



IGF Internet
Governance
Forum

IGF Achievements and Impact

(2005 - 2025)

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IGF Achievements and Impact (2005 - 2025)



IGF²⁰₂₅
NORWAY 

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IGF Village
Open Stage
Binary Hall
Performance Hall
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An Introduction to the IGF

The Internet Governance Forum – the IGF - is a global multistakeholder platform established by the United Nations in 2005 to facilitate open and inclusive dialogue on Internet governance and international public policy issues concerned with the Internet.

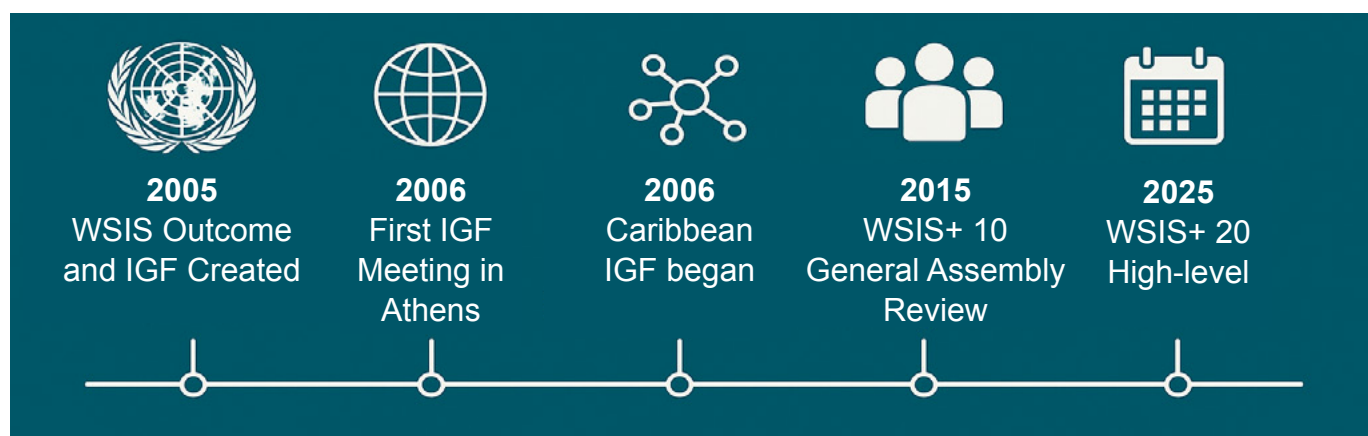
It was one of the most important outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), whose achievements are to be reviewed by a high-level meeting of the General Assembly in December 2025.

The IGF brings together participants from governments, international organisations, the private sector, civil society, the technical community and academia to exchange views, share experience, and collaborate on shaping the future governance of the Internet and digital technologies in the interest of the world community.

The Global Digital Compact, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2024, described it as ‘the primary multi-stakeholder platform for discussion of Internet governance issues.’

Since its foundation following the Summit the IGF has developed into a wider ecosystem that has recognised more than 170 national and regional forums around the world.

This booklet describes the work of the IGF: its origins and evolution during the twenty years since WSIS, which have seen very rapid changes in the scope and scale of the Internet and wider digital development; its participatory structure; its achievements; and the ways in which its work complements and supports decisions that affect the development of the Internet and wider digital development, other areas of public policy, and the lives of individuals throughout the world.



IGF Milestones

A Unique Forum

The World Summit in 2005 adopted a working definition of Internet governance as

The development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.

It affirmed that ‘the management of the Internet encompasses both technical and public policy issues and should involve all stakeholders and relevant intergovernmental and international organizations.’

Those principles of multi-stakeholder cooperation and engagement were reaffirmed in the General Assembly’s ten-year review of WSIS in 2015 and in the Global Digital Compact adopted by the General Assembly in 2024.

The Internet has developed – and continues to develop – through the involvement of many different stakeholders and organisations. Two things, derived from these WSIS commitments, have made it the primary multi-stakeholder platform for discussion of Internet governance issues in the twenty years since WSIS.

- **It brings together experience and expertise from the entire range of stakeholders involved**, both those concerned directly with the management and provision of the Internet and those concerned with other areas of public policy that are impacted by it. Participation is open to all, on equal terms, and its processes and procedures are inclusive and transparent, building on the experience of stakeholders with different types and levels of engagement from almost every country.
- **It is a forum for discussion, not a decision-making body.** This has facilitated more open discussion of issues and helped participants to develop ideas and initiatives that have improved the quality of discussion in those fora where decisions affecting the development and impact of the Internet are made.



Why the Forum is Important

These unique characteristics have made the IGF an immensely valuable – and valued – forum.

It provides governments and other stakeholders with the opportunity to network and cooperate with one another, exchange experience and ideas, explore one another's priorities and challenges, develop collaborations that promote Internet development, encourage positive outcomes for Internet users and for society, and address problems such as cybersecurity, online harms and the abuse of digital resources.

As one recent, independent, survey of the IGF's impact puts it, the global IGF has had:

“a lasting and significant direct and indirect impact on the development of the Internet and Internet-related policies and laws across the globe, from the largest and richest nations to the smallest and least well-resourced.”

National and regional IGFs (or NRIs) have had a similar impact in their countries and regions.

Some examples of ways in which the IGF and NRIs have contributed to specific global and national decision-making processes are described later in this booklet.

As well as sharing experience, ideas and opportunities to work together, the IGF has built the capacity of its participants and broadened understanding of new and emerging digital technologies and the ways in which they interact with other public policy priorities.

Its annual meetings are complemented by more than thirty intersessional activities in which stakeholders with different backgrounds explore important aspects of the Internet and Internet-related public policy.



An Evolving Forum

at the heart of Internet Governance

The range of subjects at the Forum has grown over the years. Discussions have increasingly focused on new priorities such as data governance, emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, and growing challenges that concern the Internet such as information integrity and the relationship between digitalisation and environmental sustainability.

The IGF has become an important space for stakeholders to keep abreast of these emerging trends, technologies and impacts, and the ways in which their peers in other countries are addressing them.

Participation in the IGF is growing. Thousands of participants from more than 175 countries have taken part in the global IGF during the last five years, reflecting the whole range of stakeholder communities, while thousands more have been welcomed by meetings of national and regional IGFs.

Special tracks have been introduced for Parliamentarians and other groups, in addition to the High-Level sessions that focus on priorities for key decision-makers.

The opportunity to host the IGF has been welcomed by governments across the world, which have recognised the value of showcasing their Internet experience and engaging with the wide array of expertise the IGF brings to their countries.

“We are convinced of the importance of the Internet Governance Forum as a platform for dialogue among all stakeholders. We believe that building consensus through an open and inclusive process is the best way to ensure that the Internet remains a global, public, and universal resource. We support strengthening the IGF to enable it to continue providing a space for sharing experiences and seeking solutions to the challenges of Internet governance.”

- H.E. Ms. Dilma Rousseff, 36th President of Brazil at the 2015 IGF Opening Ceremony

The digital environment has changed enormously since WSIS. Many new aspects of that environment today have come to prominence in the two decades since the first meeting of the Forum – including social media and e-commerce, the cloud economy, big data and the Internet of Things.

The IGF has responded to this evolving environment by broadening the range of topics discussed at its meetings and in intersessional activities.

This has equipped it to play a central role in the future implementation of WSIS outcomes, contribute towards implementing those of the Global Digital Compact that was adopted by the General Assembly in 2024, and support the outcomes of the WSIS+20 review that will be conducted by the General Assembly in December 2025.



What is the IGF?

The IGF was one of the most important outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society.

The Summit recognised the critical importance of the Internet for human development and identified Internet governance as

“an essential element for a people-centred, inclusive, development-oriented and non-discriminatory Information Society.”

A Working Group on Internet Governance, which met between the first and second sessions of the Summit recognised that there was a gap in the existing framework of Internet governance, which lacked a global multi-stakeholder forum to address Internet-related public policy issues.

This idea was taken up in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, the main outcome document from the Summit’s second session. It asked the UN Secretary-General to convene the first meeting of a new Internet Governance Forum to discuss public policy issues and facilitate discussion and debate concerning Internet governance.

The new Forum, it said, should build on the existing structures of Internet governance ‘with special emphasis on the complementarity between all stakeholders involved [including] governments, business entities, civil society and intergovernmental organisations.’ It should have a lightweight and decentralised structure and be subject to periodic review.

The Secretary-General held extensive consultations with stakeholders and announced the establishment of the IGF in July 2006. The first annual meeting was held in Athens, in November and December of that year.

The IGF’s mandate was set out in the Tunis Agenda. This mandate was renewed for five years by the General Assembly in 2010 and for a further ten years at the Assembly’s WSIS+10 High-Level Meeting in 2015. Continuation and development of its mandate will be discussed by the General Assembly at its twenty-year review of WSIS in December 2025.

The Mandate of the IGF

- a. Discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet.

- b. Facilitate discourse between bodies dealing with different cross-cutting international public policies regarding the Internet and discuss issues that do not fall within the scope of any existing body.

- c. Interface with appropriate intergovernmental organizations and other institutions on matters under their purview.

- d. Facilitate the exchange of information and best practices, and in this regard make full use of the expertise of the academic, scientific and technical communities.

- e. Advise all stakeholders in proposing ways and means to accelerate the availability and affordability of the Internet in the developing world.

- f. Strengthen and enhance the engagement of stakeholders in existing and/or future Internet governance mechanisms, particularly those from developing countries.

- g. Identify emerging issues, bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public, and, where appropriate, make recommendations.

- h. Contribute to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise.

- i. Promote and assess, on an ongoing basis, the embodiment of WSIS principles in Internet governance processes.

- j. Discuss, inter alia, issues relating to critical Internet resources.

- k. Help to find solutions to the issues arising from the use and misuse of the Internet, of particular concern to everyday users.

- l. Publish its proceedings.

An Evolving Ecosystem

The IGF has grown in scope and scale during the past two decades – from an annual session to an ecosystem that includes a wide range of intersessional discussions, regional meetings and national IGFs that have now been held in a majority of UN Member States.

- The 2025 session of the global IGF, held in Lillestrøm, Norway, brought together 3,435 participants on site and 6,000 online participants for five days of discussions. It included more than 260 sessions focused around themes concerned with Digital Trust and Resilience, Sustainable and Responsible Innovation, Universal Access and Digital Rights, and Digital Cooperation.
- More than 170 regional and national IGFs (known as NRIs) have been recognised by the IGF since the first of these were established in 2006. They draw together multistakeholder communities to discuss the development and impact of the Internet within their regional and national contexts.
- Multistakeholder groups meet throughout the year to explore specific themes of Internet governance and report to annual sessions. At present these include three policy networks formally established by the IGF, a best practice forum and 32 'dynamic coalitions' made up of voluntary participants from all stakeholder groups.

These different activities within the IGF's global ecosystem are described later in this booklet.

Managing the Forum

The work of the Forum is managed through three key structures:

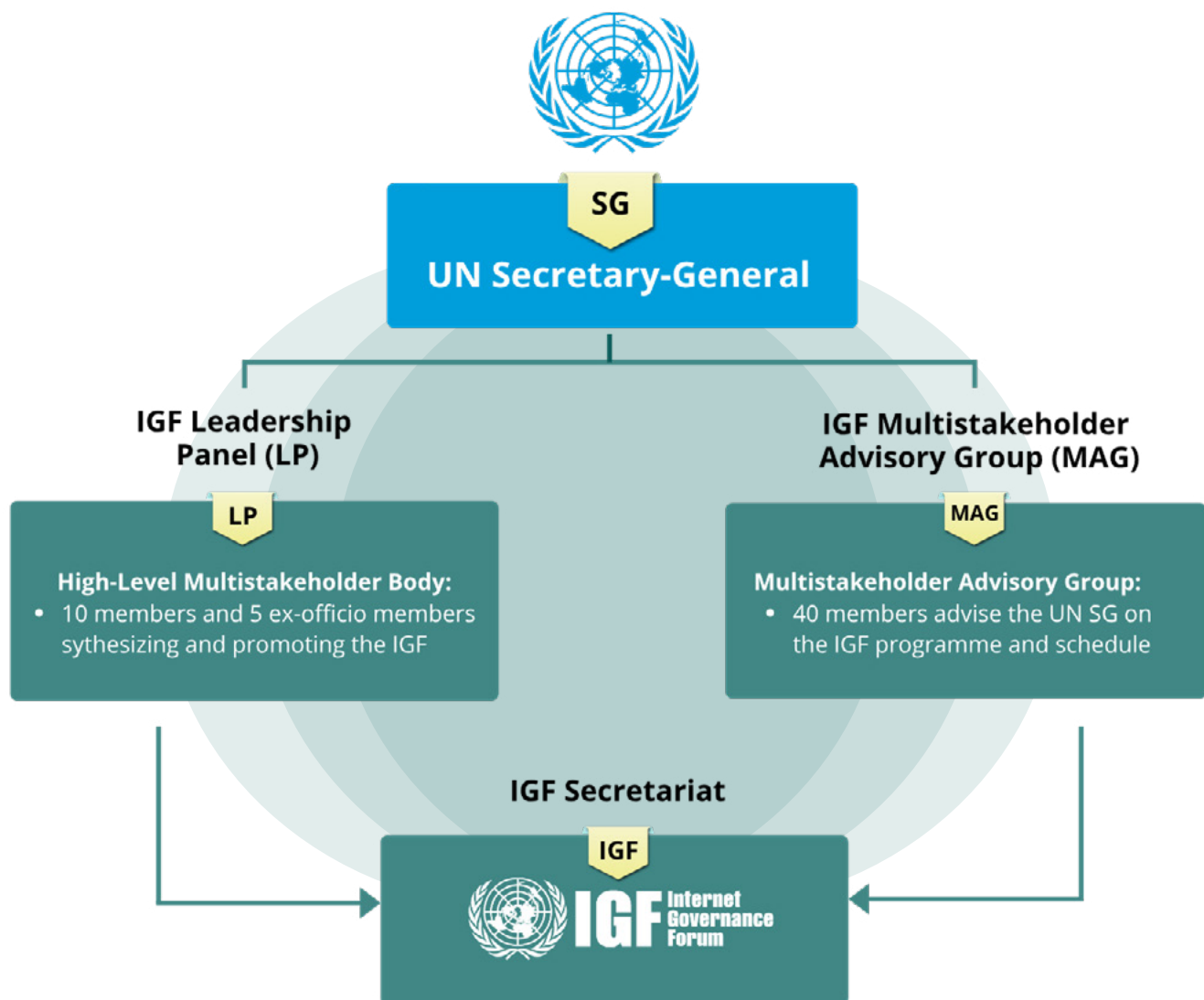
- A Leadership Panel has been appointed by the UN Secretary-General, including ten representatives from different stakeholder communities together with the current, immediate past and next host countries of the annual session. This is currently chaired by Vint Cerf, a key figure in the early development of the Internet.
- A Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) with some 40 members, also appointed by the Secretary-General to represent diverse stakeholder interests, is responsible for overseeing the organisation of the annual session and supports intersessional activities.
- A small Secretariat, based in Geneva, reports to the Secretary-General through the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).



The Secretariat is funded through an extra-budgetary Trust Fund, which has received financial support, on a voluntary basis, from a number of governments and non-governmental organisations.

This covers the costs of administration, fellowships and travel costs for MAG members from developing countries.

The Trust Fund also provides support for some intersessional activities. The organisational and conference costs of annual meetings are met by the governments of host countries.



IGF Structure and Working Mechanism



LP Chair, Vint Cerf

The Leadership Panel of the IGF, established in 2022 by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, has been actively leading outreach to venues not normally active in IGF initiatives and collaborating with the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) on the articulation of policies beneficial to the health of the Internet as a global digital infrastructure.

The Panel continues to highlight the role that National and Regional Initiatives play in the Internet Governance ecosystem while working with all stakeholders to ensure that the IGF mandate is made permanent.



MAG Chair, Carol Roach

The Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) is the driving force behind the IGF's continued relevance, inclusivity, and global impact, upholding the people-centred model of digital governance.

Composed of 40 members from diverse stakeholder groups, the MAG fosters meaningful dialogue, balanced participation, and equitable collaboration at its annual forum and throughout intersessional activities - National and Regional IGFs, Youth and Parliamentary Initiatives, Dynamic Coalitions, Policy Networks, and Best Practice Forums.

The IGF upholds its legitimacy and its role in shaping the digital future we want.



What Does the IGF Do?

The IGF is much more than an annual meeting. The IGF today includes three main sets of activities, and also engages widely with other fora concerned about the Internet and Internet-related public policy. Its three main sets of activities are:

- its annual global meetings;
- a large and growing number of National and Regional IGFs which carry the principles and goals of IGF discussion into national and regional policy discussions;
- intersessional activities that draw together multistakeholder groups of experts to share experience, develop ideas and make recommendations on critical Internet issues.

The Annual Global IGF

Annual sessions of the IGF have been hosted in different countries every year since 2006, bringing the opportunity to engage in Internet discussions and showcase Internet developments to every world region.

Over the years these annual sessions have grown in scope, scale and significance:

- They have grown in length, from three to five days, to accommodate growing demand for multistakeholder discussion on an increasing range of issues.
- In addition to plenary sessions, each annual programme now includes a high-level meeting focused on the needs of senior decision-makers, sessions for Parliamentarians and other special groups, a wide array of workshops covering specific issues, and an additional day of longer meetings – known as Day Zero – focused on key themes and interests.
- Participation has grown, with more than 5,000 people on average registering to attend annual sessions on-site and more than 5,000 registering to participate online. As shown in the charts on pages 20-22, these come from every region and from every stakeholder community.
- Each annual session has an overarching theme, together with a number of subsidiary themes focused on key technical and public policy dimensions of Internet governance.

Host Cities of the IGF



- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. 2006: Athens, Greece | 8. 2013: Bali, Indonesia | 15. 2020: Hosted virtually by the UN |
| 2. 2007: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil | 9. 2014: Istanbul, Turkey | 16. 2021: Katowice, Poland |
| 3. 2008: Hyderabad, India | 10. 2015: João Pessoa, Brazil | 17. 2022: Addis Ababa, Ethiopia |
| 4. 2009: Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt | 11. 2016: Jalisco, Mexico | 18. 2023: Kyoto, Japan |
| 5. 2010: Vilnius, Lithuania | 12. 2017: Geneva, Switzerland | 19. 2024: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia |
| 6. 2011: Nairobi, Kenya | 13. 2018: Paris, France | 20. 2025: Lillestrøm, Norway |
| 7. 2012: Baku, Azerbaijan | 14. 2019: Berlin, Germany | |

What is Discussed at Annual Sessions?

Discussions at the annual meeting take place around a broad theme which is supported by a number of subsidiary themes. These themes, which are agreed by the MAG following suggestions from the multistakeholder IGF community, form the framework of the agenda and that of the IGF Messages which emerge at the end of the event.

The 2025 meeting in Norway, for example, has the overall theme of ‘[Building digital governance together](#)’. This was supported by four subsidiary themes concerned with:

- [Digital trust and resilience](#)
- [Sustainable and responsible innovation](#)
- [Universal access and digital rights](#)
- [Digital cooperation](#)

Each of these subsidiary themes is linked to aspects of the WSIS outcome documents, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Global Digital Compact, and allows for a range of issues to be explored, both individually and as cross-cutting influences on digital development.

The IGF has been highly responsive to the changing agenda of digital discussion and to the emergence of new themes within the Internet and Internet-related public policy. Many different subjects have been explored at the IGF over the past two decades.

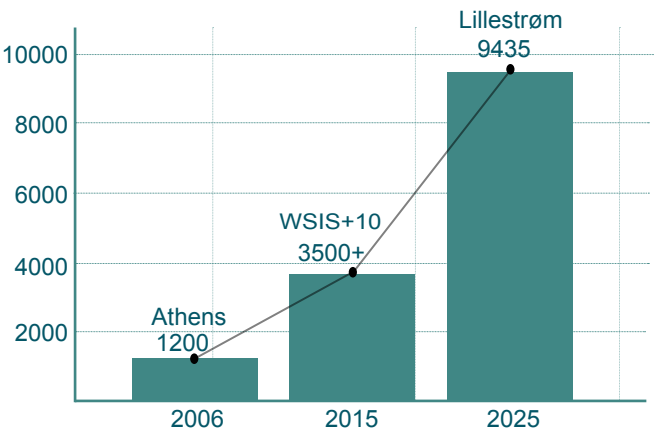
- Some have been prominent throughout the time since WSIS – for example bridging digital divides and enabling meaningful connectivity and access; human rights including freedom of expression; privacy, surveillance and data protection; cybersecurity and online harms.
- Some have been prominent at particular times when they were high on the agenda of international decision-making bodies – such as the IANA transition and responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The significance of some – such as spam – has waned over time, while the prevalence of others – such as environmental impacts, data governance, information integrity and artificial intelligence – has grown as these have become central to international policy debates.



Who Takes Part?

Participation in the IGF has been growing year on year. Some 1,200 people took part in the first IGF in Athens in 2006.

Around the time of the WSIS+10 review, the average number of registered participants had risen to more than 3500, with an increasing number taking part online.



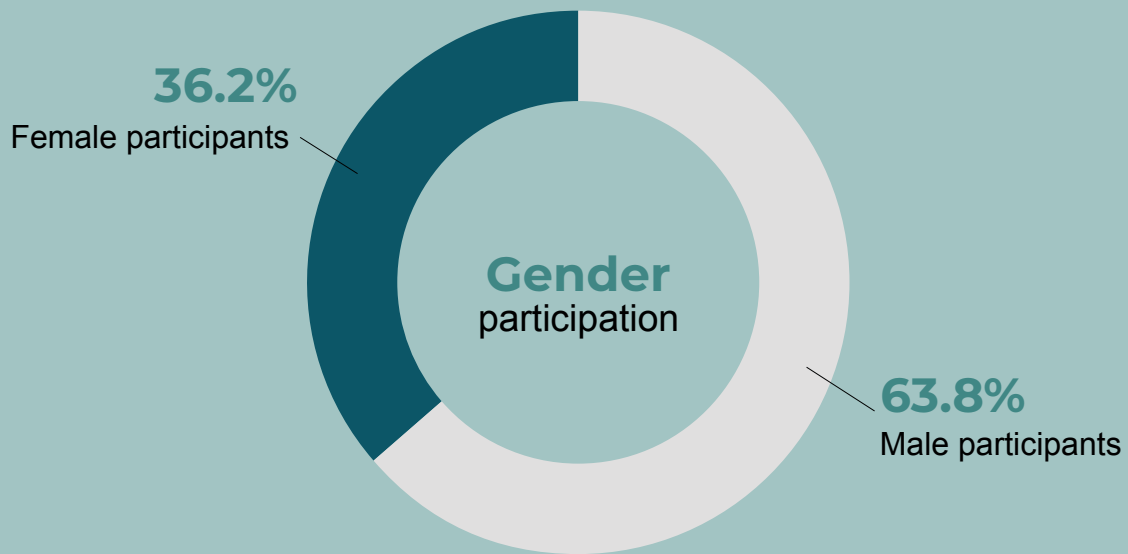
IGF Participation Growth 2006-2025

The last few years have seen the average rise to more than 8500, including more than 5000 onsite and more than 5000 online.

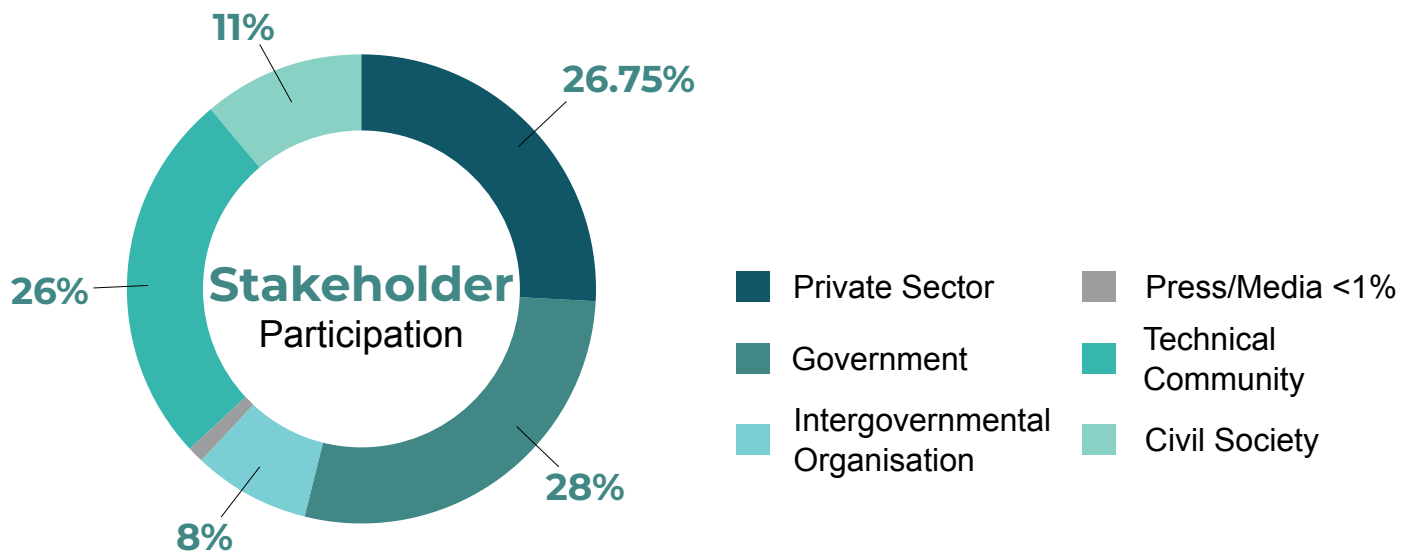
The charts here and pages 21 and 22 show average participation in the years from 2021 to 2024 – the years since the annual event was held online during the COVID-19 pandemic.



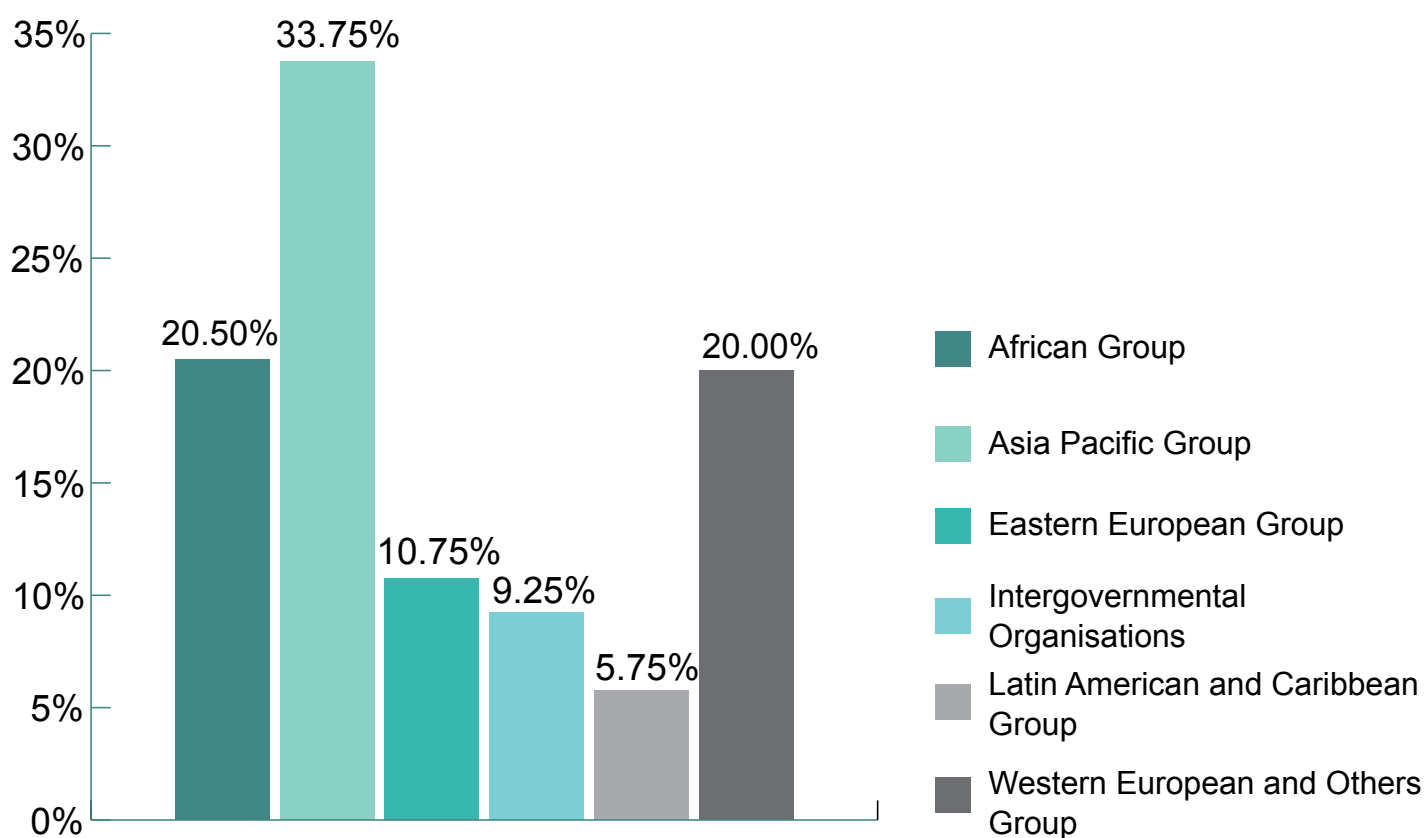
IGF onsite vs online participation 2021-2024



IGF Participation by Gender 2021-2024



IGF Participation by Stakeholder 2021-2024



IGF Participation by Region 2021-2024

Just over a third of participants in recent annual meetings have been women. Advancing gender equality is a priority for the IGF. The number of onsite participants from each region varies with the location of the meeting, but substantial numbers from all regions are always represented.

In addition to their global audience, annual sessions attract a large number of participants from the host country, raising awareness and understanding of Internet governance and public policy issues and helping to build local communities of expertise. This has added substantial value to governments and other stakeholders in host countries.

A substantial proportion of Forum participants now take part online, able to listen and contribute to discussions in real time. Some choose to join through IGF Remote Hubs which have been set up in cities round the world, giving them the opportunity to network with others in their local communities during the meeting as well as participating remotely in discussions at the Forum.

The IGF has actively supported participation in the Forum from developing countries and from under-represented groups. Generous donations from sponsors have enabled an average of 125 participants each year, in recent years, who would not otherwise have been able to afford to do so to attend its annual meetings and build their expertise. Particular attention has been paid to young participants with the potential to play leading roles in future national development.

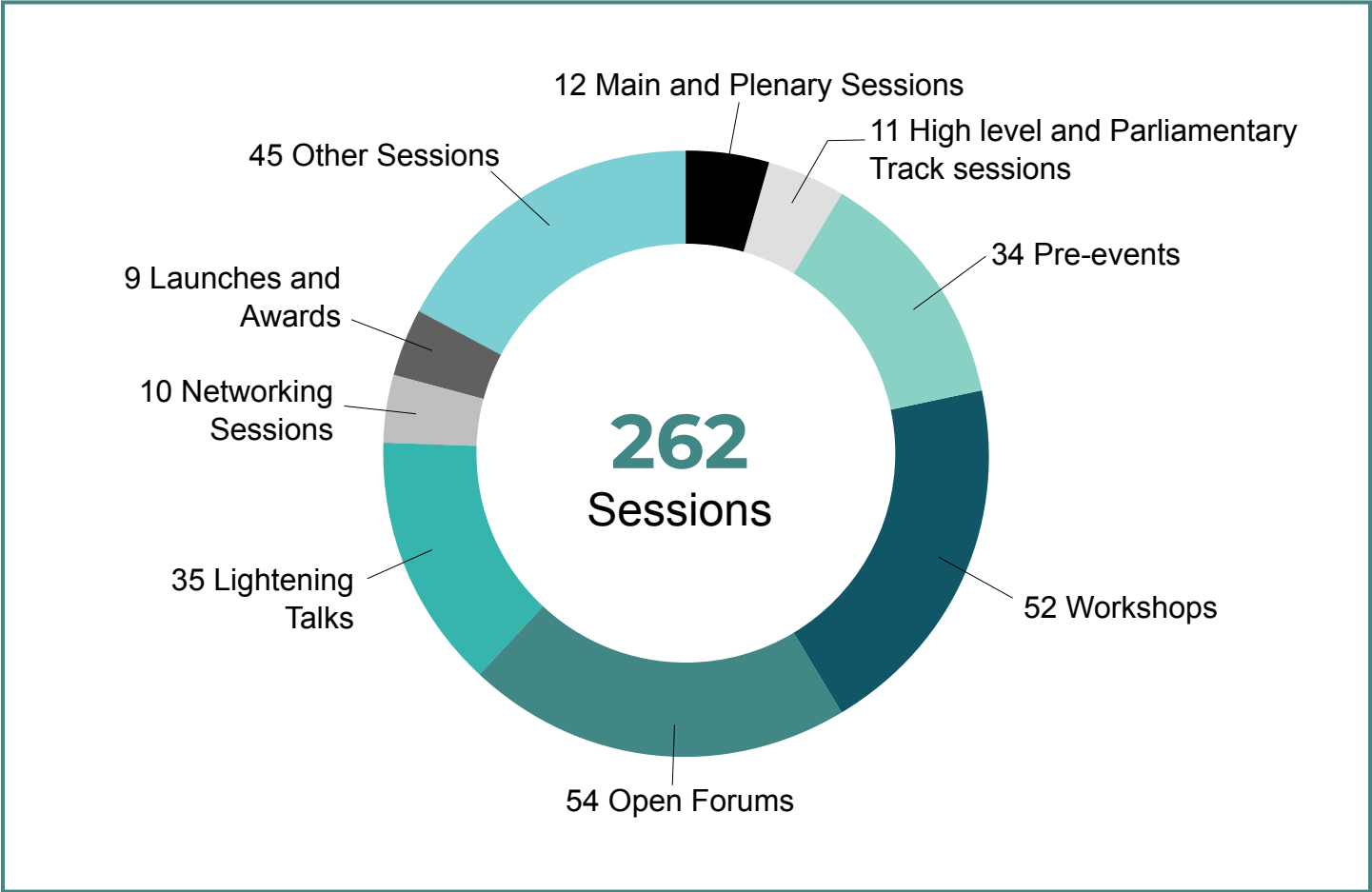


How is the Meeting Organised?

The programme and schedule of the annual IGF are organised by the MAG – the Multistakeholder Advisory Group appointed each year by the UN Secretary-General.

This brings together expertise from all stakeholder groups and regions to agree the programme for the meeting, select appropriate core themes, organise the plenary sessions and address other issues of importance. Its discussions draw on consultations and inputs from all stakeholders.

All stakeholders are invited to propose sessions for inclusion in the agenda. These take many forms – from seminar-style workshops to presentations from NRIs and intersessional activities to open forums showcasing the work of international organisations and lightning talks held around the Forum venue. The 2025 meeting in Lillestrøm included 262 sessions:



Breakdown of Sessions at IGF 2025



Over the years, the IGF has initiated special tracks for groups of participants with special roles in digital policy-making.

The High-Level Track for leaders in government, business and other stakeholder groups features debates on issues of critical concern to prominent decision-makers.

A Parliamentary Track was introduced in 2019, and additional tracks for judicial and business personnel have recently been added. Descriptions of the High-Level and Parliamentary Tracks can be found on page 26.

Special tracks have also focused on the interests of youth participants, and on the needs of newcomers. The youth track is designed in a participative, consultative manner with young people, focused on particular interests such as AI governance.

The High-Level Track

The IGF High-Level Leaders' Track is a dedicated series of sessions that brings together senior policymakers, industry leaders, technical experts, civil society representatives, and other stakeholders for in-depth discussion of important digital policy challenges. It provides a platform for high-level discussion that responds each year to global priorities and those identified by stakeholders in the IGF community.

The track's purpose is to foster open, multistakeholder dialogue and knowledge exchange on pressing digital issues that require coordinated, multidisciplinary solutions. It also seeks to identify how digital technologies can advance sustainable development goals. Takeaways from the High-Level Leaders' Track are integrated into the IGF Messages, the final output of each IGF cycle.

Co-organized by the Host Country and the UN DESA/IGF Secretariat, the High-Level Leaders' Track was expanded in 2025, building on engagement over the last five years to include participants from diverse backgrounds.

In 2025, for instance, it addressed issues such as building trust in the digital future, ethical governance of AI, digital identity management, the WSIS+20 review process, and protecting children online. Over seventy high-level experts took part, including over forty ministers, digital ambassadors, vice ministers and state secretaries. All sessions were interpreted into the six official UN languages and broadcast live to ensure wide accessibility.

The Parliamentary Track

Since 2019 the global IGF has included a Parliamentary Track to help build the expertise of lawmakers and involve them fully in discussions on Internet governance.

This Track is organised in collaboration with the International Parliamentary Union (IPU). It includes activities in the run-up to the Forum as well as special sessions during the meeting itself.

Building on this global experience, the IGF has expanded the set of parliamentary activities at national, sub-regional and regional IGF initiatives. More than 500 lawmakers have now taken part in the Parliamentary track at one level or more.

In line with text adopted by the General Assembly in 2022, the Parliamentary Track also provides direct support to Parliaments and engages with other Parliamentary organisations.

For instance, the IGF Secretariat is an active contributor to the Expert Group on Parliamentary Engagement in Digital Policy that is coordinated by the UN Development Programme and the IPU.

What are the Outcomes?

The outcomes of the annual IGF are many and various: some direct, some indirect.

The IGF does not adopt resolutions or create any binding treaties. Its importance lies in its ability to facilitate discourse between governments, international organisations, private companies, the technical community and civil society organisations.

Through its annual meetings and intersessional activities, the IGF facilitates discussion on proposed regulatory frameworks, potential risks, global trends and successful and unsuccessful experiences and policies that have been adopted or are under discussion. Participants also examine the impact of treaties, recommendations and other documents adopted in various international venues concerned with Internet governance and public policy.

For many participants the most important outcomes of the meeting stem from the opportunities that it provides for networking and learning from the experience of others. The meeting provides opportunities to build new collaborations, identify themes and ideas that can contribute to national decision-making spaces, and draws attention to emerging issues that will be of greater importance in their national environments in years to come.

The Forum gives stakeholders from all countries the opportunity to engage in debates on Internet governance and contribute to capacity development, allowing them to build knowledge and skills that will facilitate participation in other Internet governance institutions and arrangements.



IGF Messages

Each year, after its annual session, the Forum publishes a set of IGF Messages, drawing on the results of discussions that have been held in plenary sessions, High-Level sessions, workshops and other activities during the week.

These Messages set out key points that have been shared during the Forum and represent the collective wisdom of the multistakeholder community that has taken part.

They provide a record of experience and ideas that can be taken forward by participants into their work in other spaces concerned with digital decision-making, at international level and in their own countries, and can be used by the Leadership Panel to promote the work and the ideas of the Internet community.

The Lillestrøm IGF Messages

The 2025 Lillestrøm IGF Messages provide a high-level overview for decision-makers of current thinking on Internet governance and digital policy issues. They are sourced directly from 262 sessions held during IGF 2025.

Session organisers were invited to identify takeaways and action points at the end of their sessions as contributions towards these messages. The Messages were also informed by reports from NRIs and intersessional activities.

The 2025 Forum was held under the overarching theme Building Digital Governance Together. Sessions were structured around four main thematic tracks, with key takeaways and calls to action in specific areas from each session compiled into the [Lillestrøm IGF Messages](https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/334/29818).

Digital Trust and Resilience,

- Digital Infrastructure
- Online Safety, Information Integrity, and Child Safety

Sustainable and Responsible Innovation

- Digital Public Goods
- AI, Work, and Skills
- Misinformation, Content Moderation & AI and Media/Journalism
- Infrastructure
- Connectivity
- Environment and Health
- AI equity gap, AI Ethics & Small AI Players

Universal Access and Digital Rights

- Human Rights and Digital Harms
- Ethical AI
- Meaningful Access

Digital Cooperation

- Global AI Cooperation
- IGF, Global Digital Compact and WSIS

Lillestrøm IGF Messages: https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/334/29818



National and Regional IGFs

National and regional IGFs — or NRIs — play a crucial role in building multistakeholder dialogue at the interface between global, regional and national contexts.

They have become increasingly important in the IGF's evolving ecosystem over the past two decades and are a major success within the Forum's story.

The digital ecosystem is highly diverse. Each region and each country faces its own set of challenges and priorities, ranging from access and infrastructure to data protection, cybersecurity, human rights, sustainable development and the impact of new and emerging technologies on its economy and its society.

Global Internet governance debates address broad themes, while NRIs ensure these topics are made relevant and actionable at the local level.

The first national and regional IGFs - or NRIs — were set up very soon after the first global meeting — the result of initiatives taken by stakeholders in those regions and countries in response to the success of the global Forum and the desire of people in many countries to build similar dialogues for Internet development at home.

By engaging a wide range of stakeholders — governments, private sector, civil society, and technical communities — NRIs provide a space for inclusive dialogue that reflects local needs, cultures, and realities.

They are often the most open and accessible platforms for multistakeholder cooperation in their regions and countries, making them essential to fostering trust, collaboration, and informed decision-making. They build on experience of local stakeholders and respond to local needs, thereby bridging the gap between global processes and national priorities, enabling communities to contribute to international discussions while shaping policies that reflect the specific digital landscapes of their own experience.

By 2025, the IGF has recognised a wide range of NRIs across the world. These conform to a set of requirements that has been established by the MAG.

- They include Regional IGFs that draw together stakeholders from a number of countries, including continent wide fora such as the African, Latin American and Caribbean and Asia-Pacific IGFs, regional and sub-regional fora such as the Caribbean, Pacific and West African IGFs, as well as fora concerned with the Internet priorities of particular groups of countries that transcend geographic regions such as the SIDS IGF which is concerned with the priorities of Small Island Developing States and the Lusophone IGF that brings together Portuguese speaking communities.

- National IGFs have been recognised in a majority of UN Member-States, including more than thirty each in Africa and Europe.
- A small number of IGFs represent other geographic groupings, including some in regions within countries.
- A substantial number of Youth IGFs has been recognised, which focus on the priorities of young people in individual countries and some regions.

The work of some of these is illustrated in the following pages.

The IGF Secretariat supports the networking of NRIs, whose work features on the agenda of the global Forum. Some have built associations with Schools of Internet Governance that have been established to build the capacity and knowledge of individuals concerned with Internet governance in their countries and regions.



Regional IGFs

The first NRI to be established – the Caribbean IGF – actually came into being before the global IGF first met. It was formed in 2006 to develop regional consensus on issues that were explored at WSIS.

Regional and sub-regional IGFs have since been established in most world regions. Some bring together stakeholders from across continents, such as the African, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Asia-Pacific IGFs and the European forum EuroDIG.

Others are concerned with smaller regions and sub-regions such as those in the Arab region, Southeastern Europe, the Caribbean, Pacific, Central Asia and the different sub-regions of Africa.

These regional and sub-regional Fora provide an invaluable bridge covering the space between the global IGF and the concerns of national Forums, bringing more attention in particular to the priorities of stakeholders in developing countries and enabling them to network and collaborate more effectively not just in the global IGF but across the whole range of international entities concerned with digital development.

A number of regional IGFs now include a Parliamentary Track, like that in the global Forum, to help build the expertise of lawmakers and involve them fully in regional discussions.

The regional Parliamentary Track of the African IGF in 2022 launched the African Parliamentary Network on Internet Governance, including Members of Parliament from various committees dealing with digital affairs.

At the West African IGF in 2024, a similar network of West African Parliamentarians was launched, whose members have since participated in the sub-regional Forum and in a dedicated programme for lawmakers.

Three examples of the work of regional IGFs over the past twenty years are illustrated in the boxes below.

The Arab IGF



Since its launch in 2012, by the League of Arab States and UN-ESCWA, the Arab Internet Governance Forum (Arab IGF) has played a pivotal role in shaping inclusive, multi stakeholder dialogue on digital policy across the region.

As a unique platform rooted in the global IGF principles of openness, inclusiveness, multistakeholder and bottom-up participation, the Arab IGF has enabled diverse voices, from all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, private sector, academia and the technical community, to contribute to the Internet governance discourse in the Arab region.

Stakeholders of all backgrounds are gathered under the umbrella of the Arab IGF, coming from all parts of the region, including Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

In 2025, it held its seventh session in Amman as a standalone segment of the Arab International Digital Cooperation and Development Forum.

One of its most significant contributions has been its role in informing and influencing the development of the Arab Digital Agenda (ADA).

Through iterative consultations and collaborative sessions among stakeholders, the Arab IGF has helped articulate regional digital priorities and align them with global standards, while ensuring they remain grounded in local realities and aspirations.

The forum's evolution reflects the region's growing digital maturity and the increasing demand for coordinated digital development at large including policy dialogue on digital infrastructure, legislation, the digital economy, e-government, digital rights, data governance and inclusive digital transformation, as well as AI and emerging technologies.

The Arab IGF has thus evolved into an important space for policy dialogue and advocacy on the continued advancement and implementation of the ADA goals, the WSIS outcomes and the GDC objectives. The Arab IGF accelerated the spin-off and establishment of several national and sub regional IGFs in the region

As it continues to develop, the Arab IGF remains a key venue for fostering cooperation, policy innovation, and a people-centred digital future in the Arab world.'

**- Ayman Elsherbiny and Christine Arida,
ArabIGF Secretariat**

The African IGF - building expertise across a continent



**Africa Internet
Governance Forum**

The African IGF (AflIGF) was launched under the auspices of the African Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa in 2011. It has become the continent's leading multistakeholder platform for dialogue and coordination on Internet governance and digital policy.

The growing interest of African governments in hosting it is a strong indicator of the Forum's success, ownership, and legitimacy. Each annual edition has benefited from high-level national support, showcasing the Forum's credibility and its growing relevance in Africa's digital policy landscape.

In the past decade, it has expanded significantly in both scope and influence, reflecting the growing importance African countries place on digital transformation, inclusive connectivity, cybersecurity, and rights-based governance.

One of its strengths is its strong integration with national and sub-regional IGFs and continental Internet governance processes. The inclusion of sub-regional IGF convenors on its Multistakeholder Advisory Board strengthens alignment and continuity across national, sub-regional, and continental dialogues.

The strong and growing presence of parliamentarians at both the regional and sub-regional levels further demonstrates the forum's importance as a policy-shaping space.

Their participation reinforces the essential link between digital governance and legislative frameworks and helps drive national-level policy alignment on internet and digital issues.

Its Youth Track has become one of AflIGF's most celebrated achievements, providing a dedicated space for young people to shape discourse and contribute meaningfully to digital policymaking. Complementing this, continental and sub-regional Schools of Internet Governance have been instrumental in cultivating future digital governance leaders.

The Forum has contributed to continental frameworks such as the African Union's Digital Transformation Strategy for Africa (2020–2030) and global initiatives such as the Global Digital Compact.

As Africa continues to pursue its aspirations for digital inclusion, innovation, and sovereignty, AflIGF has proved to be a vital mechanism—ensuring that all voices, especially those historically underrepresented, are actively shaping the continent's digital future.

- Sorene Assefa, AflIGF Secretariat

EuroDIG – the European Dialogue on Internet Governance



EuroDIG is an open multi-stakeholder platform to exchange views about the Internet and how it is governed.

First organised in 2008 by organisations, government representatives and other experts, it fosters dialogue and collaboration with the Internet community on public policy for the Internet and has become one of the largest regional IGFs.

Each year's work culminates in an annual conference that takes place in a different European city, bringing together many hundreds of stakeholders from all over Europe and beyond to discuss the most burning issues related to Internet and digital governance, often addressing emerging issues that are then picked up at global level.

Over the years, EuroDIG has been a creative source of new and more interactive and inclusive session formats within the IGF family. It pioneered the use of remote participation and led the way in developing non-negotiated but tangible Messages. Those from 2025's event focused on the WSIS+20 review, neurotechnology and privacy, European digital and cyber strategy, freedom of expression and balancing child protection and digital access rights.

Its pioneering work with youth participation began with a roundtable in 2010 and has continued to be central to the forum. Its intersessional work and stakeholder contributions, dating back to its early days, have made important contributions to Internet governance at global, regional and national levels.

The pace of digital transformation is accelerating, yet the promises of inclusivity, trust, and equitable development remain unevenly fulfilled. EuroDIG believes that regional fora like itself can act as translators between these different levels, helping to adapt global norms to local contexts and informing global actors with knowledge derived from the grassroots.

**- Thomas Schneider, Sandra Hofrichter,
Mark Carvell, EuroDIG Secretariat and
Multistakeholder Board**

National IGFs

National IGFs have demonstrated that they can have significant impact by bringing a broad range of experience and expertise to bear on policies concerned with the Internet and the impact of digitalisation on public policy.

In Kenya, for example, the national Parliament has worked closely with the Kenya IGF, often seeking its input and advice before proceeding with legislative discussions on digital policy issues.

This partnership has helped ensure that the voices of diverse stakeholders are considered in national decision-making.

In Nigeria and The Gambia, the work of respective national IGFs has contributed to the development and adoption of important digital policies and legislation, particularly in areas such as data protection and cybersecurity.

These outcomes highlight the influence of NRIs in advancing robust and responsive legal frameworks.

NRIs also play a crucial role in capacity development, providing a supportive environment for individuals to develop the skills required to represent their countries in the global IGF and other international fora. A significant number have associated Youth IGFs, which support the emergence of the next generation of digital experts and policymakers.

Two examples of the work of national IGFs over the past twenty years are illustrated on pages 37 and 38.



The Uganda IGF - an evolving national space for policy dialogue



Uganda's national IGF was established in 2006, the same year as the global IGF, and annual forums have been held each year since then.

In its early years, the Uganda Forum focused on fundamental issues of Internet access and infrastructure development, including the government's National Data Transmission Backbone and national E-Government Infrastructure projects. More recently it has both addressed global trends (including protection for vulnerable users, online freedoms, trust and resilience, net neutrality and intermediary liability) and identified priorities for national action, including the development of local content, child online protection and expediting the enactment of Internet-related legislation.

The national IGF has provided a valued consultative platform which has directly informed policy and legislative processes, including the development of laws concerned with digital transactions, electronic signatures, computer misuse and data privacy.

It contributed to the development of Uganda's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) in 2012 and has highlighted the need to balance national security with users' rights to privacy and freedom of expression.

In 2025 it established a Parliamentary Track to foster stronger engagement between lawmakers and those concerned with digital policy and digital development.

- Lillian Nalwoga, Uganda IGF

Fórum da Internet no Brasil - the Brazilian IGF



The Brazilian Internet Forum and Brazilian Pre-IGF (FIB) has been organized annually by the Brazilian Internet Steering Committee (CGI.br) since 2011.

It serves as local preparatory activity for the global IGF, shaping the consolidation and expansion of a more diverse, inclusive, and innovative Internet in Brazil, and is the central venue where Brazil's Internet and technology stakeholders convene to advance dialogues, build consensus, and identify solutions to national challenges.

Over the years, the Forum has been instrumental in shaping landmark policies, such as the Marco Civil da Internet - Brazil's Internet rights framework enacted in 2014 - and the country's General Data Protection Law (LGPD).

More recently, FIB has continued to evolve as a dynamic space that adapts to societal expectations, updating its agenda to reflect emerging issues, with topics such as development, governance, and regulation of artificial intelligence increasingly prominent within discussions.

It also serves as a platform for outreach, capacity building, and fostering knowledge that informs and influences decision-makers. It has played a crucial role in consolidating the multistakeholder model in Brazil, which in turn has helped enhance the presence and active participation of Brazilian stakeholders in the IGF, WSIS, and other global digital governance forums and processes.'

Since 2017, FIB has aligned more closely with the global IGF format, with its agenda largely shaped by proposals from the Brazilian Internet community. Ongoing discussions about the event's format and suggestions for improvements reflect its continuing commitment to inclusivity and responsiveness.

- Vinicius W. O. Santos, CGI.br - Brazil IGF Secretariat

Intersessional activities

The IGF has developed three main types of intersessional activity:

- Policy Networks
- Best Practice Forums
- Dynamic Coalitions

These work all year round, within guidelines established by the MAG, drawing together groups of participants with interests and experience on specific issues from all stakeholder communities and regions.

They develop reports and organise sessions at the annual meeting on the themes with which they are concerned.

These reports have been influential in facilitating discussion and developing ideas that participants have taken forward into decision-making processes elsewhere.

Policy Networks (PNs)

Policy Networks were first established by the MAG in 2015. Three Networks have been at work since 2023, addressing issues of crucial importance to the future of the Internet:

- Meaningful Access
- Internet Fragmentation
- Artificial Intelligence

The boxes to the right summarise their current work.

Policy Network on Meaningful Access

This network explores the practical and policy dimensions of ensuring that Internet access is not just available, but also affordable, safe, reliable, and empowering. It focuses on barriers to access, local contexts, and community-driven solutions, with a view to bridging persistent digital divides.

Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation

This network addresses growing concerns over the fragmentation of the global Internet due to divergent regulatory, technical, or commercial practices. It facilitates dialogue and collaboration on how to preserve a unified, interoperable Internet.

Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence

This initiative brings together global stakeholders to examine the governance and societal impacts of AI systems. It focuses on transparency, accountability, inclusion, and human rights, while contributing to a shared understanding of policy approaches and guiding principles for responsible AI.

Best Practice Forums (BPFs)

Best Practice Forums focus on the opportunity for participants to consider best practice, on the basis of existing experience, in areas of particular concern. They do not consider new policies or practices.

The Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity has explored a number of different aspects of cybersecurity since 2016. Its latest report, published in January this year, focused on *Mainstreaming Capacity Building for Cybersecurity, Trust and Safety Online*. In its conclusions it stressed the need for work to be rooted in local contexts, to make full use of existing mechanisms, processes and practices, and to draw together expertise and involvement from all stakeholder communities in order to build trusted and accessible resources and involvement.

Previous BPFs have focused on issues concerning gender online, including barriers to access and online abuse, big data and artificial intelligence, IXPs, IPv6, local content, online child protection, spam and multistakeholder participation mechanisms.

The 2025 BPF focuses on securing Internet access and protecting core Internet infrastructure in conflict and crisis situations, elaborating the roles and responsibilities of the multistakeholder community in such contexts.

Dynamic Coalitions (DCs)

Dynamic Coalitions are open multistakeholder groups formed by groups of volunteers to discuss an Internet governance issue or set of issues. They work within guidelines set out in a Charter that has been adopted by the MAG.

The first Dynamic Coalition was formed in 2006, and almost 50 have contributed to the IGF since then. Thirty-two are active in 2025, covering a wide range of topics:

- some technical (such as those concerned with Internet standards, the domain name system and blockchain technologies);
- some with the digital environment (such as those concerned with community connectivity and emerging technologies);
- some with public policy sectors and impacts (such as those concerned with digital health and the environment)
- some with particular groups within society (such as those concerned with gender, children's rights and disability);
- and some with measuring the Information Society (such as those concerned with measuring digital inclusion and with UNESCO's Internet Universality Indicators).

The work of these Coalitions has had impacts on both international and national thinking, as demonstrated by examples on page 41.

Dynamic Coalition on Internet Universality Indicators (DC-IUI)

The Dynamic Coalition on Internet Universality Indicators (DC-IUI) was launched by UNESCO at IGF 2020 as a global multi-stakeholder platform to promote the ROAM-X principles—Rights, Openness, Accessibility, and Multistakeholder participation, with cross-cutting themes including gender equality, youth inclusion, and digital trust.

By supporting the application of UNESCO's ROAM-X Indicators framework, the coalition empowers countries to assess and improve their Internet ecosystems through evidence-based national assessments. The Indicators help stakeholders to align digital policies with human rights and sustainable development goals.

DC-IUI strengthens policy coherence, fosters inclusive internet governance, and supports countries in advancing digital rights, openness, and equitable access—contributing directly to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Internet Standards, Security and Safety Coalition (IS3C)

IS3C plays a critical role in global cybersecurity readiness, especially in the context of emerging threats like quantum computing. Its 2025 report on post-quantum encryption warns that failure to act proactively could endanger nearly all WSIS+20 action lines, emphasizing that cybersecurity now extends far beyond technical fixes—it is a matter of global social and economic stability.

IS3C works to prevent fragmented or delayed adoption of essential security measures, such as post-quantum cryptography (PQC), and positions the IGF as a key platform for collective action. Its work directly contributes to greater trust in digital infrastructure, enabling sustainable development, digital inclusion, and protection from online harms across societies worldwide.

Dynamic Coalition on Accessibility and Disability (DCAD)

Through its sustained advocacy and technical input, DCAD has influenced high-level policy processes such as the Global Digital Compact and WSIS, ensured the integration of International Sign Language interpretation in IGF main sessions, and significantly improved the accessibility of IGF platforms and events. Its development and distribution of Accessibility Guidelines, including in Braille and multiple languages—have enhanced inclusion across digital fora.

DCAD's Fellowship Programme empowers persons with disabilities from underrepresented regions to participate directly in Internet governance, enriching policy debates with lived experience. Furthermore, by collaborating with other Dynamic Coalitions, such as the DC on Open Educational Resources, DCAD fosters inclusive innovation and supports progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 4 on quality education and digital equity.

The Impact of the IGF

The IGF has had real impact on the Internet and Internet-related public policy since its formation after the World Summit.

That impact has been felt in international decision-making processes and those at national level; in the work of governments and international organisations, of businesses, civil society organisations and the technical community.

It has been felt both directly, on specific topics in digital development, and indirectly, in the way that thinking about those issues has evolved.

Contributing to the development of ideas and to decision-making

The IGF is not a decision-making forum. Its contribution lies in the opportunity it gives for stakeholders to explore and to discuss the issues on which decisions will be made elsewhere, to build consensus around possible ways forward, and to build relationships – across stakeholder groups – that can help to achieve better and more sustainable decision-making outcomes in those other fora.

The Multistakeholder Principle

Multistakeholder cooperation has been fundamental to the success of the IGF. The crucial role of cooperation between governments, the private sector, civil society and the technical community in the development of the Internet was recognised in the Tunis Agenda adopted at WSIS in 2005.

The Agenda encouraged ‘the development of multi-stakeholder processes at the national, regional and international levels to discuss and collaborate on the expansion and diffusion of the Internet as a means to support development efforts to achieve internationally agreed development goals and objectives.’

The IGF was explicitly established as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue. Multistakeholder cooperation enables expertise from different sectors of the digital environment to come together to inform decision-making processes. The IGF was explicitly established as a forum for multistakeholder dialogue. This approach brings together expertise from across the digital environment and ensures that decision-making is better informed, more effective, and supported by the range of stakeholders needed for successful policies and programmes.

As the impact of the Internet has widened, it has become increasingly important to build on that cooperation, including the involvement of those whose expertise lies in areas of public policy affected by the Internet as well as those directly involved in its development.

There are many ways in which this unique gathering of expertise from diverse backgrounds has helped to build a more informed and more effective decision-making ecosystem.

- It has built dialogue between governments, the business community, technical experts and civil society in ways that have helped to balance different policy priorities and the needs of differing communities within society.
- In particular, it has helped governments to understand technical dimensions of the Internet and helped the technical community to understand the priorities and needs of governments, businesses and civil society.
- It has provided access for governments and other stakeholders to a wealth of international experience and expertise in governance, regulation and legislation concerned with the digital environment, including ways in which to stimulate investment and innovation, facilitate cybersecurity, develop e-government and the digital economy, protect human rights and address challenges such as the abuse of women, children and minorities.
- It has developed the understanding and awareness of the next generation of Internet developers and decision-makers, from all countries and stakeholder communities, who are concerned with Internet and digital governance, encouraging them to engage more fully with the issues and to play leadership roles in their own communities and the wider international context.
- It has led the way in opening up discussion on issues of growing importance concerning the impact of the Internet on public policy. Examples of this have included the relationship between digitalisation and the environment, the impact of the Internet on public health, particularly around the COVID-19 pandemic, and growing concerns about information integrity and content moderation.
- It has evolved into a forum that feeds into broader discussion of digital and public policy, in particular contributing experience from Internet governance to the implementation of the wider WSIS agenda and the Global Digital Compact, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, and discussions concerned with artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.

Impacts on Specific Issues

The IGF's ecosystem has had real impact on specific Internet debates since WSIS.

Its annual debates on digital inclusion, workshops and intersessional activities, for instance, have played an important part in sharing experience and supporting legislative frameworks concerned with meaningful connectivity and access.

Some examples of impact at national and regional levels are illustrated elsewhere in this booklet. Three examples that affect the Internet around the world are illustrated briefly on this page and page 45.

The IANA transition

One of the most challenging issues to arise in Internet governance since WSIS was the transition of the stewardship of IANA – the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority – from a contract between the United States government and ICANN to a multistakeholder model.

The IGF played a crucial catalytic role in the two-year process to develop a transition plan for IANA and its successful implementation, in the words of one independent study, 'by providing a venue for open debate in which all stakeholders could take part, but where discussions did not form part of an official record or position.'

This helped those involved to develop their understanding of others' viewpoints, explore different options, and seek out ways in which to achieve consensus. It is widely agreed that this would have been substantially more difficult to achieve without the availability of a forum like the IGF.

The development of IXPs

Internet Exchange Points – IXPs – are crucial building blocks of connectivity. By facilitating interconnection between Internet Service Providers, especially across borders, they lower costs, improve performance and increase resilience: critical factors in increasing access and usage and in facilitating the Internet's contribution through e-commerce and e-government.

The IGF has been a crucial forum for governments and other stakeholders to share experience and build collaboration in the establishment of IXPs, particularly in Africa where their number has grown from just 16 in 2010 to 57 today.

Regional NRIs in Africa have played an especially important part in creating partnerships, exploring funding, assessing practical requirements and providing technical support for IXP development.

Community networks

Recent years have seen growing interest in the potential of community networks to provide connectivity. These networks, owned and managed by local communities, have proved particularly valuable in connecting remote communities that are found to be unprofitable for commercial enterprises.

Discussion in the IGF about the potential of community networks has grown since the Forum's early years, benefiting from the work of one of the Forum's dynamic coalitions and latterly a Policy Network established by the MAG.

These have fostered discussion between stakeholders about the practical steps needed to enable networks to be deployed, influenced the adoption of enabling regulatory frameworks and facilitated access to financial resources required to establish networks.

Building the Internet of the Future

The Internet is far from static, and priorities in Internet governance are in a state of constant evolution. The IGF has shown that it can be agile in responding to this agenda of continual change. Discussions in the IGF now cover a wide range of digital issues, including those concerned with artificial intelligence and the impact of the Internet and emerging technologies on public policy areas such as health and the environment.

IGF stakeholders have demonstrated their commitment to an Internet that contributes to sustainable economic, social and environmental development and to responsible and ethical approaches to the exploitation of new and emerging technologies.

The growing range of issues discussed within the IGF equips it to provide strong support for the further development of the WSIS framework and the Global Digital Compact, in line with the UN's commitments to sustainable development and human rights.

One way in which the IGF has addressed the future direction of the Internet was set out in a document called *The Internet We Want*, which was prepared by its Leadership Panel in 2023.

This set out a number of critical issues that the world community would need to address in order to promote a human-centred Internet that ensures respect for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, and that protects against harmful behaviour. Issues addressed included ensuring meaningful and affordable access for all – to an open, free, interoperable Internet backed by stronger cybersecurity and trusted data flows, committed to environmental sustainability and facilitating collaboration to develop new and emerging technologies in a way that brings together trust and innovation.

Towards the Internet We Want

The Leadership Panel called on Internet stakeholders to set five goals for the future of the Internet:

- to ensure that the Internet stays whole, open, free, globally connected, interoperable, stable and unfragmented;
- to move towards universal meaningful connectivity for everyone, everywhere, to encourage the uptake of new technologies at need, and to address skills gaps;
- to unlock the value of data flows for sustainable development for all and enshrine trust as the prerequisite for data sharing regimes, founded on the protection of data;
- to establish and implement robust frameworks for high levels of cybersecurity, and strong recommendations for legal structures, practices, and cross-border cooperation to combat cybercrime; and
- to ensure a human rights-based approach to Internet governance, and to promote human rights in the digital space.

The Evolution of the IGF

The IGF has evolved during the two decades since it was first established. Stakeholders have always been conscious of the need for it to respond with agility to changes in the digital environment and emerging issues for Internet governance and Internet-related public policy.

Three deep dives into the IGF's development have focused the community's attention on ways to build the IGF's capacity. The WSIS+10 review in 2015 endorsed proposals from a working group that had been organised at the General Assembly's request by the UN's Commission on Science and Technology for Development. Since that review, progress has been assessed at a retreat of experts in 2016, and an Expert Group Meeting organised by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in 2022.

Building the capacity and work of the IGF was also an important objective in the UN Secretary-General's 2018 Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, which set out a number of proposals to address emerging issues, develop follow-up activities and relay policy approaches and recommendations to other normative and decision-making forums.

Continual efforts have been made to build on the IGF's success to date and achieve these improvements in its work.

In particular, the IGF has actively sought to maximise participation from developing countries, and to increase the representation of under-represented groups.

Stronger relationships have been forged between the global IGF, NRIs and intersessional activities, enabling the latter to feed national experiences more effectively into global discussions, and ensure greater attention to the priorities and needs of developing regions and countries.

More substantive outcomes have been developed, encapsulating ideas and views expressed in the IGF in ways that can contribute most effectively to decision-making processes. The IGF Messages which are published at the end of each annual meeting provide the framework for outreach by the Leadership Panel and other stakeholders that both reflect and help to build consensus in the wider Internet community.

These innovations have proved valuable in building the IGF's role as the primary multi-stakeholder platform for discussion of Internet governance issues. Their continued development is a priority for the Leadership Panel, the MAG and Secretariat.

Working with the IGF

All of the IGF's work is undertaken on a multistakeholder basis. There are many ways in which stakeholders can take part in the Forum's work.

Participation in the annual global meeting offers opportunities for governments, businesses and other organisations to showcase their work in exhibitions and in side events; to join with other stakeholders in organising workshops and other sessions on their areas of special interest; to promote their own perspectives and to learn from those of others; to develop expertise; and to network and build partnerships with other participants from across the world.

Participation in intersessional work provides opportunities for individuals with particular interests and expertise to work together on an issue of common concern, build consensus on the best ways forward for the Internet and the wider world community, and develop recommendations that can be presented to the IGF and in decision-making fora.

"The Dynamic Coalition on Children's Rights in the Digital Environment has been instrumental in bringing together diverse stakeholders to build consensus on how to protect and empower children in the digital environment.

Through dialogue, research, and collaboration, we've shaped a shared understanding that places children's rights at the core of digital policy discussions."

— Jutta Croll, Chair, Dynamic Coalition on Child Rights in the Digital Environment

National and regional IGFs are now a central aspect of the IGF's ecosystem, bringing the Forum's proven experience of multistakeholder dialogue to national and regional Internet environments.

NRIs are built through the enthusiasm and commitment of national and regional stakeholders, working together to promote dialogue and improve the quality of decision-making on Internet governance and Internet-related public policy.

The Myanmar Youth IGF



The Myanmar Youth IGF initially emerged as a collaborative project, bringing together local NGOs, an INGO, and a youth organization. However, after 2021, the founding members of the first Myanmar Youth IGF organizing committee proactively re-established it as an independent youth-led initiative.

Driven by a desire to raise awareness about critical Myanmar Internet issues locally and globally in the beginning, the initiative was inspired by the bottom-up, open, transparent, and multi-stakeholder principles central to National and Regional IGFs (NRIs).

This commitment was driven from the organising committee members' personal experiences with Internet issues, fuelling their dedication to deliver youth voices at regional and global levels.

To build capacity, committee members actively pursued fellowship programmes, volunteering activities, training sessions and attending IGFs.

Despite significant resource challenges including human resources, mental well-being, Internet access, and limited financial means it devised a sustainable funding plan, even initiating a donation scheme to establish a small amount of core funding for future endeavours.

The members' dedication, and collaborative spirit fostered a strong team environment, with decisions made through a democratic voting process. Engagement with regional and global networks significantly boosted the Myanmar Youth IGF's visibility and enabled effective information dissemination among the organizing committee.

**- Phyo Thiri Lwin, Myanmar Youth IGF,
Southeast Asia Youth IGF**

Conclusion

A vital resource at the heart of Digital Development

The Internet Governance Forum plays a unique role in digital development.

It draws together expertise from across the stakeholder communities concerned with the Internet, on an equal basis, to discuss critical issues in an open and constructive way, without decision-making powers.

This enables it to share experience and understanding of the Internet, Internet governance and Internet-related public policy between stakeholders in all regions.

It enables them to explore what policies and practices have worked and what has proved less successful: to identify best practices and establish goals and targets that they can achieve within their own societies.

It builds the capacity of decision-makers today and of the generation of decision-makers that will follow them.

It contributes directly and indirectly to discussion of policies and practices in decision-making fora concerned with the future development of the Internet, including issues arising from artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.

It is a vital resource at the heart of digital development, which can play a crucial role in the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS and the Global Digital Compact and in supporting the achievement of the SDGs.

Further Information

If you have any questions about the IGF – including the best ways for you to participate in the work of the annual session, the NRIs or intersessional activities – please contact the IGF Secretariat igf@un.org.

Further information about all of the issues described in this brochure can be found on the IGF's website, which is at <https://www.intgovforum.org/en>

The IGF's mandate can be found in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, which is available at <https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html>

Information about the 2025 annual session of the IGF can be found at <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2025-themes>

Reports from past annual sessions can be found at <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-annual-meetings-proceedings>

Information about National and Regional IGFs can be found at <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/national-and-regional-igf-initiatives>

Information about intersessional activities can be found at <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/thematic-intersessional-work>

Information about recent work to build the IGF can be found at https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/51/26792

