

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

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

### **Summary Report**

The eighteenth 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 Roman Chukov and the chat moderated by Titti Cassa. 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. Draft questionnaire for the MAG.
2. MHLB Consultation Update (IGF Secretariat, UNDESA).
3. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology.
4. Parliamentary Track.
5. AOB.

#### **A) Draft questionnaire for the MAG**

The participants discussed the draft questionnaire prepared by Co-Chair Amrita and updated by Titti 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)

Several comments were raised by the WG's participants on questions included in the questionnaire as they were considered too open and sometimes not in line with WG's scope.

It was agreed to revise the questionnaire and to reformulate the questions related to operational activities that may overlap with the activities handled by the MAG, the IGF Secretariat and other WGs. An updated version of the questionnaire will be circulated among the WG's participants.

It was observed that the MAG is very busy with the preparation of the documentation for the workshop proposals. There was a suggestion to submit the questionnaire to the MAG members after the call for workshop proposals will be launched.

**Next steps:** a new version of the questionnaire will be circulated in the mailing list. The WG's participants will provide further feedback until May 6.

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

Chengetai gave an update to the WG's participants saying that the IGF Secretariat, UNDESA and the Office of the Envoy on Technology are working to define the model that will take into accounts the inputs received. He added that they are very close and should be able to propose this model to the UNSG soon.

#### **C) 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:

- Connectivity: the group is working on connectivity baseline and on metrics definition. It's expected to have some agreements by June.
- Digital inclusion: there was virtual consultations on next steps and on network of networks.
- Capacity building: there is an ongoing discussion on what should be the shape of the multi stakeholder network on capacity building. A mapping of capacity building resources has been drafted and will be made public to get inputs from the various providers of capacity building, both within and outside the UN system.
- Digital human rights: RightsCon is scheduled for June 7-11. Registration is currently underway: <https://www.rightscon.org/register/#RC21-Timeline>

Jason shared that the Tech Envoy Office has been part of the new frontiers task team within the UN that has worked on the draft of the impact assessments on the use of new technologies. The office has drafted a brief guidance on online participation and civil society in the United Nations. Jason will share the document with the WG's participants to collect inputs on the guidance.

He added that his office is working on different ways to provide a safe space for consultation processes. The idea came from the office of the Youth envoy as they're looking at something that youth activists can use in the consultations that doesn't require as much bandwidth as Microsoft teams or other applications. He asked for inputs on this to the WG's participants.

On the MHLB, Jason said that as soon as there is a decision by the Secretary General on this it will be communicated publicly and on their websites.

Jason welcomed the creation of the IGF policy network on the environment. He said that the UN Environment program for the coalition for digital environment sustainability will support and work with the IGF PNE. He informed the WG's participants that the UN coalition will have a stakeholder Roundtable consultation on May 7 on the spark blue platform:

Coalition for Digital Environmental Sustainability Stakeholder roundtable: A Digital Planet for Sustainability 7 May on Sparkblue: <https://www.sparkblue.org/event/roundtable-stakeholder-consultation-codes-report-digital-planet-sustainability>

He reported about the "High Level Thematic debate on digital cooperation and connectivity" organized by the President of the General Assembly on the 27th of April and on the session on "Digital cooperation to leave no one behind implementing the secretary general's roadmap" organized by the office of the Envoy on Technology on May 4.

<https://www.un.org/pga/75/digital-cooperation-and-connectivity/> will be webcast on UN Web TV at [webtv.un.org](http://webtv.un.org)

He said that website of the office of the Envoy on Technology will be launched by April 23: <https://www.un.org/techenvoy/>

Jason added that for the first anniversary of the launch of the Roadmap, the office has prepared an update notes on key highlights of implementation of the roadmap that will be shared with the WG-strategy participants.

## 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 underlined the importance to organize a dialogue between parliamentarians and the other stakeholder groups in the IGF annual event. He also shared about the discussion he had with Mattia Fantinati to organize a special Parliamentary track at EuroDIG. He suggested using it as a pilot project for the IGF global event.

Chengetai confirmed that on the parliamentary track there is a coordination between the IGF Secretariat, the host country and IPU.

Adam Peake underlined the importance to integrate parliamentarians in the other IGF sessions and intersessional activities and not to have only a specific track related to them.

Chengetai replied that there will be some space to engage Parliamentarians to join other sessions.

Wolfgang remarked that the work of the parliamentarians is on adopting laws and work on regulation. He said that today the situation is different than it was 15 years ago and that the world more and more understands that there is a need for reasonable smart regulations to manage all the issues related to platform regulation, cybersecurity regulation, AI regulation, data protection etc. For this reason it is important 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 **May 6 - 1 PM UTC**.

Other documents shared:

[Policy Network Concept](#)

### 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. Chengetai Masango, IGF Secretariat
7. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy, past MAG Member
8. Esteve Sanz, European Commission
9. Eileen Cejas, Youth SIG / Coordinator of Youth IGF Argentina & Youth LACIGF, Independent expert
10. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br/ Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, past MAG Member
11. Fiona Alexander, Independent expert
12. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent expert
13. Irene Borissova, Independent expert
14. Jason Munyan, Office of the Envoy on Technology
15. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland

16. Joyce Chen , MAG Member, APNIC
17. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
18. Livia Walpen, Group's Co-Chair , Government of Switzerland, MAG Member (host country rep)
19. Luis Bobo, IGF Secretariat
20. Markus Kummer, IGFSa
21. Nigel Hickson Government of UK
22. Pablo Hinojosa, APNIC
23. Paul Charlton, Government of Canada, MAG Member
24. Raymon
25. Roberto Zambrana, ISOC Bolivia, MAG Member
26. Roman Chukov, Group's Co-Chair , Mag Member, Russian Government
27. Susan Chalmer, MAG Member, NTIA
28. Tereza Horejsova, MAG Member
29. Timea Suto (ICC)
30. Velimira NEMIGUENTCHEVA-GRAU, European Commission
31. Wim Degezelle, Independent Expert