

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

**Online Meeting 41
21 July 2022 at 14:00 UTC**

Summary Report

The 41st virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 21 July 2022 at 14:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Titti Cassa. The list of participants and the recording of the meeting is available upon request.

The co-chair opened the meeting by introducing the agenda:

Agenda:

1. [PLAN OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2022](#) (Global Digital Compact communique, convene an online discussion with the Envoy on Technology, etc.)
2. Update on the African Parliamentary panel
3. WSIS+20
4. Suggestion and processes to promote NRIs participation to GDC
5. Update from the IGF Secretariat (EGM follow up, Leadership Panel, etc.)
6. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology
7. AoB

Discussion:

1. PLAN OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2022 (Global Digital Compact communique, convene an online discussion with the Envoy on Technology, etc.)

Chris Buckridge walked through an outline of the communication that has been drafted for the MAG in relation to the Global Digital Compact (GDC):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1yfbXo-XNjA3BeZISycPMHYC_I9wUBqzbx-xAkH9h8/

Mark Carvell explained his suggested edits, and noted the importance of reflecting the diversity of stakeholder groups that make up the IGF community, including youth.

Tulio Andrade noted that in relation to drafting of the Global Digital Compact, Brazil shares the feeling that the process should be as open as possible (appreciating the NETMundial reference), but if this is to be a legally binding document, this would not be a possible approach. The language is ok, but we need to understand the formal process. Chris noted that the GDC is described in 'Our Common Agenda' as outlining principles, rather than legally binding precepts.

Valeria Betancourt noted that the modalities of negotiation need to be defined.

Action: Chris will clean up the document and send it to the MAG for final sign-off after the call.

Titti suggested that the WG-Strategy should reach out to the Secretary-General's Envoy for Technology (who commenced in the role on 15 July) for a meeting. Mark was supportive of the idea, and there was discussion of the modality - it was agreed that the WG-Strategy Co-Facilitators will coordinate to inform the MAG and liaise with the Office of the Tech Envoy to have the Tech Envoy join a future meeting of the WG-Strategy. Mark noted that this was an important opportunity for the Tech Envoy to lay out his plans and priorities.

Action: Amrita Choudhury will send an email to the MAG suggesting if the WG Strategy on behalf of the MAG could send a request for a meeting of the MAG and IGF community with the Office of the Tech Envoy.

2. Update on the African Parliamentary panel

Bram Fudzulani reported on the successful launch of the Parliamentary Track at the Africa IGF. He noted that there was also discussion with the parliamentarians of feeding into the GDC process.

Mark asked about which parliaments were being approached for engagement in this activity, and noted that in the past many parliaments have not engaged. Chris agreed, but that suggested that there were good foundations to build on. Amrita also agreed that there were clearly many parliaments and parliamentarians still to engage with, and the official processes are often not straightforward or helpful in reaching the most relevant people. Lucien Castex supported this statement, and noted that direct outreach from NRIs was often the most effective strategy.

3. WSIS+20

Tulio noted that the Brazilian government has been following WSIS+20 very closely, and sees it as closely linked to the GDC, 'Our Common Agenda', and the future of the IGF. Nigel Hickson reinforced the importance of this topic for the IGF, and suggested that the intervening three years will pass very quickly - he stressed that stakeholders need to engage, and that there will be multiple channels for this.

Valeria asked whether there is an official timeline for preparation of the WSIS+20, and suggested that it would be useful to map the opportunities for engaging in the WSIS+20 processes. Chris asked what the role of the Office of the Tech Envoy would be in relation to WSIS+20, not currently clear (Nigel noted that there were separate channels, and that UNGA would likely appoint rapporteurs in 2025). Mark noted that the more time and opportunity missions in New York have to understand the background and issues in relation to WSIS+20, the better; he also stressed that there should be some discussions of this at the IGF 2022.

Tulio supported the sense of urgency, and highlighted the complexity of the processes. The Brazilian priority would be for a meaningful outcome of the WSIS+20 process (at minimum, an outcome adopted as an UNGA Resolution with full legal force), and that they see a key challenge will be to balance universality with the multistakeholder approach. He identified three important outcomes for Brazil: enhanced digital cooperation; universality; enhancing the multistakeholder approach.

Flavio Wagner noted that in relation to the WSIS+20, there are no specific sessions on the programme for IGF 2022. Mark noted that he expected that the Office of the Tech Envoy will be facilitating a session on the GDC at IGF 2022. Chris suggested that the organisation of the Main Sessions at IGF 2022 could include a running theme considering the relevance of the sessions and content to WSIS+20 preparations.

Action: Urge the MAG and Secretariat to consider a running theme in the IGF 2022 Main Sessions of relevance to the WSIS+20.

4. Suggestion and processes to promote NRIs participation to GDC

Titti noted that there had been some discussion of this, in terms of aligning or facilitating input from the NRIs into the GDC process. Mark noted that the NRI communities will also need to consult with their communities (the EuroDIG process currently underway); this takes time, so there is a need to start very soon. Chris also noted that the communication draft (see Agenda item 1) includes a commitment from the MAG members to work with their relevant NRIs.

5. Update from the IGF Secretariat (EGM follow up, Leadership Panel, etc.)

There were no representatives from the Secretariat on the call.

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

There were no representatives from the Office of the Envoy on Technology on the call.

7. AoB

Titti noted the proposal of having the next call 4 August, followed by a break and the following call on 1 September. However, it was noted that in communicating with the Office of the Tech Envoy about a meeting with the Tech Envoy, there may be a need to adjust this schedule to accommodate that meeting.