

**MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy**  
**Online Meeting**  
**13 February 2025 at 19:00 UTC**

## **Summary Report**

The 90th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 13 February 2025 at 19:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Titti Cassa, and a recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Amrita opened the meeting by introducing the agenda.

## **Agenda**

1. WG-Strategy [timeline and activities for 2025](#)
2. WSIS+20 HLE and IGF engagement
3. General updates - WSIS/GDC/AI governance
4. Update from the IGF Secretariat
5. AOB

## **Discussion**

### **1. WG-Strategy [timeline and activities for 2025](#)**

Titti introduced the timeline and activity plan for the WG-Strategy. She noted that the document suggests three main priority areas: the first relating to the annual IGF event; the second relates to the WSIS+20 review, and how to improve coordination between the IGF and other relevant actors; the third relates to the GDC implementation process. Several other items are noted as well, including closer links to the Leadership Panel, improved coordination with other WSIS actors, and organising workshops to raise awareness of the IGF's mandate.

Bruna noted that the first question is if there are any other priorities to include. She noted that a lot of intersessional work is already focusing on the GDC, and the MAG recognised a need to bring this together effectively. Flavio noted the need to have a contribution developed for the WSIS+20 review - Chris noted that this is covered under the second item in the document. Cheryl noted that we should also look beyond the WSIS+20 High-Level Event, and particularly something that could continue through to UNGA and the WSIS+20 process at the end of the year. She also noted that having the IGF earlier in the year may be convenient. She also noted that the MAG had discussed longevity of the IGF and funding arrangements; also that the consultation on the GDC AI governance proposals is next week, and it makes sense to push the IGF as a useful venue for these processes.

Theresa suggested that we can be quite pragmatic about the future of the IGF (she noted the document shared earlier with the MAG on the future of the IGF), and we should look at what's needed to engage in those conversations - what it could evolve to, what work would be required, etc - how do we move from strategy to actions?

Jorge noted that the document may be too comprehensive, and should be more focused on what can be delivered. On the annual event, he suggested having a more dedicated track for governments in the event, particularly in making the IGF more friendly to governments (and perhaps working with the host government); he suggested we could have a main session with the WSIS Co-Facilitators talking about the contribution of the IGF. He suggested that the LP should play a role during the New York process - the modalities are now being discussed, and some states are pushing to allow non-state actors to speak at the event in December, but also throughout earlier stages of the process. On the GDC, he expressed scepticism about a significant focus on the GDC in the IGF (or that GDC implementation would continue to be an issue in its current form). He noted that the PNIF had done good work in relation to some specific GDC points, and this and other intersessional work could continue.

Chris agreed on the need to move from strategy to action, and noted that a priority for the group should be the MAG contribution to the WSIS+20 High-Level Event.

Bruna noted that the funding cuts by the US government may impact the participation of civil society organisations in the IGF - this may require some focus and attention. However, she supported Jorge's suggestion of a governmental track - she suggested that the High-Level Track may be evolved for this purpose. She also noted that it would be a good aspiration to have a statement coming out of the IGF highlighting the value of the IGF, perhaps a letter directed to the President of UNGA.

Juan suggested that we need to be pragmatic and focused on results, and set objectives that we can achieve. He suggested that we should not assume the renewal of the IGF as a given; we may need to do some marketing of the IGF to New York delegations, and should consider this as a priority for the group. He also noted that the structures in the UN are already evolving into new formations, and we need to ensure that the IGF has a place in that architecture. He also noted that funding should be another area of priority.

Flavio noted the point in the activities about the NETmundial+10 São Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines, and we should not forget this in the action plan.

Tereza agreed that we cannot take civil society participation for granted, due to funding shifts. She noted that a government has approached her to talk about the IGF and understand it better; this is in our interest, and we should consider what we can do in this vein.

Jimson suggested that we have raised enhanced cooperation, an important aspect of the WSIS outcomes, and the GDC has been instrumental in this. He also noted that the IGF can usefully put the achievements on enhanced cooperation in perspective, and particularly draw on the national and regional activities that have helped to foster greater engagement and cooperation.

Wout suggested that demonstrating the IGF's added value is essential - in bringing stakeholders together, and in helping them deliver, via Dynamic Coalitions and other intersessional work. We can also highlight how the very broad range of DCs contribute to the priorities identified in the GDC, highlighting the value of governments and private sector participating in these processes. He also suggested that looking beyond 2025, we may need to reconsider the IGF formation, putting more emphasis on the intersessional work.

Cheryl noted that getting governments to the IGF will be key to ensuring greater funding. She agreed that renewal of the IGF needs to be our primary focus. There are a wide variety of Internet governance-related conferences, so the IGF is in much tougher competition than in its earlier years.

## **2. WSIS+20 HLE and IGF engagement**

Chris noted that this work will be followed up on the mailing list, and that a strawman proposal will be developed for the next WG-Strategy meeting.

## **3. General updates - WSIS/GDC/AI governance**

[time ran out]

## **4. Update from the IGF Secretariat**

[time ran out]

## **5. AOB**

The next meeting of the WG-Strategy will be held on Thursday 27 February at 06:00 AM UTC.

## List of participants

1. Ana Christina Neves, IGF MAG Member, Government of Portugal
2. Anne-Rachel Inné, IGF MAG Member
3. Anriette Esterhuysen, former IGF MAG Chair
4. Bruna Santos, Group's Co-Chair, Former IGF MAG member
5. Carlos Vera, ISOC
6. Charles Shaban, IGF MAG member
7. Cheryl Miller, IGF MAG member
8. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
9. Concettina Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member, Government of Italy
10. Fiona Alexander, former MAG member
11. Justin Fair, IGF MAG member
12. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
13. Milosevic, Desiree, IGF MAG member
14. Elisabet Oluoch, ICANN
15. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
16. Isra Rosas, ISOC
17. Jimson Olufuye, IGF MAG member
18. Jorge Cancio, Government of Switzerland
19. Jorge Perez, Independent Expert
20. Juan Fernandez, IGF MAG member
21. June Parris, Independent Expert
22. Lilian Chamorro, Independent Expert
23. Lito Barra, IGF MAG member
24. Manal Ismail, Independent Expert
25. Mary Uduma, Independent Expert
26. Muriel Alapini, Independent Expert
27. Nancy Charter, Independent Expert
28. Nia Nanan, Independent Expert
29. Peter Koch, Independent Expert
30. Sook-Jung Dofel, IGF MAG Member
31. Teresa Swinehart, IGF MAG member
32. Tu An Ngo, Norwegian Government (2025 Host Country)
33. Rita Wehbe, Independent Expert
34. Zeina Bou Harba, IGF MAG member
35. Horejsova, Tereza, IGF MAG Member
36. Wout De Natris, Independent Expert