

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

Summary Report

The 100th virtual meeting of the IGF MAG Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy) was held on 17 July 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. Key takeaways WSIS+20
 - a. Session at WSIS
 - b. ISMB
2. Update: [MAG/LP letter to Co-facs](#)
3. [Non-paper webinars](#)
4. Update from the IGF Secretariat
5. General updates: GDC, and AI governance
6. Any other business (AoB)

Discussion

1.Key takeaways WSIS+20 High-Level Event (HLE)

- **Session at WSIS+20 HLE**
- **Informal Multistakeholder Sounding Board (IMSB)**

Chris gave an update on the session that was delivered at the WSIS+20 HLE. He noted that he will send the report to the MAG and WG-Strategy lists, and noted that the session was very interactive and dynamic.

Theresa noted some logistical challenges, but also that there was some useful dovetailing and integration of discussions at the IGF and at the WSIS+20 HLE. The WSIS+20 HLE links into WSIS Action Lines served a particularly important role. She also noted that the WSIS+20 HLE offered opportunities to engage with some stakeholders that don't attend the IGF. She finally noted that the link to the AI For Good Summit was effective in highlighting the importance of these issues.

Bruna shared some high-level takeaways from the IGF session at the WSIS+20 HLE, but she felt that there was an element of "preaching to the choir" and engaging with stakeholders who are already supportive. There is a need to strongly engage with countries that are not yet engaging with the co-facilitators.

Jimson felt there was a good turnout for the session, but also stressed that the AI For Good Summit was much larger than the WSIS events. He also highlighted the

session on enhanced cooperation, which he felt was positive. He felt that there should be a focus on countries better highlighting the WSIS processes.

Titti also noted that the "coffee sessions" were well participated and very useful.

Valeria noted concerns with the Chair's Summary; including that the Chair had left the event before the end (delivering his report remotely), and that the report contained a "positivist approach" to digital technologies, which doesn't reflect the more nuanced positions reflected in the event. She stressed that the IGF must be acknowledged as a space to hold these discussions in a truly multistakeholder way.

Jimson noted that the Informal Multistakeholder Sounding Board held a kick-off meeting during the WSIS+20 HLE. He noted that there is an important role for the IMSB in assisting the Co-Facilitators - this can involve synthesizing input from different stakeholders, working towards compromise language. He also noted that on 29 July, there will be a consultation of both government and non-government stakeholders, and there have been key areas identified by the Co-Facilitators as essential. He noted that there will be a blog posted by the IMSB shortly on the UN-DESA website. Theresa highlighted that the role of the IMSB relates to the WSIS review more broadly than just the IGF, and the IMSB is working hard to get all stakeholders engaged.

Tereza noted that the IMSB should be vocal and clear about the role of the IMSB (including its limitations), and stressed that individual organizations need to provide their own input to the consultation opportunities.

Christine noted the importance of the IMSB coordinating with the NRIs. Valeria also highlighted the way that NRIs can support the work of the IMSB in consolidating and synthesizing input.

2. Update: MAG/LP letter to Co-facs

Chris shared a link to the letter developed following the WG-Strategy meeting in Norway:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/13Lev3_ZlqgHT4gTsvhQH0ikSdi16bApTi7-MrDuBPzw/edit?usp=sharing

At this stage, the letter is approved, and Chris will liaise with the Secretariat to have it sent.

3. Non-paper webinars

Bruna discussed the idea to hold some webinars discussing the various non-papers produced by different stakeholders about the WSIS+20. She stressed that this is not a confirmed plan yet, but an idea, and would entail four webinar sessions. Anriette shared a link to the project proposal document:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RjzcuoaYtotogr7z_-DQ961EttS0XI5IX-gYpIV37Yw/edit?tab=t.0

Bruna noted that the plan would be to hold these sessions in late July and early August.

There were some questions about what papers would be included and how the sessions would be planned and different papers categorised. Anriette noted that it would be interesting to combine papers from state and non-state actors.

Bruna also noted the idea would be to have two co-moderators for each session, drawing on volunteers from the WS-Strategy. She asked anyone interested to reach out to the Co-Facilitators or to Anriette.

Titti suggested sharing a timeline for the 4 webinars over the next few days.

Anriette also noted that the Dynamic Coalitions are compiling a collective response to the Elements Paper. Markus noted that the Elements Paper seems to imply that the IGF is an annual event, and the DC response will stress the importance of intersessional and year-round work. He also noted that individual DCs will provide their own responses in their respective areas of expertise. The DC response will also endorse the response of the IGF MAG/Leadership Panel.

4. Update from the IGF Secretariat

There were no representatives from the Secretariat on the call.

5. General updates: GDC, and AI governance

Valeria urged the WG-Strategy to assist the IMSB to help collect and compile stakeholder views.

Titti noted the work being done by ODET with various stakeholders about a portal. She shared that she had highlighted a potential role for the NRIs in sharing results on a national level in relation to the five objectives of the Global Digital Compact. Such information could be shared via such a portal; however, she noted that it is a complex task to understand how and when relevant data can be collected and presented.

6. Any other business (AoB)

The next meeting of the WG-Strategy will be held on 31 July at 06:00 UTC.

List of participants

1. Christine Arida, Former IGF MAG member
2. Chris Buckridge, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member
3. Titti Cassa, Group's Co-Chair, IGF MAG member, Government of Italy

4. Bruna Los Santos, Group's Co-Chair, former IGF MAG member
5. Jimson Olufuye, IGF MAG member
6. Ana Neves, IGF MAG member
7. Anriette Esterhuysen, former IGF MAG Chair
8. Valeria Betancourt, IGF MAG member
9. Avri Doria, Independent Expert
10. Charles Shaban, IGF MAG member
11. David Bedard, Independent Expert
12. Hossam Elgamal, IGF MAG member
13. Giacomo Mazzone, Independent Expert
14. Jasmine Ko, Independent Expert
15. Jorgez Perez, Independent Expert
16. June Paris, Independent Expert
17. Lito Ibarra, IGF MAG member
18. Lynn Saint Amour, former IGF MAG Chair
19. Markus Kummer, former IGF MAG Chair
20. Martina Le Gall Malakova, Independent Expert
21. Nabel Yasin, Independent Expert
22. Manal Ismail, Independent Expert
23. Horejsova, Tereza, IGF MAG Member
24. Theresa Swinehart, IGF MAG Member
25. Tracy Hackshaw, Independent Expert
26. Sofia Longwe, Wikimedia
27. Amado Espinosa, Independent Expert