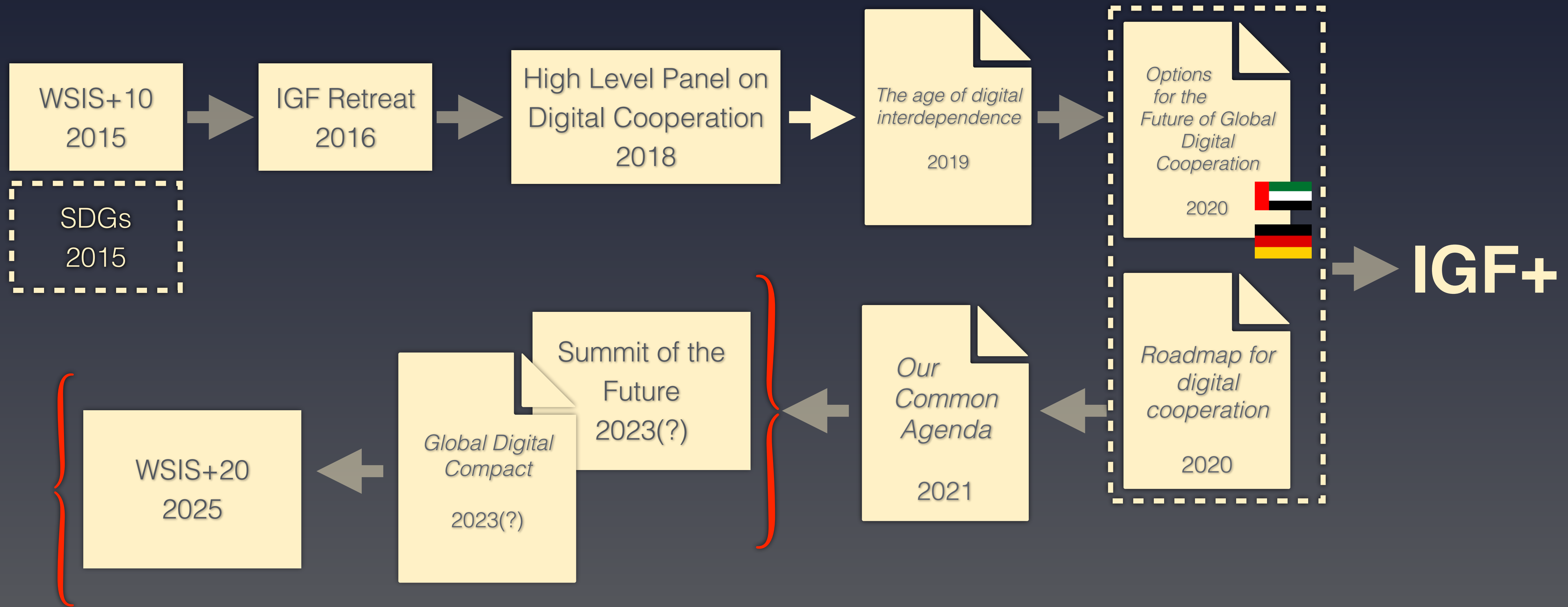# Some history

- Internet Governance Forum an annual event since 2006

    - Emerged from World Summit on Information Society (WSIS), 2003-2005

    - WSIS+10 in 2015 renewed the IGF mandate for another 10 years

- An ecosystem of national and regional initiatives (NRIs) has grown up

    - "85 countries and 17 regions on four different continents"

    - EuroDIG an important example (since 2008)

- Numerous discussions on "IGF improvement"

    - Within the MAG [Working Groups] and other ad hoc venues

# 2022

- An unusually dynamic period for Internet governance and digital policy. *The new normal?* Or a mix of chance, pre-existing schedules, and emerging trends…

  - **COVID**
    - *Face-to-face meeting, negotiation impossible*
    - *Event schedules changed, compressed*

  - **Pre-existing (or newly announced) UN schedules**
    - *WSIS+20 in 2025*
    - *OEWG(#2) 2021-2025*

  - **Internet-related policy and governance growing in significance and urgency**
    - *Cybersecurity*
    - *Privacy, data governance*
    - *Access (as necessary to fully engage in modern society)*

# Digital Cooperation: a timeline
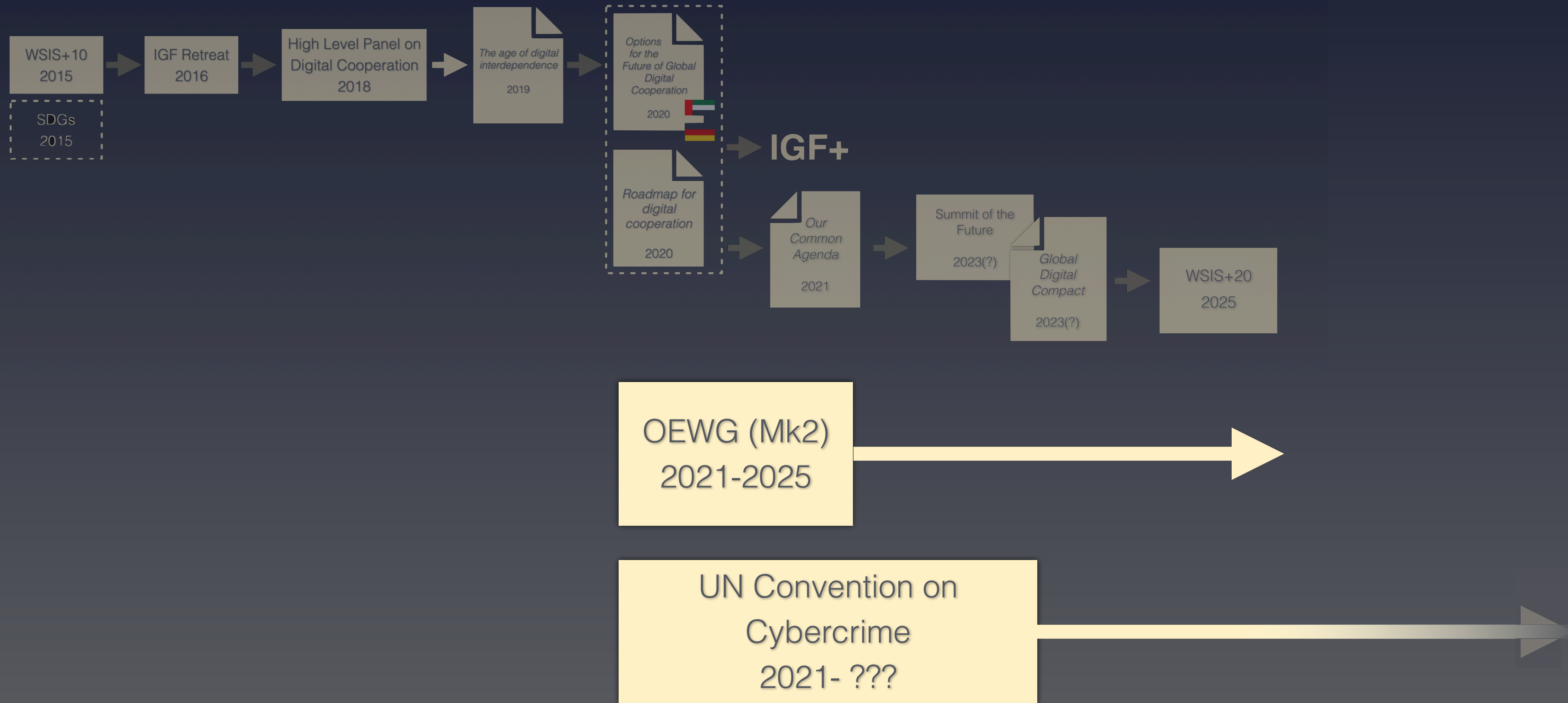
# The Future of the IGF(+)

- Both the Roadmap (para. 93) and the Options document laid out specific, generally aligned recommendations, including:

- A high-level body (aka MHLB) to complement the MAG

  - Re-branded as IGF Leadership Panel

  - "…a strategic, empowered, and multistakeholder body, to address strategic and urgent issues, and to highlight Forum discussions and possible follow-up actions, in order to promote greater impact and dissemination of IGF discussions."

  - Nominations were made in late 2020

# The Future of the IGF(+)

- Creation and integration of UN Tech Envoy

  - Office of the Tech Envoy has been active since 2019
  - Recruitment ongoing (with an interim Tech Envoy in place)

- Focus on:

  - Stablised, sustainable funding

  - High-level government / parliamentary engagement

  - Effective communications and coordination strategies (incl. with other UN entities)

  - Continuing to develop cooperation with NRIs

  - Further developing and integrating intersessional work

# Additional Processes



WSIS+10 2015 → IGF Retreat 2016 → High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation 2018 → The age of digital interdependence 2019 → Options for the Future of Global Digital Cooperation 2020

SDGs 2015

Roadmap for digital cooperation 2020 → IGF+

Our Common Agenda 2021 → Summit of the Future 2023(?) → Global Digital Compact 2023(?) → WSIS+20 2025

OEWG (Mk2) 2021-2025

UN Convention on Cybercrime 2021- ???

# Themes and Trends (1)

- A strongly motivated Secretary-General, working with new and evolving tools

- Motivated UN member states

- A shifting window of what UN member states agree is reasonable and necessary Internet regulation

*Bert Hubert's recent NANOG talk provides some useful coverage of recent regulatory efforts*


Who controls the internet? And should they?

# Themes and Trends (2)

- Response to increasingly complex challenges tends towards increasingly complex solutions

  - Complexity a major hurdle to inclusivity, transparency

- New approaches, structures, processes are spinning up rapidly and across multiple spaces

# Some Takeaways

- Multistakeholder-ism is *hard* (and a work in progress)

  - Multistakeholder-ism (and inclusivity) *takes time*

- There are some very specific, very tricky challenges to which we need to find multistakeholder solutions

- The IGF (including its wider NRI ecosystem) remains our best means of facilitating these solutions

  - Though in most cases, IGF a "clearing house"; policy developed and agreed elsewhere

- **Multistakeholder models require multistakeholder engagement!**

# Questions ❓

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