The purpose of the working group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) is to develop proposals of actions implementable in the short and medium term on how to strengthen the IGF and position it strategically in the evolving digital cooperation landscape.

The Working Group held three virtual meetings so far to finalize the charter and to define the plan of activities.

The charter is available here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1G2KNGN5G2Y1Iicjpc2PvCmrbdJrphJJ2PvJmuKdYtRs/edit

The group is focusing on two main activities related to:

1. How the IGF can best fulfill the mandate outlined for the IGF in the Tunis Agenda (2005) approached with a forward-looking perspective, taking into account that the IGF is halfway through its 10-year renewed WSIS +10 mandate.

2. Broader discussions on digital cooperation, in particular the UN Secretary General’s Roadmap (paragraphs 93-94) for Digital Cooperation launched on June 11, 2020 which identifies priority topics that broadly overlap with the issues discussed so far with regard to IGF improvements

On activity group 1 several ideas were shared and possible activity areas were identified.

1) IGF program focus
2) Producing and communicating outputs and outcomes
3) Financial security and sustainability
4) Inclusion and participation
5) Communication and identity
6) Website

On activity group 2, the need to have a closer cooperation with the team of UNSG working on the roadmap came out.

Yu Ping Chan from HLPDC Secretariat, joined last call virtual meeting held on July 15th. Several questions were raised about high-level body included at par. 93 of the Roadmap. It was shared that the new body is not envisaged as an external body to the current IGF’s structure, but rather as a supporting apparatus that would help to better translate the IGFs’ outcomes to the UN system and beyond. There was a common understanding that the proposed recommendation on establishing a new high-level body should be connected or even integrated into the MAG, possibly in a form of a steering committee.
During the last call the working group agreed to work on developing recommendations, through shared documents, on the following key areas:

a. MAG TOR improvements
b. Possible implementation models for the Roadmap’s High-level body
c. Improvements of the IGF outcomes