

MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy

Online Meeting

29 January 2026 at 06.00 UTC

Summary Report

The 109th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 29 January 2026 at 06:00 UTC. The meeting was moderated by Titti Cassa. A recording of the meeting is available upon request.

Agenda

1. Strengthening the IGF [document](#)
2. Update from the IGF Secretariat
3. Any Other Business (AOB)

1. Strengthening the IGF [document](#)

Titti introduced the document that has been developed.

Chris suggested the Secretariat updating on the other document, produced by the WG-WSP, which is focused more on the modalities of the MAG and specific.

Anja noted the document being produced by WG-WSP; she also noted that a questionnaire has been shared to the current MAG, which will further inform the work being done by the MAG.

Titti noted that the chairs of the WG-WSP and the WG-Strategy have met, and noted that the two documents currently under review have quite different purposes and visions. She noted that the WG-Strategy document is more of a "vision document".

Titti walked through the document, noting the comments and questions noted in the document.

On the funding issues, Chris suggested that an addition should be to strongly encourage the incoming MAG to liaise with the Secretary-General on his project to review funding approaches for the IGF.

A suggestion regarding specific funding models used by universities was removed, as the group has not had a chance to discuss the full implications.

There was discussion of the potential conflict between requiring visa flexibility and having as many host country options as possible. It was agreed that the Secretariat must consider these various perspectives in determining the host country.

Anja agreed that these factors are often beyond the UN's control in practice, but all efforts are made to ensure global participants can take part in person.

Reference to preferencing UN venues (and the countries in which they are established) as host country was removed.

It was noted that thematic inspiration and input can be drawn from a range of intersessional and NRIs work.

Anriette suggested that all intersessional models can serve as mechanisms to support as appropriate WSIS implementation

Jennifer suggested facilitation to ensure sufficient funding for NRIs and other intersessional work (including coordinating support from the Secretariat).

On strengthening the intersessional work, Anriette suggested that the slate of intersessional models may evolve and require holistic coordination.

Anriette suggested NRIs could engage with WSIS Action Line Facilitators, building closer connections with the WSIS Forum and other WSIS entities, and emphasising the important role that NRIs can have.

Anriette suggested encouraging a broader capacity building role for the IGF, and also in relation to emerging issues.

There was discussion about how the High-Level sessions and Main sessions should be integrated - they are drawn from different groups (Host country, MAG), but there is a need to foster greater clarity and efficiency.

Titte sought input on what might be missing from the document, noting that we need some concrete ideas. She noted that the next MAG meeting is on 10 February, and it would be good to have it finalised at that point.

Chris noted that it would be useful to try to provide more clarity on priority issues and longer term goals. He also suggested finalising the document in time for the MAG to review by 10 February.

Titti suggested a target to finalise for sharing with the MAG by 6 February.

2. Update from the IGF Secretariat

Anja noted that the survey for MAG members on MAG modalities is open until 8 February.

She noted that the Call for Issues is ready to go and will be discussed at the MAG meeting on 10 February.

This year's youth track will focus on AI governance.

The call for MAG 2026 nominations is open until 26 February, and MAG stakeholder groups have been asked to nominate candidates for MAG chair.

She also noted that the IGF 2026 Call for NRIs grants is open.

3. Any Other Business (AOB)

The next call will be held 12 February at 13:00 UTC.

List of participants

1. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat, NRIs coordinator
2. Amrita Choudhury Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
3. Anriette Esterhuysen, former IGF MAG Chair
4. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
5. Titti Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member, Government of Italy
6. Valeria Betancourt, IGF MAG member
7. Christine Arida, former IGF MAG member
8. Poncelet Ileleji, Independent Expert
9. Jennifer Chung, IGF MAG member
10. Peter Koch, ICANN
11. Sophie Longue, Independent Expert
12. Washington Jiang, Independent Expert