalled that during WSIS+20, the idea of providing multistakeholder advice to UNGIS was circulated but did not make it into the outcome document. He observed that the ITU now appears to be revisiting this idea.

- **Tensions in Review of Implementation**

Cheryl highlighted tensions among member states during the review of WSIS+20 implementation and follow-up, particularly around language on human rights, gender inclusion, and commitments to a free and open Internet.

3. AoB

- **RightsCon**

Bruna flagged that RightsCon has been canceled in Zimbabwe.

- **Global Dialogue on AI Governance**

Titti highlighted the importance of reflecting on AI governance, building on the submission shared by Wolfgang. She stressed the need to further strengthen the interaction between the IGF and the Global Dialogue on AI Governance.

She also underlined the value of ensuring that the IGF and the NRIs are appropriately reflected within the Global Dialogue, given their established role in fostering inclusive, bottom-up and multistakeholder engagement.

Amrita added that several civil society organisation submissions will call for a multistakeholder approach and creating linkages with the IGF.

Poncelet suggested that PNAI could make a submission. Based on community input, PNAI will draft a submission and await review by the new MAG.

Action Points

- Community members to consider contributing to the Global Dialogue on AI Governance, including references to the IGF and NRIs
- Policy Network on AI (PNAI) to explore drafting a submission, pending review by the incoming MAG
- Secretariat to share EGM report once published
- **Next meeting:** 14 May, 13:00 UTC.

List of participants:

1. Amrita Choudhury Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
2. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
3. Titti Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member, Government of Italy
4. Bruna Martins dos Santos, Group's Co-Chair, former IGF MAG member
5. Chengetai Masango, Head of the IGF Secretariat
6. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
7. Celine Bal, IGF Secretariat
8. Anriette Hesterhuysen, former MAG Chair
9. Ana Neves, IGF MAG Member
10. Cheryl Miller, IGF MAG Member
11. Craig Stanley Adamson, UK Government
12. Eurice Alexandra Perez Coello, Independent Expert
13. Herman Johansen, IGF Secretariat
14. Ellen Taylor, ISED Canada
15. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
16. June Parris, Former IGF MAG Member
17. Adam Peake, former IGF MAG member
18. Olga Cavalli, IGF MAG member
19. Poncelet Ileleji, Independent Expert
20. Sophia Longwe, Independent Expert
21. Tracy Hackshaw, Independent Expert
22. Maureen Owusu Addae Ghanasig, Independent Expert
23. Juan Fernandez, IGF MAG member
24. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, IGF MAG Member
25. Manal Ismail, Independent Expert