MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting XIX
6 May 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC

Summary Report

The nineteenth virtual meeting of the IGF MAG's Working Group (WG) on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 6 May 2021 at 1 p.m. UTC. The meeting was hosted and moderated by the Group's co-chair Titti Cassa with the support of the co-chair Roman Chukov. The list of participants is annexed to this report. The recording of the meeting is available only to the meeting participants upon request.

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

Agenda

1. Approval of the questionnaire for the MAG
2. Update from Mission Publiques on the "We, the Internet Project"
3. Update from the IGF Secretariat on the MHLB Consultation follow-up
4. Update on behalf of the Office of the Envoy on Technology.
5. Parliamentary Track.
6. Youth Involvement in the IGF process
7. Involvement of the international organizations in the IGF process

1. Approval of the questionnaire for the MAG

The participants discussed the necessary amendments to the questionnaire for the MAG WG on IGF Strengthening seeking their input on what could be the priorities of the Working Group this year.

After a series of comments and a discussion of each proposed question it was agreed to circulate an updated version of the questionnaire among the WG's participants. The questionnaire is available here: https://forms.gle/YEjMXzmPFqFtrvxNA. The deadline to submit the questionnaire is May 19 (10 PM UTC).

Next steps: results of the questionnaire are to be discussed during the next WG's Online Meeting on 20 May 1 pm UTC.

2. Update from Mission Publiques on the "We, the Internet Project"

Antoine Vergne gave an update to the WG's participants on behalf of the Mission Publiques on the "We, the Internet Project". In 2020 it was the global citizens dialogue on the future of the Internet with 70 plus countries and 5000 citizens talking about different topics.

The toolkit has been developed as a resource for anyone to use them and organize their own discussion and deliberation on those topics, which is also going to be published soon on the website.

Antoine shared the main conviction of the project is to bring a wide range of ordinary citizens in the discussion on the future of the Internet that will make its governance more inclusive, smarter and more legitimate. The goal is to ensure that by 2025 the Citizens' Dialogues and deliberative formats are part of the Internet governance process.

There was broad support among the WG Strategy members for finding ways to institutionalize citizens dialogues as a permanent feature of the IGF ecosystem, e.g. in the pluriannual planning, as this is also in line with the goals of a more inclusive "IGF+".

The timeline of the Missions Publiques Project was presented from 2017 and towards 2025 with the three pillars: Coalition, Dialogue and Impact. The topics for work in 2021-2025 include Trust and Data (encryptions) in 2021, AI in 2022 and Governance in 2023.

3.   Update from the IGF Secretariat on the MHLB Consultation follow-up
Nothing has been discussed.

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

Jason Munyan gave an update to the WG Strategy members on the activities and developments regarding the UN SG's Roadmap on Digital Cooperation.

On 27 April there was a High-Level Thematic Debate on Digital Cooperation and Connectivity, which was organized by the Office of the President of the General Assembly. And also an event on 4 May on the implementation of the UN SG's Digital Roadmap organized by the Office of the Envoy on Technology as a side event on STI Forum.

High-Level Thematic Debate on Digital Cooperation and Connectivity, which was organized by the Office of the President of the General Assembly: http://webtv.un.org/search/part-1-high-level-thematic-debate-on-digital-cooperation-and-connectivity/6250730905001/?term=&lan=english&page=11

STI Forum side event http://webtv.un.org/search/digital-cooperation-to-leave-no-one-behind-implementing-the-secretary-general%E2%80%99s-roadmap/6252725609001/?term=&lan=english&page=3

The website of the Office has been launched and there you can find the videos of these recent events, as well as additional information activities of the Office and the themes of the Roadmap: https://www.un.org/techenvoy/ The Office has published an update on the Roadmap and implementation to date that was distributed prior to the General Assembly event.

Jason added that there was an online brainstorming within the UN system on the participation of civil society in the United Nations in hybrid settings and online. Colleagues from several duty stations (Geneva, Nairobi, Vienna, as well as New York). Jason sent those draft guidance and the Office welcomes MAG WG's feedback over the next week or two So that we can improve this guidance and disseminated through the UN system to better include social society and in our online meetings.

The Office also had the second annual roundtable with tech and social media companies, so this was organized by the UN Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect and they're also the UN focal point for hate speech so that the discussion they had with a couple of tech companies, social media platforms and experts on society and human rights was about the issues related to hate speech online. Also the work has been done to support the World Press Freedom Day.

UNESCO released a new issue brief on transparency and accountability in the digital age, which includes a selection of high-level principles to enhance the transparency of internet platform

companies: https://en.unesco.org/news/unesco-initiates-global-dialogue-enhance-transparency-internet-companies-release-illustrative

On the question about the digital cooperation architecture and a high-level body they are still discussing that between the UN Tech Envoy Office and UN DESA. Next steps will be announced, as soon as there's a decision.

5.   Parliamentary Track.

Wolfgang shared updates on Parliamentary track. Also he shared that EuroDIG, which is planned for the end of June, also as a virtual meeting will have a track for parliamentarians for European parliamentarians.

There are two components, one is to promote the dialogue among the parliamentarians themselves and the other to promote the dialogue between parliamentarians and stakeholders.

Przemyslaw Typiak added that the organisers from the host country are in close contact with the IPU, IGF Secretariat and Parliament of Poland's foreign bureau to coordinate efforts on parliamentary track.

6.   Youth Involvement in the IGF process

Adam Peake shared ideas on how we have more inclusion of youth in all our processes by suggesting that the Working Groups, the Dynamic Coalition, the Best Practice Forums make sure that the youth groups are informed of the work done and to make sure that young people are aware that they can participate. An idea was expressed to organize the youth track similarly to the Parliamentary track, when a lot of attention is devoted to the organization process of their work in the IGF.

7.   Involvement of the international organizations in the IGF process

Anriette Esterhuysen shared ideas on better coordination with the agenda of the global formats, such as G20 or STI forum. The discussion around Internet governance, multi stakeholder governance and inclusive policymaking around technology and the Internet is getting broader and broader. And Anriette thinks that what we can do is to look at how to strategically keep the idea of relevant and valuable IGF as a platform discussion in the midst of all of these and new initiatives.

Next meeting: the next virtual meeting of the WG is planned for **20 May - 1 PM UTC**.

Annex 1:

List of participants

1. Adam Peake, MAG Member,
2. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, CCAOI, MAG Member
3. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
4. Anriette Esterhuysen, IGF 2020 MAG Chair, Group's Co-Chair
5. Antoine Vergne (Missions Publiques)
6. Ben Wallis, Microsoft, Independent Expert, past MAG Member
7. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, Government of Italy, past MAG Member

8. Eileen Cejas, Youth SIG / Coordinator of Youth IGF Argentina & Youth LACIGF, Independent expert
9. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br/ Federal University of do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil, past MAG Member
10. Fiona Alexander, Independent expert
11. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent expert
12. Irene Borissova, Independent expert
13. Jason Munyan, Office of the Envoy on Technology
14. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
15. Joyce Chen , MAG Member, APNIC
16. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
17. Livia Walpen, Group's Co-Chair , Government of Switzerland, MAG Member (host country rep)
18. Lynn St Amour, Internet Matters
19. Luis Bobo, IGF Secretariat
20. Markus Kummer, IGFSA
21. Matthew Shears, ICANN
22. Pablo Hinojosa, APNIC
23. Nigel Hickson Government of UK
24. Paul Charlton, Government of Canada, MAG Member
25. Przemyslaw Typiak, Government of Poland
26. Roberto Zambrana, ISOC Bolivia, MAG Member
27. Roman Chukov, Group's Co-Chair , Mag Member, Russian Government
28. Tereza Horejsova, MAG Member
29. Timea Suto (ICC)
30. Velimira NEMIGUENTCHEVA-GRAU, European Commission
31. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, University of Aarhus