

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

**Online Meeting XVII  
8 April 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC**

### **Summary Report**

The seventeenth virtual meeting of the IGF MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on April 8 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC. The meeting was hosted and moderated by the Group's co-chair Amrita Choudhury and chat moderated by Livia Walpen. 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-chair opened the meeting by introducing the agenda:

#### Agenda

- 1) Next steps to follow up on the WG-strategy's proposals: discussion of the draft questionnaire for the MAG
- 2) Participation to the Intersessional work teams
- 3) MHLB Consultation Update (IGF Secretariat, UNDESA)
- 4) Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology
- 5) Parliamentary Track
- 6) AOB

#### **A) Next steps to follow up on the WG-strategy's proposals: discussion of the draft questionnaire for the MAG**

The participants discussed the draft questionnaire prepared by Co-Chair Amrita to be sent to the MAG seeking their input on what could be the priorities of the Working Group this year:  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yUpcgWc9fdltqvnlatPdOCpdOBYr\\_2e96l2AKfZiils/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yUpcgWc9fdltqvnlatPdOCpdOBYr_2e96l2AKfZiils/edit?usp=sharing)

It was agreed to introduce in the beginning of the questionnaire a description of the WG Strategy's mandate and how to sign up to its mailing list.

Also, it was discussed that it might be easier not to approach the MAG with very open questions (as the MAG has already a lot of work to do) but rather already make concrete suggestions on what the WG Strategy could do and then seek feedback from the MAG.

One idea is that the questionnaire could be introduced to the MAG during a MAG meeting, once the call for sessions has been launched.

Many participants liked the idea to organize a consultation with the youth IGF initiatives and current programmes that support youth participation to develop a combined strategy for strengthening youth integration and sustaining it over time. This also fits well with the Youth conference at the IGF 2021 planned by the Polish Host country.

On youth participants in workshops, it was said that we also need to be careful not to add too much complexity regarding diversity and thus rather not make it mandatory.

On communications, Chengetai explained that the IGF Secretariat does outreach towards the press and also takes care of the social media accounts. For 2020 there was an explicit communication strategy for the event, but rather late in the process.

**Next steps:** It was agreed that the WG Strategy members can provide further feedback to the draft questionnaire until the next call on 22. April.

## **B) Participation to the Intersessional work teams**

Anriette explained that it would be very helpful if WG Strategy members could participate in the intersessional work teams and give guidance to them, as this is a key task for the MAG.

Ben Wallis suggested that the WG Strategy could make concrete suggestions to the MAG on how the intersessional work (BPF, DCs, PNEs) could be better linked to the annual event.

The IGF Secretariat already developed a strategy on this last year, which could be used as a starting point.

## **C) MHLB Consultation Update (IGF Secretariat, UNDESA)**

Since the last call of the WG strategy, there has not been any new developments.

UNDESA is currently working on the memo for the UNSG that compiles the results of the consultation on the MHLB.

## **D) Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology**

Jason Munyan gave an update to the WG Strategy members on the activities and developments regarding the Roadmap on Digital Cooperation, among others:

- For the digital inclusion roundtable, Canada acts as a new co-champion
- The database on capacity building should be launched in the next few weeks or months.
- On environment, the Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability was launched on 31 March. It should work closely with the IGFs PNE.
- The Office of the Envoy on Technology is currently seeing how country teams can help in implementing the roadmap.
- There will be a high level thematic debate organized by the office of the President of the General Assembly on 27 April.
- The Sixth Annual Science, Technology and Innovation ([STI Forum](#)) will be held from 4-5 May under the theme science, technology and innovation for sustainable and resilience COVID-19 recovery, an effective pathway of inclusive actions towards the SDGs.

Jorge shared the information that the UNSG's vision statement highlights the importance of digital cooperation and mentions the IGF as a key platform.

## **E) Parliamentary Track**

Wolfgang explained that there are currently no new developments to share from his side, the project is in the hands of UNDESA, the IGF Secretariat and the Polish host country. He called for taking a decision now.

Chengetai confirmed that he will be in contact with Wolfgang on this. Also, Chengetai informed that the IGF Secretariat together with the Polish Host is in contact with the International Parliamentary Union. Furthermore, they plan to explicitly involve young and female parliamentarians in the IGF.

It was said that parliamentarians should be included in all the IGF sessions, and not only in their own track.

**Next meeting:** the next virtual meeting of the WG is planned for **April 22 - 1 PM UTC**.

## **Annex 1:**

### **List of participants**

1. Adam Peake, MAG Member,
2. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, CCAOI, MAG Member
3. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
4. Anriette Esterhuysen, IGF 2020 MAG Chair, Group's Co-Chair
5. Ben Wallis, Microsoft, Independent Expert, past MAG Member
6. Chris Disspain, Independent Expert
7. Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat
8. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy, past MAG Member
9. Esteve Sanz, European Commission
10. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br/ University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, past MAG Member
11. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent expert
12. Jason Munyan, Office of the Envoy on Technology
13. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
14. Joyce Chen, MAG Member, APNIC
15. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
16. Livia Walpen, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Switzerland, MAG Member (host country rep)
17. Luis Bobo, IGF Secretariat
18. Markus Kummer, IGFSa
19. Paula Martins, APC, Independent expert
20. Pablo Hinojosa, APNIC
21. Przemyslaw Typiak, Government of Poland
22. Nigel Hickson Government of UK
23. Pablo Hinojosa, APNIC
24. Paul Charlton, Government of Canada, MAG Member
25. Peace Oliver, Independent Expert
26. Richard DELMAS, President Semantis/Semantice, former Official at Council of Europe and EC
27. Roman Chukov, Group's Co-Chair, Mag Member, Russian Government

28. Tereza Horejsova, MAG Member
29. Timea Suto (ICC)
30. Velimira NEMIGUENTCHEVA-GRAU, European Commission
31. Wim Degezelle, Independent Expert