

## **MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy**

### **Online Meeting 73 28 March 2024 at 13:00 UTC**

#### **Summary Report**

The 73rd virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 28 March 2024 at 13:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Chris Buckridge and a recording of the meeting is available upon request.

The co-chair opened the meeting by introducing the agenda:

#### **Agenda**

1. Strategic vision of the IGF
  - Report from DNS Research Federation “ [Net Effects: An evidence -Led Exploration of the IGF Impact](#)”
2. Update from the IGF Secretariat
  - WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event draft schedule and IGF Session
3. GDC
4. Upcoming CSTD meeting, WSIS +20 review
5. NETmundial +10
6. AoB

#### **Discussion Points**

##### **1. Strategic vision of the IGF**

Titti shared an overview of [her proposal](#) on the Tunis Agenda and how the IGF has fared and way ahead and sought comments from the WG members.. In per proposal she suggested two tracks:

- 1) Track 1 – Discussion on new rules/principles/guidelines or Policy Observatory
- 2) Track 2 – Discussion of the GDC principles that will be defined during the Summit of the Future and how to improve their implementation.

Bruna suggested asking the MAG for more facilitated and dedicated discussion on what all this means, IGFs continuity and renewal.

Bill suggested have an Intergovernmental track on a topic such as IG and Development. He shared his experience in the past as a MAG when he had suggested such a session and opined the challenges in getting consensus over the years at IGF

Anriette pointed that there is an institutional gap and there needs to be clarity on what should be the institutional framework. She shared that there is a need for the go beyond affirming the role of IGF and work to address the institutional gaps else nothing will move. The EGM had great recommendations, but the challenge was who would implement it at the practical level. There is a need to deliberate how we build the capacity of the IGF secretariat to do more.

Supporting Anriette, Mark shared the urgency about addressing the IGF's capacity gaps. This will help the IGF be fit for purpose following the GDC launch/implementation and in anticipation of WSIS+20 outcome on IGF mandate renewal as "IGF +".

Jorge cautioned the need to be careful of not getting into the narrative of distinguishing between IG and Digital Governance. Supporting Anriette he shared that all initiatives last year were like a skeleton but without actual flesh and blood. He cited the example of Policy Networks and the inability to have more PNs due to limitation of resources to expand the work. For the strategic work he suggested to start from the Oct letter as the next steps as ever evolving part of making IGF better.

Wout pointed to the reports that were shared around 2018-2019 related to enhancing the importance of IGF and some elements can be taken from that. He emphasised the need for more synergy between the different communities.

Flavio shared that the lack of resources is a reality. But first we need to agree on the concept of this "new IGF", with a broader mandate, especially regarding policy issues, and have this new mandate approved. Then we can look for the required resources to make this new IGF a reality. Jorge in fact I feel that the Mandate is there and needs little complement - the question is really more about putting it to work and filling it with resources

Chris shared the relation to GDC and follow up mechanism and that needs to happen now. This should be a distinct task to be looked it.

### **DNSRF Report**

Chris shared about the Report from DNS Research Federation “ [Net Effects: An evidence -Led Exploration of the IGF Impact](#)”.

Anriette asked if there is an opportunity for DNSRF to present their findings to the MAG. Chegetai suggested it can be conducted if there is an interest. Amrita suggested circulating the report in the MAG list and then check

## **2. Update from the IGF Secretariat WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event**

Chris questioned that now that the WSIS+20 Forum High-Level Event draft schedule is out, how can IGFs slot at the event be strategically utilised. He suggested that the WG would be happy to be involved and help to frame the session.

Anriette suggested that it would be a great platform to discuss Fiona's proposal on GDC follow up which is on IGF and WSIS Forum collaboration, CSTD also.

Chengetai shared that the Secretariat is open to ideas for the session. He added that there would be a booth at the forum and Eleonora will create a small mailing list to work on the session plan. He added that the IGF Host country would be hosting a reception at the event.

Bruna suggested asked if a list of people who would go so that if they could not coordinate

Bruna questioned if there would be a business or judiciary track. Chengetai responded that the Secretariat was looking at the judicial tracks and having an initial conversation with UNESCO. There is a plan to have a business aligned track to help bring in more businesses and initial discussion with ICC BASIS and Chamber of Commerce in Saudi Arabia.

## **IGF2024**

Celine shared information on the call for proposals, remote hubs, the IGF Village etc. and that Town Halls have been removed from the list of options for sessions. The second MAG consultation would be 26-28 June.

She shared that the WG on workshops will organise an orientation for new MAG members on how to evaluate.

In terms of intersessional work, the consultant positions have been advertised and the intention is to have them all on board by 22 April.

## **3. GDC**

Christine shared that the African Digital Compact was being drafted by the African nations to feed into the GDC the views of the African countries. She reported there was also a discussion of using the African IGF as a platform for future discussions.

Mark reported that there will be a session on the GDC at EuroDIG in Vilnius on 17 June following a EuroDIG Extra webinar stakeholder consultation on the zero draft to be held during w/c 22 April (date to be confirmed shortly).

Jorge shared that the GDC draft will come out very soon.

Chris shared the plan of ICANN to hold a webinar on the GDC draft. Amrita suggested the WG Strategy could hold a discussion since the IGFs remit is much broader. Bill shared that FWIW would be organising a panel discussion of the zero draft.

Justin shared on the AI resolution agreed at UNGA having language of HR, multistakeholders.

#### **4. Upcoming CSTD meeting, WSIS +20 review**

Ana Neves shared that the zero draft Resolution of the WSIS is under evaluation and all regions are working on their submissions. Post the submissions there will be a new version before CSTD. meeting. She shared that 17 April is dedicated to GDC and WSIS and the negotiations for the resolution will begin from Tues afternoon or Wed of the meeting.

Chris questioned if there will be any analysis document on the survey responses. Ana suggested there will only be an overview and there would be a first discussion and not an in depth one.

Anriette shared that APC and IT for Change will be doing a side event on the morning of the 17th.

#### **5. NETmundial +10**

Flavio shared that the call for responses to the public consultation is now available and submission deadline is 7 April (<https://netmundial.br/consultation>).As next steps based on response the zero document would be prepared. Isra and Jorge reiterated the need for a broad community to participate in the process and make submissions.

Bruna proposed that the WG Strategy work and make a joint submission with respect to the IGF. She proactively offered to help in the drafting.it.

Any WG member who is willing to help in drafting the submission could share the name in the mailing list at the earliest.

Flavio shared that the first [draft of program](#) is available and in the upcoming week the HLEC will refine the program. As a member of HLEC, Bruna shared the next steps of the HLEC would be to explain the dynamics of the format.

In terms of on site participation, Flavio shared that all non Brazilians who applied to be there in person will be approved to participate.

#### **6. AOB**

The next Call would be on 11 April at 5 UTC

#### **List of participants**

1. Adam Peake, former IGF MAG member
2. Alishah Shariff, Independent Expert
3. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, CCAOI
4. Anan Neves, Chair of the CSTD
5. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
6. Anriette Esterhuysen, former IGF MAG Chair

7. Avri Doria, Independent Expert
8. Bill Drake, Independent Expert
9. Bruna Santos, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
10. Celine Bal, IGF Secretariat
11. Chengetai Masango, Coordinator of the IGF Secretariat
12. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
13. Christine Arida, NTRA of Egypt
14. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
15. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
16. Mark Carvell, EuroDIG
17. Dino Dell'Accio, UNJSPF
18. Eleonora Mazzucchi IGF Secretariat
19. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
20. Fiona Alexander, former MAG member
21. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
22. Isra Rosas, ISOC
23. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
24. Junko Kawauchi, IGF MAG Member
25. Justine Fair, IGF MAG member
26. Kenneth Merrill, NTIA
27. Philippe Schulte, BMDV, German Government
28. Tracy Hachkshaw, IGF independent expert
29. Wout De Natris, IGF independent expert
30. XIAO ZHANG, IGF MAG Member