

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting 61
10 August 2023 at 14:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 61st virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on August 10 at 14:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Amrita Choudhury and a recording of the meeting is available upon request.

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

Agenda

- 1) IGF/MAG SWOT Analysis
[SWOT ANALYSIS of IGF & MAG \(July 2023\).docx - Documenti Google](#)
[Operational Plan for strengthening IGF and MAG.docx - Documenti Google](#)
- 2) Update on the GDC
- 3) EGM recommendations (Anriette)
- 4) Convening a public discussion on GDC and WSIS+20 review
- 5) IGF 2023 Youth Track (Lily)
- 6) Update from the IGF Secretariat
- 7) AoB

Discussion

1. IGF/MAG SWOT Analysis

Carol explained the elements included in the two documents shared in the WG's Strategy saying that both the documents aims to draft the strategy to strengthen the IGF:

- 2) SWOT [ANALYSIS of IGF & MAG \(July 2023\).docx - Documenti Google](#)
- 3) [Operational Plan for strengthening IGF and MAG.docx - Documenti Google](#)

Amrita suggested not to share publicly the documents in this phase.

Anriette recalled to the participants the previous initiatives and working groups that highlighted the strengths and the weaknesses of the IGF (the MAG WG on [MWP](#) (Lynn), the WG on IGF Improvements (Flavio), the work done by the WG-Strategy, etc.). She

said that it's important to make clear the workflow and who will have the responsibilities to implement the strategy as the risk is that this great effort wouldn't become operational as it happened in the past.

Adam suggested making a list of bullet points about what we want the IGF to be and what our goals are for the IGF. He suggested pulling them out of these historical activities Anriette was describing, what has been achieved and not achieved from the Lynn initiated work, from Flavio's docs and then from the EGM. He expressed his concern whether it is the right time to prioritize this work since IGF 2023 is in about 8 weeks.

Lynn suggested looking more strategically at the future of the IGF and to all the other activities happening in the UN system. She suggested looking forward to some of the possible trajectories of the IGF and these various forms and bodies that are being discussed. She suggested focusing more on technical considerations with respect to core Internet infrastructure and facilitating those technical discussions that seem to be not happening at the moment. She referred to the future of the entire IGF activities, the Nris, the dynamic coalitions, the policy networks, saying that we should ensure that those continue to be as strong as they can be.

Anriette suggested working on the operational plan, using the template Sooki and Carol have created, but with the EGM recommendations as a starting point, as input material rather than the SWOT input, since the EGM material was based on a formal consultative process where the community provided input.

Raquel also suggested working in parallel on updating the past mapping recommendations issued by the WG on IGF improvements led by Flavio as this exercise could serve as an output for the operational plan.

Carol will update the document based on the suggestions raised by the WG's participants and thinking of what could be done over a period of one year.

2. Convening a public discussion on GDC and WSIS+20 review

Amrita shared that the proposal of convening a public discussion on GDC, and WSIS+20 review didn't move much as there wasn't much input on it.

She added that there is a plan to have a session on the GDC during IGF 2023. A draft is being prepared by the Mag and it will be circulated next week. The Wg Strategy will support the development of the session that will deal with the role of the IGF and how the multi stakeholder process can be part of the GDC.

Justin suggested inviting UNDESA or someone else to attend the next virtual meeting of the WG strategy to get an update on what is the preparation for WSIS + 20.

Lynn suggested activating a more formal, structured, strategic and two-way discussion between the WG Strategy, UNDESA and the LP, and to set a couple of meetings aside for this purpose.

3. IGF 2023 Youth Track

Lily gave an update on the main activities managed by the Youth (Australia, Africa, etc.) saying that for the Youth Summit they are planning to have intergenerational conversation from stakeholder groups, across age, to discuss their recommendations and to follow up on them. They are also discussing with the Secretariat on how to interact in a roundtable with parliamentarians who are essentially policing makers and can activate some of their ideas and recommendations. There was also a request from Alisa and Chris to involve the Youth in the sessions' organization. Anja replied that there is a lot of attention on this from the IGF Secretariat and that several initiatives are ongoing to have more youth as speakers in the IGF sessions. A list of youth experts will be made available to the session organizers to have more involvement of the Youth during the IGF 2023.

4. Update from the IGF Secretariat

Anja shared an update on the main activities related to the IGF event in Kyoto saying that there are already **1,546** registered participants, 1425 for on-site participation. Around 900 of them are females (around 50%). About stakeholder groups, civil society dominates with around 800 registrations followed by the private sector with around 300. In terms of the regions the biggest number of registered participants is from Asia Pacific. From Japan there are only around 100 stakeholders. The IGF Secretariat is working closely with the host country and the national IGF of Japan that is very close to the national institutions to outreach in the local community. She added that last Monday the Secretariat had a good meeting with the University of Kyoto and that the newcomers' track will be delivered together with them because they are organizing a school of Internet Governance for Japan, with strong engagement of international community and expertises.

5. AoB

The next call of the working group will be **at 14:00 UTC on August 24**

List of participants

1. Anriette Esterhuysen (IGF former MAG Chair)
2. Lynn Saint Amour (IGF former MAG Chair)
3. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat

4. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
5. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
6. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
7. Adam Peake, IGF MAG member
8. Alisa Heaver, IGF MAG member
9. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
10. Ben Wallis, Microsoft, former MAG member
11. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
12. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
13. Justine Fair, IGF MAG member
14. Cristina Arida, NTRA Egypt
15. Raquel Gatto, Former MAG Member
16. Carol Roach, IGF MAG member
17. Muriel Alapini, Independent Expert
18. Lily Botsyoe, Youth IGF
19. Mohammad, Independent Expert
20. Moustapha Abakard, IGF MAG member
21. Kenneth Merrill (NTIA)
22. Philippe Schulte (BMD)
23. Saba Tiku, Independent Expert
24. Umut Pajaro, Youth IGF
25. Valeria Betancourt, Independent Expert

Links to the documents:

- [SWOT ANALYSIS of IGF & MAG \(July 2023\).docx - Documenti Google](#)
- [Operational Plan for strengthening IGF and MAG.docx - Documenti Google](#)
- [The Global Digital Compact: a better way than the Policy Brief Proposal | auDA](#)
- [EGM Report of the meeting](#) of the EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM NEW YORK, 30 MARCH TO 1 APRIL 2022 [Working Group on IGF Improvements](#)
- [Mapping document of recommendations](#) (WG on IGF Improvements chaired by Flavio)
- [IGF 2022 report](#)