

MAG Working Group on Strategy (WG-Strategy)

Online Meeting

5 March 2026 at 18:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 111 virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 5 March 2026 at 18:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Titti Cassa. A recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Agenda

1. WG activities for 2026;
2. Update from the Secretariat.
3. Any other business (AoB)

1. Activities of the WG Strategy for 2026

Titti opened the meeting recalling that the objective of the discussion was to identify possible activities for the Working Group on Strategy in 2026, building on ideas discussed in previous meetings.

She also recalled that the work of the WG Strategy should contribute to the broader reflection currently underway on the future role of the IGF, particularly in light of the WSIS+20 process and the recognition of the IGF as a permanent UN platform.

In this context, she highlighted the importance of strengthening linkages between the IGF and NRIs, Dynamic Coalitions and other intersessional activities, in order to enhance coordination and policy impact across the IGF ecosystem.

She also underlined the potential role of the working group in exploring ways to reinforce the contribution of the IGF to related global processes, including the Global Digital Compact and WSIS+20 follow-up discussions.

Participants were invited to share ideas and proposals for the working group's future activities.

A. Monitoring implementation of MAG improvement proposals

Chris Buckridge suggested that the Working Group on Strategy could play a role in monitoring the implementation of proposals related to improvements in the functioning of the MAG and the IGF. This would help address an “implementation gap” often observed in previous IGF improvement initiatives, where recommendations were made but not systematically followed up.

The working group could:

- track implementation of proposals,
- identify obstacles to implementation,
- report progress to the MAG.

Participants generally considered this proposal useful and aligned with the potential mandate of the working group.

B. Role of the Secretariat and future MAG

Amrita Choudhury highlighted the importance of also considering the views of the **IGF Secretariat** and the future **MAG 2026**, as the working group's activities would ultimately be defined by the incoming MAG.

She suggested seeking feedback from the Secretariat on possible priorities for the working group.

C. Positioning the IGF in global digital governance discussions

Wolfgang Kleinwächter stressed the importance of strengthening the **visibility and participation of the IGF in global digital governance discussions**, especially now that the IGF has been recognized as a **permanent UN institution**.

He suggested that the IGF should actively participate in several upcoming global events, including:

- **Geneva Cyber Week**
- the **Global Dialogue on AI Governance**
- the **Business Forum**.

He also raised concerns that discussions on **AI governance** are currently evolving largely disconnected from the long-standing Internet governance community and proposed stronger engagement from the IGF.

D. AI governance discussions and IGF contribution

Adam Peake supported the idea that the **Policy Network on AI (PNAI)** should be involved in discussions related to the emerging international scientific panel on AI governance.

He also suggested that the IGF could consider organizing:

- a workshop at **AI for Good**, and
- possibly a **main session at IGF 2026** on principles of good governance for AI.

E. Preparation of a strategic plan for the working group

Flavio Wagner proposed that the working group should **develop a preliminary plan of activities** to present to the incoming MAG 2026 rather than waiting for the new MAG to define priorities.

He suggested:

- identifying a list of challenges the working group could address;
- focusing on a **manageable number of priorities**;
- aiming to produce **actionable recommendations by the end of the year**.

Participants generally supported this approach.

F. Preparation of a shared document

The group agreed to prepare a **shared document** where members could contribute ideas and proposals for the working group's activities.

The document will:

- collect potential priorities and challenges;
- support the preparation of a draft proposal for the MAG.

It was suggested that the document could be circulated to the mailing list in the following week.

G. IGF linkages with WSIS and GDC processes

Several participants emphasized the importance of developing **concrete proposals** for strengthening linkages between the IGF and other global digital governance processes, including:

- **WSIS Forum**
- **CSTD**
- **Global Digital Compact follow-up**
- emerging international processes on **AI governance**.

Participants agreed that the IGF should proactively propose mechanisms for collaboration rather than waiting for invitations from other UN processes.

H. Review of the MAG Terms of Reference

Participants discussed the need to revisit the **MAG Terms of Reference**, noting that the current framework largely reflects the IGF as an **annual event**, while the IGF ecosystem has evolved significantly.

Possible updates could include:

- recognizing the IGF's broader ecosystem (NRIs, intersessional work, etc.);
- strengthening linkages with other UN processes;
- reflecting the hybrid and continuous nature of IGF activities.

However, it was noted that changes to the Terms of Reference would require involvement from **UNDESA and the UN Secretary-General**.

Next steps

The co-chairs will prepare and circulate a shared document inviting members to contribute proposals and possible priorities for the WG-Strategy activities in 2026.

The input collected will be discussed during the next meeting.

Next meeting

The next WG Strategy meeting is scheduled for: **19 March – 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. Ana Neves, IGF MAG Member
5. Alison Balzer (Foreign Affairs Officer at U.S. Department of State)
6. Miloshevic, Desiree, IGF MAG member
7. June Parris, Former IGF MAG Member
8. Isra Rosas (ISOC)
9. Adam Peake, former IGF MAG member
10. Jose Felix Hernandez, IGF Spain
11. Elizabeth Oluoch, ICANN
12. Poncelet Ileleji, Independent Expert
13. Jose Amado Spinosa, former IGF MAG Member
14. Juan Fernandez, IGF MAG member
15. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, IGF MAG Member
16. Lucien Castex, former IGF MAG Member
17. Manal Ismail, Independent Expert
18. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, IGF MAG Member