

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

## **Summary Report**

The 93rd virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 20 March 2025 at 13:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Titti Cassa, and a recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Titti opened the meeting by introducing the agenda.

## **Agenda**

1. Update from the IGF Secretariat
2. Update on the six sub-working groups
3. General updates - WSIS/GDC/AI governance/CSTD data governance
4. AoB

## **Discussion**

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

Celine updated on the recent information provided to the MAG regarding preparations, and noted that with registration recently opened there are more than 900 already registered. She also noted the progress on the Youth Track.

Adam asked when all session proposals would be shared. Celine noted that while the workshop proposals will be shared to the MAG on 21 March, it will take a little longer to scan through all the other proposals before they are published on the website (probably in the week of 24 March).

Anriette asked whether the WG-Strategy needs to look at the consultancy advertised by the Secretariat, and see whether there is overlap with the work of the WG. Celine also noted that next week will be the MAG-LP meeting, which would be a chance to further discuss this.

### **2. Update on the six sub-working groups**

Titti invited the shepherds for each of the sub-working groups to report back on progress:

- *WG 1 (Bruna): Work on a paper reinforcing the mission of the IGF and its long-term contribution to the digital cooperation and internet governance space.*

Bruna was not able to join the call.

- *WG 2 (Chris): Draft a panel submission to the WSIS+20 Open Consultation Process (OCP) in order to host a discussions during the High-Level Event in Geneva:*

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lvTxDECW1hX9CJbchhBCfpMonkd06g0DRa862YcAWKI/edit?tab=t.0>

Chris provided an update on progress. He noted that the ITU has extended the deadline for input to 21 March; he has spoken with the IGF Secretariat, who have already coordinated with the ITU to have two IGF-related sessions in the WSIS+20 HLE program - one of those will be on outcomes from Oslo, which will be coordinated by the Secretariat, while the other will be a more overarching look at 20 years of the IGF as a major outcome and mechanism of WSIS - the WG-Strategy is focused on that session. Chris has also alerted the ITU that the WG-Strategy proposal is forthcoming. He invited contributors to make any final input on the document ahead of submission on Friday, 21 March.

Henry noted that the IGF can play the most important role in both Internet and AI governance, utilising a distributed approach (in line with the technical approach of the Internet). He noted that he has added some speakers, and is also engaged with

- *WG 3 (Titti): Host a dialogue webinar with ODET and other UN Agencies on the implementation of Para 68-71 of the GDC (MAP), together with DCs, NRIs and other intersessional work:*

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1suCaQDM-TWem29QZXTXcpxZS3\\_0JW8YL/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1suCaQDM-TWem29QZXTXcpxZS3_0JW8YL/edit)

Titti provided an update, including on the most recent meeting of the sub-group. The group is finalizing the [concept note](#) of the webinar and it has decided to focus the discussion on para. 68-71 of the GDC, on the implementation of the GDC's map, the integration of the GDC in the WSIS, the WSIS evolution and how the IGF, NRIs and IGF intersessional activities could contribute. Proposal will be finalised by 26 March, and plan to have a webinar between 7-9 May.

Avri asked about the input of the Dynamic Coalitions, and noted that the DCs have been discussing their input to these groups as part of their coordination activities.

- *WG 4 (Flavio): Host a webinar on the implementation of the NM+10 Sao Paulo Multistakeholder Guidelines implementation to the IGF work.*

Flavio noted that the group has made outreach to relevant stakeholders regarding the webinar (which still needs to be detailed and scheduled). In addition to the webinar, the goal is for different elements in the IGF ecosystem independently assessing their own alignment with the SPMGs. He noted that EuroDIG has already responded that they intend to carry out such an assessment, but it will be in the second half of the year. Finally, he noted that there is also an intention to have

discussion of this at the IGF in Oslo, and while it may not be possible to have a specific session, it could be integrated into a session on WSIS+20 and related processes.

- *WG 5 (Amrita): Consider actions for fostering governmental engagement,*  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zras1z1RQMaZyhkLkgWd\\_Q01tok419DVtoauShV\\_GQQ/edit?tab=t.0](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Zras1z1RQMaZyhkLkgWd_Q01tok419DVtoauShV_GQQ/edit?tab=t.0)

Amrita provided an update on the group's work, which is currently sharing ideas into a Google Doc; there have been various ideas, such as providing relevant information to governmental participants ahead of the IGF itself, liaising with MFAs, conducting an online workshop ahead of the IGF. She noted that the DCs have also provided some suggestions and input. She noted that it is critical to understand what the Host and Secretariat are doing, so that WG-Strategy-initiated activities can complement those efforts.

- *WG 6 (Bruna): Draft a high level Multistakeholder statement addressing the UNGA Presidency highlighting the importance of the IGF and the need for it to be transformed into a permanent effort and fora:*  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ezsfdAT5-y48GUfG9IJ96wK2cxxAbmc5h626UYE6XZY/edit?tab=t.0>

Bruna was not able to join the call.

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

Chris noted that it had been a very busy past few days, and specifically referenced the recent publications:

- CSTD WSIS+20 report
- CSTD data governance WG announcement
- Zero Draft on the AI Panel and Dialogue

Cheryl noted that the CSTD report seems very comprehensive, taking into account a lot of input. She also noted that on the AI Panel and Dialogue Zero Draft, there had been some engagement on this, and the document suggests the dialogue will be an annual event that will take place alongside an existing event - the first is intended to take place alongside UNGA 80 in New York, and the second will be in Geneva in 2026 (presumably alongside the AI For Good summit). It establishes a two-layer governance structure, and requires individuals to make financial disclosures before participating in either of the governance panels.

Valeria noted that the CSTD has indicated so far that the secretariat will organize an informal briefing about this report on 27th March. "The briefing will not be intended to

open discussions on the report, but to briefly walk through the report.", they have indicated on their note.

Wolfgang noted that the UN is using the terminology "AI governance" - is there any clarification or definition of this term yet? There have been previous discussions about governance of different fields, but where the WGIG worked in WSIS to define "Internet governance", "AI governance" has not been subjected to strict definitions. Henry noted that as AI use is generally mediated via the Internet, AI governance necessarily overlaps with Internet governance, and the IGF can play a prominent role in AI governance. Xiao agreed that there is strong similarity/overlap between IG and AI governance, and the multistakeholder model of IG can serve as a template or model for AI governance. She suggested that we should make efforts to raise awareness of the IGF among leaders in the AI governance space.

Anriette noted that during the recent consultation there were many participants asking about the scope of "AI" in the governance context - it seems that the "Dialogue" will focus on collaboration in AI governance, while the Panel will gather best practices, so it doesn't seem like any of this will be aimed at regulation or strict governance. She noted that there is still room for intervening in this process though.

Adam suggested applying the principles of good governance embodied in the SPMGs to AI, at least as a starting point. There may also be value in identifying the areas of difference, and reviewing common, emergent principles of AI governance from recent processes and discussions.

Anne-Rachel noted the approach of ICANN and others to identify three layers - the economic and societal layer, the logical infrastructure layer, and the physical infrastructure layer - and noting that governance in relation to the logical infrastructure layer is largely done, it is the economic and societal layer that remains to be addressed. Revisiting this in an AI context may be useful.

Titti also noted the [upcoming conference](#) by the EU Commission on Web 4.0 and Virtual Worlds, which takes place on 31 March-1 April.

#### **4. AoB**

The next meeting of the WG-Strategy will be held on 3 April at 19:00 UTC.

#### **List of participants**

1. Christine Arida, Former IGF MAG member
2. Amrita Choudhury, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member, CCAOI
3. Anriette Esterhuysen, former IGF MAG Chair
4. Afia Faith, former IGF MAG member
5. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
6. Celine Bal, IGF Secretariat

7. Lito Barra, IGF MAG member
8. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
9. Titti Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member, Government of Italy
10. Craig Stanley Adamson, UK Government
11. Valeria Betancourt, IGF MAG Member
12. Avri Doria, former IGF MAG member
13. Anne-Rachel Inne, IGF MAG Member
14. Philippe Schulte, German Government
15. Hossam Elgaman, IGF MAG Member
16. Raul Echeberria, IGF MAG member
17. Juan Fernandez, IGF MAG member
18. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
19. Cheryl Miller, IGF MAG member
20. Jorge Perez, Independent Expert
21. Adam Peake, former IGF MAG member
22. Flavio Wagner, CGI.br and University of Federal do Rio Grande do Sul, Brasil
23. Isra Rosas, ISOC, former IGF MAG member
24. Jennifer Chung, IGF MAG member
25. Jim Prendergast, Independent Expert
26. Charles Shaban, IGF MAG member
27. Ellen Taylor, Independent Expert
28. Cheryl Miller, IGF MAG Member
29. Manal Ismail, Independent Expert
30. Macwilliam, Independent Expert
31. Marko Paloski, Independent Expert
32. Poncelet Ileleji, Independent Expert
33. Xiao Zhang, IGF MAG Member
34. Yuging Ying, Independent Expert
35. June Parris, Independent Expert
36. Tiago Martins, Independent Expert
37. Omar Shuran, Independent Expert
38. Theresa Swinehart, IGF MAG Member
39. Nabel Yasin, Independent Expert
40. Henry Wang, Independent Expert
41. Saba Tiku, former IGF MAG Member
42. Washington Jiang, Independent Expert
43. Rita Webbe, Independent Expert
44. Wolfgang Kleinwächter, IGF MAG Member