

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy
Online Meeting
21 November 2024 at 19:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 87th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 21 November 19:00 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. [Pact of the Future/GDC](#)
2. WSIS+20
3. [WSIS+20 review draft letter](#)
4. [IGF strategic vision](#)
5. Update from the IGF Secretariat
6. AoB

Discussion

1. [Pact of the Future/GDC](#)

Amrita introduced the agenda mentioning the discussion on WSIS +20 held during ICANN and the call for the Special MAG for 2025. She asked the participants to share news and updates on the Pact of the Future and on GDC.

Bill Drake shared a few considerations on the endorsement form for the GDC people need to sign up to participate in the follow up activities related to the Pact of the Future and GDC observing that the form is completely designed for organizations and not for the broader community and individuals who could want to contribute to these follow up activities. He added that this brings to think that maybe the NY office is not so familiar about multistakeholder processes.

Amrita shared that in the ICANN group on WSIS +20 and GdC there was a discussion regarding whether to endorse or not the GDC as it's very difficult to understand what you are endorsing and how the endorsement is going to be used.

Isra added that internally, at the Internet society, they are also trying to understand what the endorsement entails. He shared the [link](#) where ISOC is explaining the GDC endorsement opportunity.

Chris supported what Isra shared adding that it could be interesting to have some insights into the sort of relationship between Oset and the GA generally, or the Secretary General's office.

Wout de Natris shared that the DC dynamic coalition on Internet Standard Security safety is thinking of endorsing the GDC as it seems that if you sign, it doesn't come with any responsibility.

2. WSIS+20

Chris shared that the WSIS + 20 event organized on November 18 was an important appointment as it kicked off several processes that need to be followed. It is important to discuss how the IGF align, or complement, or integrate, with the WSIS Forum next year, The dates of the two events (IGF and WSIS) are very close and there is a need to work to make sure that those 2 initiatives are very clearly complementing each other as 2 elements of the WSIS framework.

There is a risk that they could be considered duplicative and cause a fragmented discussion of Internet governance. Therefore it's important to discuss how to ensure that the different elements of the WSIS framework are working together and cooperating more effectively. Chris proposed to have a bit of this discussion at the IGF in Riyadh during the main session for the Internet we want, which is focused on the future of the IGF.

Markus shared some information as he participated in the WSIS+20 event. He added that the WSIS +20 forum is a high level promoted by the ITU as a multistakeholder event. IGF was not mentioned during the event but several issues such as Youth, gender AI were discussed in several roundtables and there are opportunities to provide inputs on the WSIS website. He underlined that the WSIS +20 event, next year, will provide inputs into the overall WSIS+20 stock taking in the UN General Assembly. During the WSIS consultation, last Monday, he noted that the governments were more focused on the process. India, Saudi Arabia, Costa Rica for the Grulac, South Africa, were heading the ITU Council group on Internet governance and they were very much interested in how the high level event would actually impact the UN general Assembly event. The WSIS environment is an open platform and definitely it should not be ignored by the IGF community that should make its voice heard. He added that a timeline has been defined and that the next consultation will be in Riyadh, on 18th of December as part of the IGF. And then there will be one more in February, the deputy Unesco will have consultation, and also in Geneva as part of the It Council group. The WSIS +20 high level event will be held the 1st week of July in parallel with the AI for good summit. It's essential that the IGF community keep a close look on the timeline and provide inputs in the whole process going forward.

In relation to the question of Mark Carvell asking if there is the possibility that WSIS + 20 could start a process for developing new WSIS action lines, and possibly a new set of WSIS targets as well, Markus replied that his impression is that there is very little appetite for creating new WSIS action lines but rather bringing them together with the Sdgs or so, as the WSIS action lines are fairly broad. He added that the WSIS +20 high level event will not be

able to decide anything, but it will be able to provide input into the process that will be then decided by the General Assembly.

Chris, Bill and others shared that there is a need to strategize participation to WSIS +20 high level event and the inputs that could be submitted to the [open consultation process](#) till March 2025.

Markus added that the WSIS +20 high level event is a very positive venue for the IGF and the broader community of stakeholders that can provide inputs which would then be translated into inputs that go forward to the President of the UN General Assembly. The WSIS event should not be confused with the WSIS +20 review process, which is an intergovernmental process which will review what happened to WSIS +20.

He reiterated that the WSIS +20 high level event will contribute to the WSIS +20 review process and it is very open. The IGF can really make use of it in providing inputs and respecting the various deadlines. He recalled that the high level event will include several tracks: the gender track, youth track, academia business, etc. and among them the governance track that is an opportunity for the IGF community to come in and to provide input on how the IGF could contribute to the overall governance of digital cooperation.

3. WSIS+20 review draft letter

Chris gave an update on the letter saying that he will share it to the MAG and he will ask the IGF Secretariat to include a new point in the agenda of the next MAG meeting to discuss it.

4. IGF strategic vision

Chris gave an update on the vision document which has been updated to include the comments shared by the WG- Strategy participants and by the LP.

Mark, Nigel and Markus, suggested updating the paragraph on page.5 of the vision document related to “the enhanced cooperation” . This word is considered a little bit toxic for the IGF and it could bring some misinterpretation. The document will be reviewed to consider the comments raised by the participants.

4. AoB

The next call will be held on December 5 at 2 PM UTC.

List of participants

1. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, CCAOI
2. Ana Christina Neves, Government of Portugal
3. Bill Drake, Independent Expert
4. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
5. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy
6. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil

7. Isra Rosas, ISOC
8. Manal Ismail, Independent Expert
9. Mark Carvell, EuroDiG
10. Lindsay Dickinson, Independent Expert
11. Markus Kummer, former IGF MAG Chair
12. Nigel Hickson, UK Government
13. Washington Jiang
14. Wout de Natris, Independent Expert
15. Xiao Zhang, IGF MAG Member