

IGF 2020 MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting IX
30 October 2020 at 14:00 p.m. UTC

Summary Report

The ninth online meeting of the IGF 2020 MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on October 30 2020 at 14:00 p.m. UTC. The meeting was hosted and moderated by the Group's co-chairs, Concettina Cassa and Anriette Esterhuysen. The list of participants is annexed to this report. The recording of the meeting is available only to the meeting participants upon request.

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

Agenda

1. Introduction
2. IGF improvements
3. Roadmap for Digital Cooperation - Par. 93 c
4. IGF outcomes
5. Online discussions
6. Response document to the Options Paper
7. AOB

A. Improvements to the IGF

Output documents:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1L6cf00crInn_ae3_peObjkIMxWE3cSIL/edit#heading=h.gjdgxs

Summary of key points: The facilitator, Flavio Wagner, presented the three priorities and their related lines of actions included in the "IGF Improvements" document he updated based on the comments received during last virtual meeting. The document has been shared with the WG and several comments were added by the WG's participants. As next step the Working Group should try to identify a possible path forward so that concrete actions could be taken either by the working group itself by the MAG or by the IGF Secretariat.

List of IGF improvements priorities identified:

1) <<" *Options Paper - Section V. Forging Links between Discussion and Decision-Making Bodies*)

V.4. On communication between different fora: Introduce reporting between the IGF and decision-making bodies in both directions and invite decision-making bodies systematically to present their work at the IGF.">>

2) <<"(*Options Paper - Section V. Forging Links between Discussion and Decision-Making Bodies*)

V.1. On establishing a policy incubator: Rather than establish a new structure, further develop the Dynamic Coalitions and Best Practice Fora which already organize intersessional work and produce recommendations and best practice proposals. They should be given a clear mandate, working procedures and principles and receive more resources and administrative support by the IGF Secretariat. The work of the Dynamic Coalitions and Best Practice Fora has to be complemented by other initiatives to link discussion and decision-making bodies.”>>

3) <<”(*Options Paper - Section VIII. Providing Transparency and Guidance in a Complex System*)

VIII.1. Create an observatory to provide a central entry point for information requests. Create a “database of databases” which could take the form of a virtual platform linked to the IGF+ Website and would collect information on accredited initiatives, databases and observatories.”>>

Paul Blaker asked participants to reflect on the selected priorities in order to be sure they are aligned on what has been requested in par. 93 of the UN SG’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.

The co-chairs reminded that the WG has started several activities in parallel and that the list of identified priorities and the task of IGF Improvements subgroup was in addition to the other tasks that the WG has already started to undertake (IGF Outcomes, Response Document to the Options Paper , etc.).

Flavio highlighted that the three priorities have been selected considering several documents and recommendations delivered in the previous years by different Working Groups (CSTD WG on IGF Improvements, RoadMap for Digital Cooperation, Options, IGF Retreat etc.) and choosing the ones that have not been implemented yet. He added that the proposed lines of actions don’t exclude or impact on the proposal by Wolfgang to include a Parliamentary track as permanent activity of IGF, or the other ongoing initiatives as the IGF website.

There was a general agreement to comment more the document Flavio shared.

Anriette suggested to put all the activities the WG wants to engage in one space, comment them and then decide what to do next as the WG should also decide the plan of activities to be done next year.

Ben Wallis suggested the WG keeps the focus on par. 93 of UN SG’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and to choose from there two or three priorities that could be done by the end of the 2020. He added that further activities could be started after the decisions taken by the Fabrizio Hochschild’s team will be communicated. He also suggested to define the plan of activities that could be presented to the MAG in January.

Next steps: Add priorities we have already started to address to the list of priorities compiled by Flavio (e.g. looking at outcomes).

B. Proposal to include the Parliamentary track as permanent component in the IGF activities (Roadmap for Digital Cooperation - Par. 93 c)

Output documents:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1YVW3RZL4eSnrBdrGergJymNONNp6Riiw/edit>

Summary of key points: Wolfgang explained the non-paper draft document he shared with WG's participants suggesting to include a permanent parliamentarians track in the IGF+ , as foreseen by par. 93 c) of the UN SG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation . He said that the proposal has already the support from several stakeholders. In fact more and more issues related to digital corporation Internet governance are moving to national Parliaments and having the Parliamentarians more involved in IGF program would bring additional perspectives and would increase the efficiency of the outcomes from the IGF as parliamentarians have an effect into the national lawmaking on internet public policy issues. He remembered the constructive contributions offered to the IGF by the European Commission and the special parliamentarians track organized by the German Government last year in Berlin. The proposal aims not only to organize a year by year parliamentary roundtable but to create an informal parliamentary IGF group, and to offer a platform where parliamentarians from all over the world can just join the IGF and the make use of the knowledge which they get from the IGF to bring it into their national parliament discussions. He also mentioned that the proposal has led by the Chairman of the Committee for the Digital Agenda of German Parliament and envisaged to activate after the IGF2020 a small Leadership team that would be composed of two parliamentarians from each of the five regions.

Jim Prendergast asked for more clarifications on who should be responsible for this effort and if the function will be in charge of the host country or of the IGF Secretariat or if it will be a process led by the German Government.

Wolfgang replied that the proposal comes from German Parliament and is an open discussion. He asked to WG's participants to share comments and suggestions.

It was suggested to include IPU in the parliamentarians working group.

Anriette shared the need to have a more inclusivity, transparency and continuity in the parliamentarians involvement process at the IGF. She suggested to consider the parliamentary track as an intersessional activity supported by the IGF Secretariat and the idea to have an hybrid working group where other than parliamentarians, international organizations and MAG members of previous host countries could be included in it.

Next steps: WG's participants will comment the document drafted by Wolfgang to include alternatives and suggestions to the current proposal.

C. On - line discussions convened by the MAG Chair and the WG.

Ben Wallis updated the participants on the online session on Capacity Building. The session was well participated and discussed the results of the work

commissioned to Anriette by the IGF Secretariat on the potential for the IGF to develop its capacity building work and on the ongoing activities initiated by the UN SG's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation. It was a good opportunity to link the IGF activities on Capacity Building with the activity led by UNDP and ITU.

Anriette shared the results of the online session related to the language diversity that was also well participated and where it came out the need to build more multilingual capacity building in IGF and to be more flexible allowing IGF sessions in more European languages

Paul Charlton pointed out that during the multilingual session it came out a general agreement on the importance of the outcome process and of the outcomes coming from the IGF reflecting the multi stakeholder nature.

D. Response Document to the Options Paper

Output document:

https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/10447/2267

Summary of key points:

Titti Cassa informed the participants that no response has been received from the co-champions on the Response document to the Options Paper. She suggested to update the document to include further results and perspectives that would come out during the IGF 2020.

Next steps: continue the discussion during IGF 2020 and collect more inputs.

Next meeting: The next meeting of the WG is planned for **Nov. 19 14:00 UTC**.

Annex 1:

List of participants

1. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
2. Anriette Esterhuysen, IGF 2020 MAG Chair, Group's Co-Chair
3. Ben Wallis, Microsoft, MAG member
4. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
5. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br/ University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
6. Fiona Alexander, Independent expert
7. Jason Munyan, HLPDC Secretariat
8. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
9. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
10. Livia Walpen, Government of Switzerland
11. Markus Kummer, IGFSA
12. Paul Blaker, Government of UK
13. Paul Charlton, Government of Canada
14. Tereza Horesova- DiploFoundation
15. Timea Suto, ICC Basis
16. Veni Markovski, ICANN
17. Wim Degezelle, IGF Secretariat
18. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, University of Aarhus