

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting XXIV

29 July 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC

Summary Report

The 24th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on the 29th of July 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC. The meeting was hosted by Group's co-chair Concettina Cassa and moderated with the support of the co-chair Amrita Choudhury. 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. [Table](#) mapping the activities of the UN SG's Roadmap for digital cooperation and the IGF.
2. Comment to the [Draft template structure for the issue area wikis](#)
3. Participation of the WG-Strategy to the [IGF Preparatory Phase](#) and to the discussion on "16 years of IGF evolution and strengthening – taking stock and looking forward".
4. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology
5. AOB
 - MHLB
 - Update from the IGF Secretariat/UNDESA on the Parliamentary Track.
 - Youth Involvement in the IGF process

1. Mapping activities of the UN SG's Roadmap for digital cooperation and the IGF

It was suggested that the BPFs, DCs, PNE would be invited to share what they have been doing vis a vis the Roadmap for digital cooperation so that the same can be updated in the [Table](#).

Tereza volunteered to share the message with the PNE, Adam with the DC.

Jason was requested to revisit the document and share inputs or updates to improve the table's content.

Carlos suggested that the WG should explore how the workshops of 2021 could be mapped into the table.

The Co-Chairs confirmed to share a brief note explaining the purpose of the exercise which would be shared with the BPFs, DCs and PNE

2. Comment to the Draft template structure for the issue area wikis

The WG Strategy members were asked to comment on the [Draft template structure for the issue area wikis](#), which was a suggestion to the MAG suggestion from this working group.

3. Participation of the WG-Strategy to the IGF Preparatory Phase and to the discussion on "16 years of IGF evolution and strengthening – taking stock and looking forward".

The WG Strategy members were encouraged to join the issue teams and provide their inputs and help frame the discussions for the [IGF Preparatory Phase](#)

4. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology

Jason provided an update on behalf of the Envoy on Technology of their activities.

He shared that the Human Rights council passed two technological resolutions. The first focuses on promoting and protecting human rights on the Internet and tasks the office of the High Commissioner for human rights that is studying global Internet shutdowns and the second resolution on new and emerging technologies asks OHCHR to report back to the Human Rights Council on the relationship between human rights and technical standards setting processes for new technologies and the practical application of the guiding principles to the businesses.

The office and High Commissioner for Human Rights, gave a press briefing related to online content moderation and Internet shut down.

The Envoy on Technology's office collaborated with UNESCO and the World Health Organization and other members of an Interagency working group to plan side events for the General Assembly in September on countering this information and promoting data transparency. He added that it will be a way of presenting some of the work that the Interagency working group has been doing

He shared that the proposal that the Envoy on Technology's office had proposed for the upcoming IGF open forum on strengthening global digital capacity development was approved. However, he raised his perplexity that the other proposal for a workshop on multi stakeholder engagement implementation of the roadmap was not approved, considering its importance.

He shared that it is being explored with the various UN meeting systems how civil society engagement can be improved.

5. AOB

a. MHLB

Updating on the process of the MHLB, Jason shared that the department of economic and social affairs have submitted to the Secretary General notes with input from the IGF secretariat, the Envoy on Technology's office on global cooperation. Now the executive office of Secretary General is to decide as to which options to pursue and what the next steps will be. They are hopeful that once it is decided to create the multi stakeholder high level body, the call of nominations similar to the MAG process can be announced.

Responding to the question from Raul on whether the office of the Secretary General is considering the different options which were submitted, Jason responded that during the community briefing the different views related to the Multistakeholder High Level Body were presented including options on the composition. In terms of the final decision which is awaited, he shared that it is expected to be consistent with the briefing.

Responding to a concern raised by Ben that it might be better to have the profile of the MHLB Members to be senior officials executives, who may be able to find the time to invest into the body, rather than ministers and CEOs, Jason shared that it would be the decision of the Secretary General.

b. Update from the IGF Secretariat/UNDESA on the Parliamentary Track.

Anja updated that the secretariat is in touch for the parliamentary track with the IPU, host country and with the Polish Parliament. MAG Member Mattia Fantinati of the Italian parliament is the liaison between.

The Parliamentary track is expected to be held on the first day of the meeting.

The next step now she shared is to plan a set of international activities for engagement of parliamentarians, with a goal to build long term engagement between different members of parliament.

Adam suggested if there could be more coordination of the theme committee on Regulatory issues with the parliamentary track if it's going to be focused on Regulation. As the discussions of the theme committee on Regulatory issues is targeted towards legislators it would be good to try and involve them in some way in the main session.

c. Youth Involvement in the IGF process

Anja updated that in terms of the youth involvement, There are plans for a day zero. The Global youth summit is expecting a high level participation from the side of the UN, as well as from the side of the host country. The objective is to create a link between the senior high level decision makers and young people from across the world.

She mentioned the call for travel support issued by the IGF Secretariat and hopes young people who have constraints to travel will be able to avail the support.

The moderator for the global Youth Summit is still to be decided and the discussion will focus broadly on environmental sustainability.

She added that the global youth summit has a number of sessions that are part of the youth track. While these sessions are going to be organized by respective senior organizations, those sessions will aim to ensure the engagement of young people with senior stakeholders, preferably with those that can actually make concrete solutions.

Responding to a question from Timea for clarity whether day zero sessions were under the purview of the host country or whether the community was involved, Anja responded that as in the past years, the day zero events are part of the application process from different organizations and the clearance of those events went through the IGF secretariat. She added that there would be five rooms where the host country would be organising specific pre events from the Polish community.

Responding to the question related to nominating or suggesting High level speakers for the program, Anja mentioned that the process would be the same as in the past years. The names could be sent to the secretariat who would then pass it to the host country. The decisions on high level speakers would be taken by the host country in collaboration with the UN. She added that the High Level sessions and their titles are already in the schedule.

Responding to a question by Timea on the possibility of getting an abstract for the high level sessions, Anja mentioned she would pass the request to the host country and perhaps update on the same in the next call.

Next meeting: the next virtual meeting of the WG is planned for 26 August - 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. Ben Wallis, Microsoft, Independent Expert, past MAG Member
5. Carlos Alberto Afonso, Executive Director, Nupef Institute, MAG Member
6. Chris Disspain, Independent Expert
7. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy, past MAG Member
8. Esteve Sanz, European Commission
9. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br/ Federal University of do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, past MAG Member
10. Fiona Alexander, Independent expert
11. Fredric Cohen, Independent expert
12. Hank Nussbacher, Independent expert
13. Jason Munyan, Office of the Envoy on Technology
14. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
15. Luis Bobo, IGF Secretariat
16. Paula Martins, APC, Independent expert
17. Parminder Jeet Singh, IT For Change
18. Poncelet Ileleji, Independent Expert
19. Raul Echeberria, Independent expert
20. Timea Suto (ICC)
21. Tereza Horejsova, MAG Member