

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy
Online Meeting
16 January 2025 at 13:00 UTC

Summary Report

The 88th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 16 January 13:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Amrita Choudhury, and a recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Amrita opened the meeting by introducing the agenda.

Agenda

1. Taking Stock of IGF 2024
2. Pact of the Future/GDC follow up
3. WSIS +20 review
4. Coordination with NRIs and seeking inputs on WSIS+20
5. Update from the IGF Secretariat
6. AoB
 - a. Unesco event

Discussion

1. Taking Stock of IGF 2024

Jorge shared the main elements included in the submission the Swiss Government made to the IGF stocktaking process: some comments were related to the situation with civil society, others to the idea that the high-level segment should be closer coordinated and integrated in the IGF programme. Other comments were related to the use of the Sao Paulo multistakeholder guidelines for the next round of the IGF annual meeting in light of the WSIS plus 20 review, and some references were related to the vision document drafted by the working group Strategy.

Wout suggested that dynamic coalitions could be more involved in the GDC process. The MAG should oversee this and have a good overview of what the specific topics are that are coming from the workshop proposals and to involve the intersessional work more extensively in that process so that the work that is being done in the intersessional activities gets connected to the event itself in a better way.

Anriette shared that IGF 2024 demonstrates that it is risky to take civil society participation for granted. The participation was only 14 percent. Bruna noted that even if the numbers of participation from Civil Society in IGF 2024 were much lower,

there is a good number of civil society submissions to the IGF taking stock. This shows that this stakeholder will continue to contribute to the IGF. She suggested that for the next MAG, it would be important to discuss a couple of things on transparency around the host agreements.

2. Pact of the Future/GDC follow up

Some reflections were shared on the renaming of the OSET to ODET noting that this renaming will not mean less of a focus on internet governance or digital governance. Jorge shared that OSET and ODET functions are very similar and that its organization will depend on the implementation of the GDCs. On the human resources allocated to the office, he added that the fifth committee of the UNGA confirmed six positions out of the 17 that had been asked for. The new ODET's functions on AI governance, the scientific panel and the global dialogue on AI have a separate process in UNGA and that the first discussion will be held next week in the General Assembly with Costa Rica and Spain leading as co-facilitators in that process.

On the GDC endorsement process led by the ODET, several participants shared that the website has a list of organizations that have endorsed the Compact, but it does not reflect that some of these endorsements are partial.

Markus shared that in his opinion there is not much difference from OSET to ODET and that the IGF agenda proves that IGF has dealt with all the issues that are on the agenda for ODET. He added that as the ODET now is part of the UN's regular budget and that it should be asked to the government supporting the IGF really to push that the IGF should also be part of the regular budget.

3. WSIS +20 review

Justin shared the importance of creating convergence among the different processes and issues related to the ODET, GDC implementation, and WSIS plus 20 as they influence and impact the work of the IGF.

It was recalled that the deadline for [ITU Council WG WSIS submission](#) is 31 January inviting participants to send their responses.

Anriette suggested supporting the Secretariat and the MAG so that the IGF can collaborate more "intensively" than it usually does with UNESCO, and ITU on the high level event and in general to facilitate IGF community participation and input into the WSIS+20 review process.

Desiree suggested developing and discussing the position, what we'd like to see in the WSIS outcome document and also to identify where we can make an input directly. She suggested that in the OCP process, we could, for example, suggest a workshop during the high level event and WSIS Plus 20 itself and discuss the content of that workshop.

From several participants there was a request to have more coordination between the IGF and ITU.

4. Coordination with NRIs and seeking inputs on WSIS+20

Titti suggested more involvement of the NRIs in the WSIS+20 review process, suggesting to invite NRI facilitators in the next call of the WG Strategy and coordinating this process with the support of Anja. She suggested the NRI facilitators include in the agenda of the IGF annual event some discussion/evaluation of the WSIS action lines showing how IGF has contributed to this progress. She underlined the importance of involving the NRI (174) in taking part in the WSIS +20 consultation that has been scheduled for 2025.

5. Update from the IGF Secretariat

Anja Gengo gave an update on the next NRIs event, sharing that the IGF Secretariat will participate in the Arab IGF from 23 to 26 of February. She mentioned the activities they are doing to finalize the IGF messages. She also shared that the Secretariat has been invited by the French Government to cooperate on organizing an intergenerational event between young people and senior stakeholders at the upcoming AI Action Summit in Paris from 10 to 11th of February. The Secretariat is leveraging the IGF youth track network to produce a declaration-like document that young people will present to the heads of governments, heads of States, and Ministers that will be present there in Paris. The document will be built on the messages from the youth, from Riyadh, from the Global Youth Summit and it will focus on AI in education.

Celine gave an update on the current activities related to the stocktaking and call for thematic inputs. She added the Secretariat is working with the local host to define a timeline that will be discussed with the new IGF MAG that has been just appointed.

AOB

Desiree suggested discussing the UNESCO event, and Chris clarified that there are two AI-related events: the [AI Action Summit in February](#) organized by the French government, and the [UNESCO-organised one in June](#). Adam mentioned the [ICANN 83](#) meeting in Prague and the [Digital Summit in Poland](#).

Next steps:

- The co-chairs to develop a list of actions for WG-Strategy for this year. The document will be shared in the mailing list for input before the next call and it will be presented at the first MAG meeting;
- WG-Strategy to consider ways to make IGF sessions more effective and output-oriented;
- Request of a closer engagement of the WG-Strategy with the LP;
- WG-Strategy to work on linking the GDC Objectives to the IGF 2024 messages prior to Oslo meeting;
- IGF community members to check the draft IGF messages and provide comments, especially for sessions they organized or moderated;
- Need to foster greater coordination between the IGF and ITU.

The next call will be held on January **30 at 6 AM UTC**.

Links:

- [IGF 2025 Suggestions \(2024 Stocktaking\) | Internet Governance Forum](#)
- [IGF 2025 Proposed Issues | Internet Governance Forum](#)
- [IGF2025](#)
- [MAG 2025 Members | Internet Governance Forum](#)
- [Global Digital Compact Endorsement: ICANN's Position](#)
- https://www.un.org/global-digital-compact/sites/default/files/2024-10/voluntary_endorsement_of_the_global_digital_compact_-_explanatory_note_0.pdf
- [WSIS+20 overall review by the United Nations General Assembly | Public Institutions](#)
- [Call for Inputs: WSIS+20 Review](#)
- [Digital Summit](#)

List of participants

1. Adam Peake, Former IGF MAG member
2. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member, CCAOI
3. Anriette Esterhuysen, former IGF MAG Chair
4. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
5. Andrew Flavin, NTIA, US Department
6. Bruna Santos, Group's Co-Chair, Former IGF MAG member
7. Celine Bal, IGF Secretariat
8. Charles Shaban, IGF MAG member
9. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member

10. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member, Government of Italy
11. Craig Stanley Adamson, Independent Expert
12. Dino Dell'Accio, UNJSPF
13. Fiona Alexander, former MAG member
14. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
15. Milosevic, Desiree, IGF MAG member
16. Elisabet Oluoch , ICANN
17. Esther M Jaromitski ,Independent Expert
18. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
19. Isra Rosas, ISOC
20. Jennifer Chung, IGF MAG member
21. Jim Prendergast,Independent Expert
22. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
23. Justine Fair, IGF MAG member
24. Manal Ismail, Independent Expert
25. Mark Carvell, EuroDiG
26. Markus Kummer, Former MAG Chair
27. Poncelet Ileleji,Independent Expert
28. Samuel Jose,Independent Expert
29. Horejsova, Tereza IGF MAG Member
30. Timea Suto, (ICC Basis), IGF MAG member
31. Wout De Natris, Independent Expert
32. Xiao Zhang, IGF MAG Member
33. Yuging Ying, Independent Expert