

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting 42
4 August 2022 at 14:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 42nd virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 4 August 2022 at 14:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Roman Chukov. 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](#)
 - a. Draft Letter to the Envoy on Technology, GDC communique, etc.
2. Outcome of African Parliamentary Digital Policy Symposium
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. AoB

Discussion:

PLAN OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2022

Draft Letter to the Envoy on Technology, GDC communique, etc.

Amrita Choudhury introduced the draft letter, inviting the Envoy on Technology to share his vision and plans with the MAG and wider community. Chris noted that the invitation is to a meeting of the MAG that would be open to all members of the public. There was some discussion of the appropriate title for the Envoy, and the Co-Facilitators will double check on this.

It was agreed that the letter would be sent to the MAG for feedback on 5 Aug, and to agree on the protocol for sending the letter.

Chris Buckridge gave an update on the draft MAG communication on the Global Digital Compact process. He is hoping to finalise language and publish by early next week. Justin Fair noted that many of the processes are still unknown or open, and that we should be careful of making any assumptions in the communication. Adam Peake noted that he feels we need to ensure that the IGF 2022 outputs be part of the official record

of the GDC preparatory process; he also noted that we should be explicit about our reference to “NetMundial” (i.e. that it refers to the drafting of the event outcome, not the subsequent NetMundial Initiative). Adam also felt that this would be a useful element to raise with the Envoy on Technology. Justin noted his support for meeting with the Tech Envoy, encouraging the whole community to be involved in the GDC process - he noted only that the 30 September deadline is an opportunity, but after that, the specific process remains very unclear.

Anriette Esterhuysen noted that these communications are important and will play into discussions not just about the GDC, but the WSIS+20 and beyond. In the chat, Mark Cavell added there is no need to go into specifics at this stage about "IGF Plus" reform though this should be a key agenda item for the meeting with the Envoy on Technology.

Outcome of African Parliamentary Digital Policy Symposium

Anriette noted that this was a very significant event, well prepared and organised. It continued on from parliamentary discussions at the IGF 2021. She noted that there are still countries that are not included, and that this remains a challenge. She noted that the network of parliamentarians is ready to move from general discussions to active engagement with specific Internet governance issues, and to build more in-depth engagements. She also noted that the African School on Internet Governance provided a multistakeholder input to the discussion.

Wolfgang Kleinwächter noted that the parliamentary track has still not met its full potential from its beginnings in 2019, and noted that there is a need for active intersessional work regarding the involvement of parliamentarians, and that the IGF is well-placed to support this.

WSIS+20

Chris noted that the last meeting had discussed including WSIS+20 relevance in the IGF 2022 main sessions as they develop, and that there had not been any progress towards defining the main sessions since the last call. But Amrita noted that if this group had any more input or ideas on this, it would be good to share this.

Mark Carvell noted that the CSTD will start to plan its roll-out of the WSIS+20 next year, so that adds further urgency and timeliness to WSIS+20 discussions and consideration now.

Adam noted that the main sessions (and the whole IGF 2022), are pointing towards the GDC, and would expect the WSIS+20 to build off the GDC to at least some degree.

Justin noted that the focus would be the GDC, but we should look at what is the linkage between the GDC and the WSIS+20 - there is a lot of connection between the two, and we should be looking at the nature of that connection.

Anriette noted the links to the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda outcomes, but there is no bottom-up process relating to the Tunis Agenda; however, she noted that the global IGF could potentially launch a cooperative, multistakeholder stocktaking on the Internet governance outcomes and goals in the Tunis Agenda.

Adam agreed it would be useful to start a discussion at this time, particularly given recent comments from some actors about the future of WSIS, but that the IGF 2022 agenda will likely not have much space.

Suggestion and processes to promote NRIs participation to GDC

Roman noted that the Russian IGF will be take place end of September, online, and will include a session dedicated to the GDC, with an output prepared ahead of the GDC Survey deadline.

Mark noted that EuroDIG preparing an input, which will include a EuroDIG Extra webinar event, and will also draw on the national IGFs in the European region. He noted that one concern is that the “green digital” issue is not currently covered in the themes laid out by the Secretary-General.

Amrita shared that the APriGF in September will have a session on the GDC with input from the GIF Secretariat. Valeria Betancourt noted that LAC IGF will take place in late October and will focus on gathering regional community inputs for the GDC. Roberto Zambrana noted that there will be meetings of the national IGF initiatives in the LAC region in the coming weeks.

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

Wim Degezelle was on the call, but did not have any updates to share.

AoB

Titti suggested that the next all be held on 1 September at 14:00 UTC. Chris noted that there may also be some discussion on the list regarding existing work items, and encouraged participants to take an active part in list discussions.

Adam noted that there is a strong need to have the IGF 2022 workshop moderators invited to and involved in calls, so that they gain experience with hybrid sessions -

hopefully this will also get people engaged in planning and preparation well ahead of the meeting.

Additionally, he encouraged people to take an active role in preparation of the main sessions, and noted that we need to nail down some speakers and outlines very quickly so that people can decide whether to travel. The MAG agreed in June to the idea of two high-level “anchor speakers” for each of the main sessions confirmed by the end of September, and encouraged working group members to offer suggestions for such speakers. Anriette also noted the importance of north/south balance in the speakers (as well as other demographic balance).

Mark suggested that the next meeting agenda should include an item on integrating IGF intersessional work into planning, ensuring prominence for the intersessional activities.