

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting XIV
4 March 2021 at 2 p.m. UTC

Summary Report

The fifteenth virtual meeting of the IGF 2020 MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on March 4 2021 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 co-chairs opened the meeting by introducing the agenda:

Agenda

1. Public Consultation on paragraph 93(a) of the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (MHLB)
2. Next steps to follow up on the WG-strategy's proposals ([Proposals on strategic improvements to the IGF and operational measures in 2021](#))
3. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology;
4. Update on IGF strengthening/improvements from UNDESA and the Secretariat;
5. Parliamentary Track;
6. AOB

A. Public Consultation on paragraph 93(a) of the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (MHLB)

Summary of key points:

The WG discussed the opportunity to reply to the public consultation activated by UNDESA, the IGF Secretariat in collaboration with the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology on paragraph 93(a) of the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation.

On this aspect it was observed that the WG has already developed the three options on MHLB and there is no need for the WG to take part in its own right in the consultation.

It was also observed that there is no visibility on how the work done by the WG will be taken into consideration for the final report to be presented to the Secretary General and that it could be an opportunity for the WG to ask to review or comment on the UNDESA report, which the IGF Secretariat and the Tech Envoy Office will prepare.

Livia Walpen shared the main results of the [EuroDIG Extra session](#) on MHLB consultation. More details are available [here](#). Was noted that this was useful.

Anriette shared the different perspectives presented in the letter shared by some civil organizations asking the UNSG not to convene the MHLB.

Wolfgang shared that there is a need to decide how to bring the results of the Multistakeholder discussions held in the IGF to the intergovernmental organizations (UN offices, OECD, etc.)

Next steps: to check with UNDESA if the WG could contribute comments on the final report to be presented to the UN SG.

B. Next steps to follow up on the WG-strategy's proposals

Output Documents:

1. [Action areas selected as priorities by the wg for further action](#)
2. [Proposals on strategic improvements to the IGF and operational measures in 2021](#)

Summary of key points:

Some ideas were shared on how the WG could contribute in IGF 2021:

- Collaborate and give suggestions to the MAG in the dissemination of the outcomes of IGF 2020.
- Activate roundtables with organizations from different regions and discuss the outcomes of the last IGF to be sure they are aware of the main IGF outputs.
- Collaborate with the MAG WG on Communication Strategy
- Collaborate and support the MAG to identify a list of institutions and decision making bodies that could be interested in specific thematic messages and outputs of the IGF 2020 suggesting how to strengthen relationships with those institutions in the planning of IGF 2021.
- Activate round tables or approaching institutions and decision making bodies that are linked to the IGF 2020 outputs asking to participate in IGF 2021.

Next steps: this item needs further discussion by the WG

C. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology;

Summary of key points:

Jason Munyan gave an update to the WG's participants on the activities started by the Office of the Envoy on Technology. Below are some of them.

- 1) Recommendation groups for global connectivity: the sub working group on connectivity metrics is looking at how to measure connectivity, to better focus on the needs and the financing mechanisms.
- 2) 16th of March: virtual launch of the United Nation Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC-Hamburg)
- 3) Digital public goods: a webinar was held for the United Nations innovation Network on harnessing the potential digital public goods to achieve the SDGs.
- 4) Inclusion and capacity building: the office is discussing with UNDP on what their plans are, the approach they will take and what resources may be available.
- 5) 27th of April: High Level thematic debates during the General Assembly . [Letter from the President of the General Assembly regarding the 27 April high-level thematic debate.](#)
- 6) Launch of an online [hub for human rights and digital technology](#).
- 7) Report by the #KeepItNow coalition on Internet shutdowns is available at: https://www.accessnow.org/cms/assets/uploads/2021/03/KeepItOn-report-on-the-2020-data_Mar-2021_1.pdf

D. Update on IGF strengthening/improvements from UNDESA and the Secretariat;

Anja Gengo shared some updates on:

- 1) the open consultation launched by the IGF Secretariat to collect from the Community advise on the design and functionality of the new website;
- 2) the public consultation on paragraph 93(a) of the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (MHLB). She said that the IGF 2020 messages and report were strategically disseminated to a number of stakeholders, including all the missions based in New York and in Geneva and to a very robust list of international and intergovernmental organizations and to all the historically registered participants at the IGF.

She also explained the scope and the objectives of the PNE and gave an update on the intersessional works.

E. Update on parliamentary track;

Summary of key points:

Wolfgang explained the main points of the document he circulated in the WG, titled "[The future of parliamentary involvement in the Internet Governance Forum 2021](#)", saying that the paper is the updated outcome document of the project sponsored by the German Government and it contains several ideas and concrete proposals on how to organize the intersessional work of Parliamentarians.

Next steps: waiting for feedback from IGF Secretariat, UNDESA and the local Host.

Titti informed the WG's participants that for 2021 the WG will have four co-chairs:

- 1) Titti Cassa (AgID, Italian Government)
- 2) Amrita Choudhury MAG Member (CCAOI, Civil Society)
- 3) Livia Walpen (Swiss Government)
- 4) Roman Chukov MAG Member (Russia Government)

Next meeting: the next virtual meeting of the WG is planned for **March 25 – 2 PM UTC**.

Annex 1:

List of participants

1. Adam Peake, MAG Member, ICANN
2. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
3. Anriette Esterhuysen, IGF 2020 MAG Chair, Group's Co-Chair
4. Ben Wallis, Microsoft, Independent Expert, past MAG Member
5. Bill Drake, University of Zurich
6. Chris Disspain, Independent Expert
7. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy, past MAG Member
8. Eileen Cejas, Youth SIG / Coordinator of Youth IGF Argentina & Youth LACIGF, Independent expert
9. Esteve Sanz, European Commission rep on the MAG
10. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br/ University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, past MAG Member
11. Jason Munyan, Office of the Envoy on Technology
12. Joyce Chen, MAG Member, APNIC
13. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
14. Livia Walpen, Government of Switzerland, MAG Member (host country rep)
15. Luis Bobo, IGF Secretariat
16. Markus Kummer, IGFS
17. Paula Martins, APC, Independent expert
18. Pablo Hinojosa, APNIC
19. Przemyslaw Typiak, Government of Poland
20. Nigel Hickson Government of UK

21. Paul Charlton, Government of Canada, MAG Member
22. Peace Oliver, Independent Expert
23. Raúl Echeberría, Independent Expert
24. Roberto Zambrana, ISOC Bolivia, MAG Member
25. Roman Chukov, Mag Member, Russian Government
26. Sophie Peresson, MAG Member, ICC
27. Susan Chalmer, MAG Member, NTIA
28. Tereza Horejsova, MAG Member
29. Timea Suto (ICC)
30. Wim Degezelle, Independent Expert