

IGF 2020 MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting XII

14 January 2021 at 2 p.m. UTC

Summary Report

The twelfth virtual meeting of the IGF 2020 MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on January 14 2020 at 2 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 virtual meeting was scheduled to collect more inputs and finalize the document titled "[Proposals on strategic improvements to the IGF and operational measures in 2021](#)"

Key points summary:

The document was updated to reflect the comments raised by the WG's participants in the previous virtual meeting. Esteve Sanz from European Commission expressed appreciation for the work done.

More comments were expressed by the WG's participants as listed below.

Par. 2: (A more inclusive IGF)

- 1) Most of WG's participants were in favour of leaving the text "more" in the title as this would send the message that IGF is improving inclusivity.
- 2) Paul Blaker and some other WG's participants asked to include some figures and facts related to inclusion to highlight the fact that compared to the other organizations and fora IGF is very inclusive and is attracting a diverse range of stakeholders. He also asked to mention in the document the functionality of the website as a major element to improve inclusivity and to connect para 2, 3 and 4 of the document. He noted that having a more impactful IGF with clear outcomes would also mean that IGF will attract more people and then it will be more inclusive.

Par. 3 - (A more strategic IGF)

- 1) Jorge Cancio highlighted that the current document expresses the strategic vision of the Working Group for the next four years of the IGF, and that the IGF itself when debating subject-matter issues and topics develops its strategic vision on those issues and topics. He observed that this concept is closely related to multi year planning.

- 2) There was no consensus in combining in full par 3 (A more strategic IGF) with par. 5 titled “A Sustainable IGF ” but it was agreed to move the section on multi year planning (in par. 5) to par 3.

Par.4 – (A more impactful IGF/ 4.3 Consolidated integration of national legislators through an IGF Parliamentary Track)

- 1) Mattia Fantinati observed that the current proposal on parliamentarians track foresees for an “Informal Group of Parliamentarians”. He suggested updating the proposal to consider a “Formal group of Parliamentarians” as they are a special stakeholder.
- 2) Anriette shared the need to use the word “legislators” instead of “parliamentarians” to make the language as inclusive as possible.
- 3) Wolfgang Kleinwächter observed that the proposal on parliamentary track includes the results of the discussion held during IGF 2019 and IGF 2020 and the comments received so far. He added that the Digital Committee of the German Parliament is planning to kick-start the process by the end of January by organizing small virtual meetings with the parliamentarians who have participated in the previous roundtables. After that the proposal could be enhanced and will also include the list of potential members that will be part of the inception group that will form the leadership team. He added that the timetable foresees a more structured parliamentary group that should be designed by December, for the next IGF in Katowice. Wolfgang mentioned that around 60 parliamentarians from around the world have been engaged (Asia, Latin America, Hong-Kong, etc.) and asked Mattia to participate to the group and to share the initiative with other parliamentarians.

Par. 5 – (A sustainable IGF)

As mentioned above, there was a general consensus to move par. 5.2 related to the multiyear plan to par. 3. Giacomo Mazzone pointed out the importance to have the multi year plan for the IGF to be more strategic. He observed that having a timeline with the main topics to be discussed in the next two or three year could give the opportunity to the stakeholders to prepare in advance the discussion. Further he underlined the need to relate the IGF multi year plan and chosen topics to the BPFs and DCs multiyear plans.

Ben Wallis observed that the MAG is very busy in organizing the annual event and that it would be difficult for the MAG to develop the multi year plan. He said that this activity could be included in the functions of the MHLB by UN SG. He also added that there could be several difficulties in defining the main issues with two or three years in advance.

Fiona Alexander observed that the idea of identifying a key topic for one or two years could be very useful in terms of messaging and fundraising but it should be done in a way that still leaves the space for the IGF to be dynamic and to include the new topics

that will pop up.

Anriette shared a few comments on the multi-year plan and mentioned the previous attempt made by the MAG Working Group on multi-year plan and the difficulties the Working Group met to develop and implement it. She agreed on the fact that the MAG is very busy and observed that the mandate of the MAG encompasses not much beyond the organization of the annual event. She also welcomed the idea to invite the BPF and Dynamic Coalitions to share their multi-year plans. She suggested asking the Secretariat to compile the multiyear plans of the MAG, BPFs and DCs. She also pointed out that the multiyear plan would not work without having the right infrastructure to maintain and follow up on that.

Giacomo Mazzone observed that the IGF structure, in the future, should be the place to brainstorm and collect ideas, but for the IGF to become strategic there is a need to be crossed with the UN Secretary General. He added that for the advancement of the digital roadmap the IGF should provide expertise at the right moment and the multiyear plan could help on this as the timeline will say when a particular topic will be discussed.

Wim Degezelle noted that, when building the program, it is important to look back at and build on the discussions that happened in the IGF the year before as there is the impression that IGF every year starts from scratch.

Ben Wallis pointed out that for the institutional strengthening of the IGF should be addressed how to strengthen and expand the Secretariat.

Khaled Koubaa observed that part of the sustainability of the IGF is based on how strong are the institutions that work on the IGF.

Par. 6 – (Proposals for IGF2021 process and design)

It was decided to move par. 6 as annex of the document. Few ideas were shared on how to have more integration between the call for issues and the call for workshop proposals.

Next steps: the document [Proposals on strategic improvements to the IGF and operational measures in 2021](#) will be finalized by the 20th of January and sent to the MAG and to the co-champions.

Next meeting: the next virtual meeting of the WG is planned for **February 4 – 2 PM 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, Independent Expert, past MAG Member
4. Bill Drake, University of Zurich, past MAG Member
5. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy, past MAG Member
6. Eileen Cejas, Youth IGF Argentina, Independent expert
7. Esteve Sanz, European Commission rep on the MAG
8. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br/ University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, past MAG Member
9. Fiona Alexander, Independent expert, past MAG Member
10. Khaled Koubaa, MAG Member
11. Jason Munyan, HLPDC Secretariat
12. Joice Chen, Independent Expert, MAG Member
13. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
14. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland, MAG Member (host country rep)
15. Markus Kummer, IGFS
16. Mattia Fantinati, MAG member, Member of the House of Representatives, Parliament of Italy
17. Paula Martins, APC, Independent expert
18. Paul Blaker, Government of UK
19. Paul Charlton, Government of Canada, MAG Member
20. Peace Oliver, Independent Expert
21. Raquel Gatto, ISOC, independent expert, past MAG Member
22. Roberto Zambrana, ISOC Bolivia, MAG Member
23. Sophie Peresson, ICC, MAG Member
24. Tereza Horejsova, MAG Member
25. Wim Degezelle, Independent Expert
26. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, University of Aarhus, past MAG Member