



**Progress Report**  
**M1-32XES-000038**  
**"Internet Governance Forum"**  
**Project to support the Internet Governance Forum**



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## **Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2024**

### **Annual Progress Report**

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## Introduction

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The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Progress Report is an annual report which provides a consolidated summary of key activities undertaken over one year-round IGF cycle. It is structured around four expected accomplishments listed in the [IGF Project Document](#)<sup>1</sup>, which guided the work of the IGF Secretariat:

- A. *Creation of an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue related to the key elements of Internet governance;*
- B. *Enhanced collaboration among key organizations dealing with different Internet governance issues in support of the Information Society and development goals;*
- C. *Exchange of information to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet;*
- D. *Strengthened capacity of developing country stakeholders to participate effectively in Internet governance arrangements.*

The 2024 IGF cycle included numerous intersessional activities and the 19<sup>th</sup> annual IGF meeting, which was held in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from 15 to 19 December 2024. The meeting was hosted in a hybrid format, enabling full engagement of both online and onsite participants.

The 19<sup>th</sup> annual IGF meeting marked the ninth gathering of the global multistakeholder IGF community since the renewal of the IGF's mandate for 10 years by the [UN General Assembly \(Resolution A/RES/70/125\)](#)<sup>2</sup>, and was organized under the overarching theme "Building Our Multistakeholder Digital Future".

The IGF 2024 planning process started immediately after the 18<sup>th</sup> IGF concluded in Kyoto, Japan. The IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) renewal was announced on the first day of the 2023 IGF. The IGF 2024 Host Country and the IGF 2024 MAG initiated planning for the 19<sup>th</sup> IGF, building on the organizational and substantive feedback from the community received through a traditional taking-stock process<sup>3</sup>.

The planning cycle included two in-person Open Consultations and MAG Meetings, held in February in Riyadh and in June at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland – and more than thirty online meetings of the MAG and its working groups<sup>4</sup>. The IGF Leadership Panel held a face-to-face meeting and met with the MAG and IGF stakeholders in Riyadh in February,<sup>5</sup> met again in Riyadh during the IGF annual meeting, and held three virtual plenaries<sup>6</sup> throughout the year.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.intgovforum.org/filedepot\\_download/4099/516](https://www.intgovforum.org/filedepot_download/4099/516)

<sup>2</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/125>

<sup>3</sup> [https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/304/27190](https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/304/27190)

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/mag-meeting-summaries>

<sup>5</sup> [https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/263/27288](https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/263/27288)

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/leadership-panel-outputs-meeting-records>

Focusing on improving working modalities, the IGF's preparatory process, including its intersessional activities over the past year, have been guided by its extended ten-year mandate, which calls for the IGF to *continue to show progress on working modalities and the participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries*<sup>7</sup>, by the recommendations of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Working Group on Improvements to the IGF<sup>8</sup> and the Proceedings of the IGF Retreat convened by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)<sup>9</sup>. The Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda Report<sup>10</sup>, the Global Digital Compact<sup>11</sup>, and the preparations for the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20)<sup>12</sup> also featured prominently in the overall planning process.

Under the overarching theme "Building Our Multistakeholder Digital Future", the 2024 IGF provided a platform for advancing critical Internet policy discussions through several workstreams and over 300 different sessions. The Forum hosted discussions on some of the most pressing digital policy issues, including AI and emerging tech, data governance, cybersecurity, human rights, environment, sustainability, and Internet fragmentation.

The 2024 IGF saw rich and robust participation. With more than 7,000 onsite participants, it was the largest physically attended annual meeting in the IGF's history. In total, the Forum attracted over 10,143 participants.

The 2024 IGF and its preparatory process stood out for their diversity in participation and discussions, particularly involving more parliamentarians and young people, a growing and more effective cooperation with a wide range of UN agencies, including those not traditionally engaged in digital governance, as well as an engaging, balanced and topically timely high-level track with strong participation from governments and the private sector.

The overall visibility of the Forum grew, including through addresses from the UN Secretary-General, the Minister for Communication and Information Technology of Saudi Arabia and many other high-level representatives. This highlights the importance of digital technologies and digital transformation for people's well-being and underlines the IGF's role in fostering cooperation among stakeholders and shaping policies.

The programme of the 2024 IGF was structured around four sub-themes<sup>13</sup>, encompassing the various sessions, and featured dedicated engagement tracks for high-level leaders, parliamentarians and youth. The 2024 IGF was also output-oriented, with tangible outcomes emerging from the meeting, including thematic key messages ("Riyadh

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<sup>7</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/125>

<sup>8</sup> [https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162012\\_p09\\_EN.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162012_p09_EN.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/3367/711](https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/3367/711)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.un.org/techenvoy/global-digital-compact>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.un.org/pga/79/2025/01/20/letter-from-president-general-assembly-on-wsis-co-facilitator-appointment/>

<sup>13</sup> 2024 IGF sub-themes: Advancing human rights and inclusion in the digital age. Enhancing the digital contribution to peace, development, and sustainability. Harnessing innovation and balancing risks in digital space. Improving digital governance for the Internet We Want.

IGF Messages"<sup>14</sup>) drawn from individual reports of the programme's sessions. All outputs are consolidated under "[IGF 2024 Outputs](#)"<sup>15</sup>.

Advancements made by the IGF have been recognized by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in its [Resolution E/RES/2019/24](#)<sup>16</sup> adopted on 23 July 2019 and [Resolution E/RES/2022/15](#)<sup>17</sup> adopted on 21 July 2022, in which the Member States recognized the *importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters* and welcomed the continuous progress made with regard to the intersessional work of the IGF in different modalities such as dynamic coalitions and best practice forums, as well as the contributions being made by national, regional and youth Internet governance forums; and the General Assembly (GA) in its resolution [A/RES/74/197](#) of 19 December 2019<sup>18</sup> and [A/RES/78/132](#) of 19 December 2023<sup>19</sup> that recognized the *importance of the Internet Governance Forum and its mandate as a forum for multi-stakeholder dialogue on various matters, as reflected in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, including discussion of public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance*. Both resolutions recognized the need for further improvement, acknowledged the extension of the IGF's mandate through 2025 and stressed the need for the enhanced participation of Governments and stakeholders from all developing countries, in particular, least developed countries, in all meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, and in this regard invites member states, as well as other relevant stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in preparatory meetings.

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<sup>14</sup> [https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/300/26576](https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/300/26576)

<sup>15</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-outputs>

<sup>16</sup> [https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ecosoc\\_res\\_2019d24\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ecosoc_res_2019d24_en.pdf)

<sup>17</sup> <https://undocs.org/en/E/RES/2022/15>

<sup>18</sup> <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n19/433/75/pdf/n1943375.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/418/14/pdf/n2341814.pdf>

## Activities undertaken in 2024

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Below is a consolidated summary of activities undertaken in preparation for the 19<sup>th</sup> annual IGF meeting. The summary is structured around the four expected accomplishments listed in the [IGF Project Document](#)<sup>20</sup>:

- A. *Creation of an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue related to the key elements of Internet governance;*
- B. *Enhanced collaboration among key organizations dealing with different Internet governance issues in support of the Information Society and development goals;*
- C. *Exchange of information to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet;*
- D. *Strengthened capacity of developing country stakeholders to participate effectively in Internet governance arrangements.*

### A. Expected Accomplishment 1

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*Creating of an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue related to the key elements of Internet governance*

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#### A.1 IGF 2024 Preparatory Process

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Immediately after the 2023 annual meeting in Japan concluded, the 2024 IGF planning cycle started, building on the 2023 outcomes. The preparatory cycle started with the renewal of the MAG and subsequently included open consultations, MAG meetings, public surveys, calls for contributions, and engagement strategies, as detailed below.

##### 1.1 Renewal of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG)

The United Nations Secretary-General appoints the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) to advise on the programme and schedule of the annual meeting. MAG members come from all stakeholder groups and regions, representing governments, civil society, the private sector and the technical community. They serve in accordance with the [MAG Terms of Reference](#)<sup>21</sup> and in their personal capacity, but are expected to have close connections with their respective stakeholder groups. Representatives of previous host countries and relevant international and intergovernmental organizations are also invited to participate in MAG meetings.

The 2024 MAG was announced<sup>22</sup> on 8 October 2023, at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> annual IGF meeting. Among the 40 members, 11 were newly appointed. The United Nations Secretary-General appointed Ms. Carol Roach of The Bahamas as the Chair of the MAG for 2024.

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<sup>20</sup> [https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot\\_download/4099/516](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/4099/516)

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-terms-of-reference%20>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/mag-2023-members>

As with every year, the process for renewing the MAG was carried out through bottom-up, open community consultations. Steps were taken to further improve the MAG 2024 selection process, in order to achieve a timely and effective renewal, based on feedback from various stakeholders (including from the IGF Retreat in 2016 and IGF Expert Group Meeting in 2022):

- The MAG 'Call for nominations' continued to be announced earlier than in previous years, allowing for a more extensive nominations timeline.
- On the public list of current MAG members, the terms served, as well as their stakeholder and regional affiliations, were added.
- A guidance note was published with the Call. It included information on vacant seats, the desirable composition of the MAG (in relation to gender parity, stakeholder and regional balance), a historical overview of countries represented (highlighting un- or under-representation), and an overview of MAG members with the number of terms served and their stakeholder and regional affiliations.
- Priority was given to the eligible candidates coming from historically underrepresented regions. Careful consideration was given to the more balanced inclusion of youth and more senior candidates. Gender parity was achieved.

## 2.1 Planning Meetings and Overall Process Improvements

During the previous IGF cycle, several objectives for improving the overall process for 2024 were achieved. These relate to, among others, improving the hybrid format; improving working modalities, particularly of intersessional activities; strengthening stakeholder engagement; and increasing the inclusiveness and visibility of the IGF.

The programme planning was carried out through over thirty meetings of the MAG and its working groups. Two MAG meetings were hosted as hybrid and the rest online<sup>23</sup>. In addition, more than 100 open online meetings were held to support MAG working groups, IGF intersessional work streams, and national, regional and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs).

To ensure inclusivity, the 19<sup>th</sup> annual IGF was held as a fully hybrid meeting, with participants joining onsite in Riyadh and online. To make participation in the meeting meaningful and inclusive for all attendees, several innovations and specific features were introduced:

- Community-centred interactive intersessional work carried out in the leadup to the 19<sup>th</sup> IGF;
- Consize and issue-focused thematic programme design;
- Improved capacity development activities and increased cooperation across sectors;
- Sounder communication and stakeholder engagement framework.

The MAG chartered four [MAG-led working groups](#)<sup>24</sup>, namely the Working Group on Workshop Processes (WG-WSP), the Working Group on IGF Strategy (WG-Strategy), the Working Group on Youth Engagement (WG-Youth), and the Working Group on Multilingualism (WG-Multilingual). These groups worked throughout the year on their

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<sup>23</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/mag-meeting-summaries>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-working-groups>



respective focus areas.

## 2.2 Open Consultations, MAG and LP Meetings

Two Open Consultations and MAG Meetings, as well as Leadership Panel Meetings, were hosted during the 2024 IGF cycle: the first Open Consultations and MAG meeting was hosted hybrid from 27 to 29 February 2024 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and the second one was hosted in a hybrid format from the United Nations Office in Geneva from 26 to 28 June 2024. The Leadership Panel (LP) met in Riyadh, from 25 to 27 February and during the 19<sup>th</sup> IGF annual meeting in Riyadh. In addition, both MAG and LP held multiple online meetings throughout the year.

The Open Consultations and MAG meetings were moderated by the MAG Chair, Ms. Carol Roach, while the Leadership Panel Meetings were moderated by the Panel's Chair, Mr. Vint Cerf supported by the Vice Chair, Ms. Maria Ressa. The IGF Secretariat was represented by Mr. Chengetai Masango. On behalf of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Mr. Deniz Susar participated. Also in attendance were representatives of the IGF 2024 Host – the Government of Saudi Arabia –with Mr. Abdulrahman Almutairi, Vice Governor for Strategy and Partnerships at Digital Government Authority serving as designated IGF 2024 Host Country Co-Chair.

The core objective of these meetings was to plan the IGF process, including its preparations, intersessional work and the 19<sup>th</sup> annual meeting.

The key points discussed during the Open Consultations and MAG meetings related to:

- *More focused and coherent IGF programme relevant to local and global priorities and of use for other global processes such as the WSIS+20 and Global Digital Compact;*
- *More output-oriented meeting with better integration of the different types of outcomes into a single outcome document.*
- *Hybrid format of the meeting with meaningful opportunities for online and onsite participation.*
- *Increased participation of under-engaged stakeholders, such as youth, governments, parliaments and the private sector.*
- *Improved connections among intersessional tracks, and with other global processes.*
- *Development of a comprehensive communications and stakeholder-engagement plan.*
- *Simplified access to the online meeting platform and dedicated meeting pages based on the user's demands.*

The consultations also heard updates from UN Agencies and other organizations, among which the Internet Society (ISOC), Diplo Foundation and the Geneva Internet Platform, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Council of Europe (CoE), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa



(UNECA), the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and others. The interventions for the February meeting are listed [here](#) and [here](#) for the June meeting.

The MAG decided to continue the issue-driven approach for the IGF 2024 programme, aiming to address the above-mentioned key points, and input received from the IGF community, and to shape the IGF programme around focused global priorities. This approach served a dual goal:

- The evolution and strengthening of the IGF, by encouraging targeted, deeper discussion on specific issue areas and leading to more focused outcomes.
- The preservation of the IGF's open and bottom-up character, as an enabling environment for dialogue and debate on a wide range of issues considered relevant by people and institutions from all stakeholder groups around the world.

The IGF 2024 programme, under the overarching theme "Building our Multistakeholder Digital Future", was developed around four themes<sup>25</sup>:

- Harnessing innovation and balancing risks in the digital space.
- Enhancing the digital contribution to peace, development, and sustainability.
- Advancing human rights and inclusion in the digital age.
- Improving digital governance for the Internet We Want.

The IGF 2024 themes aligned closely with the community inputs received through a traditional public Call for Thematic Inputs<sup>26</sup>, and are associated with corresponding narratives, policy questions and issues, to help orient session organizers when submitting session proposals.

The IGF 2024 featured a variety of session formats<sup>27</sup> tailored to different types of meetings and discussions:

- [High-Level Sessions](#), organized by the Host Country and the UN;
- [Main Sessions](#), organized by the MAG around priority issues related to the IGF 2024 programme sub-themes;
- [Workshops](#), community-organized multistakeholder interactive sessions on issues related to the IGF 2024 programme sub-themes;
- [Open Forums](#), organized by governments, treaty-based international organisations, and global organisations with international scope and presence, operating across regions, dealing with Internet governance issues;
- [Launches and Awards](#), sessions presenting Internet governance-related academic and/or research initiatives, outputs of research or think tank work, book launches and similar;
- [Lightning Talks](#), brief, to-the-point, prepared presentations on a specific Internet governance issue;

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<sup>25</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-themes>

<sup>26</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/igf-2024-proposed-issues>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf2024-call-for-session-proposals>

- [Networking Sessions](#), gatherings of stakeholders interested in a same or similar issue; icebreaker sessions; social gatherings; gatherings of people and organisations from a particular region, stakeholder group, or area of activity;
- [DC Sessions](#), collaborative sessions organized by multistakeholder teams of different Dynamic Coalitions (DCs);
- [NRIs Sessions](#), collaborative sessions organized by multistakeholder teams of NRIs coming from different regions;
- [Intersessional work sessions](#), organized by the facilitators of IGF Best Practice Forums and Policy Networks;
- [Pre-events](#), sessions hosted on the day before the IGF official programme begins (15 December).

The IGF 2024 provided an early opportunity for all stakeholders to share perspectives on the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20). An overview of [IGF 2024 Sessions related to the WSIS+20 Review](#) is available on a dedicated page on the IGF website.

The IGF 2024 made a special effort to strategically engage with [business](#)<sup>28</sup> and [judiciary](#)<sup>29</sup> through dedicated sessions. This prompted participating stakeholders to call for the continuation of these initiatives.

A number of social events were organized by the Host Country as well as other participating stakeholders.

### **2.3 Leadership Panel and Follow-up to the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda**

Continuous efforts are invested to improve the IGF, in line with its mandate. This also includes responding to the WSIS+20 review, the implementation of the Global Digital Compact, as well as the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2022, the Secretary-General appointed the [Leadership Panel](#)<sup>30</sup>, as a strategic high-level multistakeholder body. The 15-member<sup>31</sup> Panel continued its work in 2024 through regular online meetings and two in-person meetings, hosted during the IGF Open Consultations and MAG meeting in February in Riyadh and in December at the 19th IGF in Riyadh. A number of members met at the Summit of the Future which was held alongside the UN General Assembly High-Level Week and where the Global Digital Compact was agreed.

At the IGF meeting in Riyadh, the Panel members engaged with many other initiatives and organisations through bilateral meetings and engaged with the wider community by actively participating in various sessions. A dedicated meeting between the Panel and the MAG took

<sup>28</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-business-engagement>

<sup>29</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-judiciary-engagement-session-ai-in-the-judiciary-usage-regulation-and-ethical-concerns>

<sup>30</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/terms-of-reference-for-the-igf-leadership-panel>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-leadership-panel-members>

place and focused on strategic improvements to the IGF in the context of the GDC implementation and WSIS+20 review. The 19th IGF provided the Panel with an opportunity to further present their vision for good governance of digital technologies, as outlined in their ["The Internet We Want" paper](#)<sup>32</sup>. This document highlights key priority areas of work for digital technologies to serve humanity.

The Panel is working toward the long-term sustainability of the Forum. In this regard, future host countries are being explored, along with new partnerships and cooperation mechanisms, and ways to effectively respond to WSIS+20 to strengthen the next IGF mandate.

### 3. Intersessional work and collaboration with National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives

In between two annual IGF meetings, the community engages in several substantive activities, which are later discussed at the annual IGF meeting. These activities are collectively called the IGF intersessional work<sup>33</sup> and take the following forms:

- [Best Practice Forums \(BPFs\)](#), which provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange experiences in addressing Internet policy issues, discuss and identify emerging and existing good practices.
- [Dynamic Coalitions \(DCs\)](#), as open, multistakeholder groups dedicated to an Internet governance issue or set of issues.
- [Policy Networks \(PNs\)](#), facilitated by multistakeholder working groups of experts and based on broad bottom-up community consultations, aim to assess the current state of Internet policy issues and to identify existing policy gaps, capacity, local specificities, good and bad practices, and possible ways forward.

In 2024, the following BPF and PNs were implemented:

- The [Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity](#) focused on fostering cooperation to ensure the efficient and effective use of the limited resources for cybersecurity capacity building.
- The [Policy Network on Meaningful Access](#) focused on advocating for the implementation of policy solutions for meaningful access issues, monitoring ongoing and new practices, and fostering multistakeholder debates on connectivity, digital inclusion, and capacity development. It aligned efforts with the Global Digital Compact and WSIS+20 and IGF+20 processes.
- The [Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation](#) explored policy, technical, legal and regulatory measures that may threaten the open, interconnected, and interoperable nature of the Internet. It specifically focused on the commitment outlined in the GDC (article 29(c)) to 'promote international cooperation among all stakeholders to prevent, identify and address risks of fragmentation, and explored how the multistakeholder community can contribute to the operationalisation of this commitment.
- [Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence](#) addressed policy matters related to AI accountability, environmental sustainability in Generative AI, effective governance and interoperability, and tackled labour issues across AI's lifecycle.

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<sup>32</sup> [https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/263/26312](https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/263/26312)

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/thematic-intersessional-work>

- [31 Dynamic Coalitions \(DCs\)](#) continued their work as independent, multistakeholder expert discussion groups on a variety of topics, respecting common standards of transparency and inclusiveness (open archives, open membership, open mailing lists). The DC network specifically collaborated throughout the year to explore how they could support the implementation of the GDC. Their DC main session focused on how DCs can contribute to the Internet We Want, aligning with the Leadership Panel vision paper.

More than 175 [national, regional and youth IGF initiatives \(NRIs\)](#)<sup>34</sup> identified through a bottom-up process the thematic focus for a dedicated NRIs session at the 19<sup>th</sup> IGF. The outcome of this consultation led to the preparation of a main session on the principles for the core of the Internet.

Both DCs and NRIs networks developed their bottom-up agendas related to their work plan and future process improvements, which served as the focus for their traditional coordination sessions hosted shortly after the IGF 2023 annual meeting.

## A.2 The 19th Annual IGF Meeting

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In 2024, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) held its 19<sup>th</sup> annual meeting in a hybrid format, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and online. Under the overarching theme *Building Our Multistakeholder Digital Future*, the meeting featured discussions on some of the most pressing Internet and digital policy issues, from connectivity and human rights to Internet fragmentation, cybersecurity and new and emerging technologies.

The Forum brought together representatives from governments, the technical and academic communities, businesses, civil society and intergovernmental organizations to discuss advancing a range of Internet-related policy issues. It provided a substantive multistakeholder platform for engaged and informed discussions about policy issues pertaining to the Internet, amplifying digital cooperation and how the Internet can support and fulfil the nexus of respect for human rights and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, the 2024 annual meeting was an opportunity for stakeholders to share perspectives as input for the WSIS+20 review and reflect on the implementation of the Global Digital Compact.

### 1.2 About the hybrid format

The 19th IGF was held as a fully hybrid meeting, with participants joining onsite, in Riyadh, and online. With the overall objective of making participation in the meeting meaningful and inclusive for all attendees, onsite as well as online, the hybrid format included several features:

- Through the [IGF website](#), serving as a primary entry point, all online participants, including those with active roles such as speakers, moderators, and rapporteurs, were able to engage and contribute on par with those participating onsite.
- A [3D Venue](#) was created as a virtual equivalent to the onsite venue. Like onsite participants, the online participants could enter the meeting rooms and connect to the participation platform.

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<sup>34</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives>

- The [IGF Village](#) booths, hosted by over 80 organisations at the venue, had their online equivalents.
- [Remote hubs](#) facilitated the participation of those unable to travel.
- [Bilateral meetings](#) could also be organised with online participation.
- A dedicated [website landing page](#) and adjusted [mobile app](#) were made available to support easier navigation of the IGF 2024 content.

To provide a high-level overview for decision-makers of the most current thinking on key Internet governance issues, discussions from the over 300 sessions held during IGF 2024 have been distilled into [IGF 2024 Outputs](#)<sup>35</sup>, and specifically the key takeaways from all sessions fed into the [Riyadh IGF Messages](#)<sup>36</sup> structured per issue area.

## 2.2 IGF 2023 High-Level Leaders Track

Co-organised by the [Host Country](#) and [UN DESA/IGF Secretariat](#), the [IGF 2024 High-Level Leader's Track](#) engaged experts and leaders from all stakeholder groups in discussions on a series of important digital policy issues. The track saw the participation of over 200 high-level delegates, including ministers, CEOs, and other leaders.

The sessions of the High-Level Leaders' Track were held on:

- Navigating the Misinformation Maze: Strategic Cooperation for a Trusted Digital Future.
- Extending Digital Identity Verification to Protect Internet Transactions.
- Exploring Transparency and Explainability in AI: An Ethical Imperative.
- From Summit of the Future to WSIS+ 20.
- Protecting Children's Rights in the Digital World.

These sessions, interpreted into the six official UN languages and broadcast live, set the scene for the subsequent main high-level sessions, addressing the meeting's subthemes in a cross-cutting way.

The purpose of the track was to gather leaders from across the stakeholder spectrum and engage them in dialogue and knowledge exchange on issues that require critical multistakeholder and multidisciplinary effort to resolve.

The track also identified areas where digital technologies hold significant potential to advance sustainable development objectives. The main takeaways from the High-Level Leaders Track are integrated in the Riyadh IGF Messages and its summaries are available on the IGF website.

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<sup>35</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-outputs>

<sup>36</sup> [https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/305/28526](https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/305/28526)

### 3.2 Strengthened parliamentary track

Building on the past years' experience, the IGF further strengthened its [Parliamentary Track](#)<sup>37</sup>, in particular through expanding a set of intersessional activities dedicated to fostering inter-parliamentary dialogue and cooperation on key digital policy issues. The engagement took place at the regional level throughout the year through cooperation with regional IGFs. Below is an overview of activities undertaken in 2024.

#### Parliamentary track at regional IGFs

To foster meaningful engagement with members of parliaments from different regions, the IGF Secretariat cooperated directly with Parliaments or with regional IGFs. At the Central Asian IGF hosted in Uzbekistan, at the [West African IGF](#) hosted in Senegal, and at the [African IGF](#) hosted in Ethiopia, parliamentarians from the respective regions gathered to discuss digital issues of interest such as digital transformation and cooperation, the regulation of AI, data governance and others. The IGF also collaborated with the Chamber of Deputies of Argentina on a [Regional Summit of Parliamentarians on Artificial Intelligence and the Latin American Agenda](#) in June in Buenos Aires, as well as with the National Congress and the Ministry of Science, Technology, Knowledge and Innovation of Chile, on [dedicated activities](#) prior to the Latin American and Caribbean IGF (LACIGF) in November in Santiago de Chile.

#### Parliamentary Track at IGF 2024

During the IGF meeting in Riyadh, over 90 parliamentarians from more than 35 countries, as well as the European and the Pan-African Parliament, got together - on site and online - to exchange experiences and interact with other stakeholders on digital cooperation, including relevant international Internet governance processes, such as the Global Digital Compact and the World Summit on the Information Society review process. Over nine very rich and engaging sessions, parliamentarians highlighted the importance of multistakeholder cooperation for empowering legislators to make informed decisions.

Many parliamentarians expressed a strong interest in continuing and strengthening their engagement within the IGF, participating in national and regional IGF initiatives, and utilizing the work carried out in these fora as resources to inform their parliamentary discussions and activities.

These and other messages are reflected in an [output document](#)<sup>38</sup>, which is intended to inform parliamentary action in the years to come.

#### Other Parliamentary Activities in 2024

Between January and March, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in cooperation with UNESCO and the IGF Secretariat, organized three capacity-building workshops on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. The workshops also informed the preparations for the IPU resolution "The impact of artificial intelligence on democracy, human rights and the rule of law", which was adopted at the 149th IPU Assembly in October. In parallel, UNESCO developed a consultation paper on AI regulation with the support of the Inter-

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<sup>37</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-parliamentary-track>

<sup>38</sup> [https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/333/28522](https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/333/28522)

Parliamentary Union and IGF Parliamentary Track to engage parliamentarians globally and enhance their capacities in evidence-based policymaking for AI.

#### 4.2 Involvement of UN agencies

Following a dedicated UN engagement strategy in place since 2021, the Forum saw 35 entities from the UN System involved in the 19<sup>th</sup> IGF as organizers or speakers in sessions, including the High-Level Track. Among those involved were UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN University - CRIS (UNU-CRIS), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA), UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN Environment Programme (UNEP), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA), UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA). Agency representatives discussed the tremendous potential of digital technologies to boost sustainable development and called for more cooperation across the system.

#### 5.2 Focus on youth

To effectively engage youth, a dedicated [IGF 2024 Youth Track](#)<sup>39</sup> was designed and implemented throughout the year. In cooperation with all Youth IGF coordinators, as well as international youth-focused organisations, the track was designed and delivered through four capacity development workshops hosted in conjunction with [regional IGFs](#). Additionally, the [IGF 2024 Global Youth Summit](#) was hosted at the 19th IGF in Riyadh. The track focused on unpacking various aspects of AI governance and engaged over a thousand of young people.

##### Capacity development workshops

Four capacity development workshops were hosted in conjunction with the [regional IGFs](#) ([EuroDIG](#) in Lithuania, [Youth LACIGF](#) in Chile, [APrIGF](#) and [African IGF](#) in Ethiopia), focusing on particular aspects of AI governance, such as responsible use of large language models, capacity development, human rights implications and building a responsible AI governance ecosystem.

##### IGF 2024 Global Youth Summit and Messages from Youth

The four workshops fed into the final activity of the track, the [IGF 2024 Global Youth Summit](#), hosted in Riyadh on 15 December. This session during the IGF aimed to facilitate dialogue between youth and more senior stakeholders. Youth from all five regions of the world

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<sup>39</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-youth-track>



engaged in a dialogue with senior experts from different backgrounds and countries. More details about the IGF 2024 Youth Track and the Summit are available on this [dedicated page](#). All discussions are consolidated in [Messages from Youth](#).

## **6.2 Improving visibility and tangible outcomes of the 19<sup>th</sup> IGF**

The IGF aims to continuously improve its processes. This applies to working modalities, as well as strengthening stakeholder engagement and raising the inclusiveness and visibility of the IGF.

Through its preparatory and engagement phase and intersessional work, the IGF 2024 engaged stakeholders from all sectors with interest or expertise in Internet governance. The working groups the MAG chartered for 2024 were open to everyone, allowing for broad stakeholder engagement.

Further, in light of the high level of stakeholder interest and their global political relevance, the IGF strategically emphasized issues related to artificial intelligence, access and inclusion, and Internet fragmentation. This enabled the IGF to expand its community of traditional participants to a new set of experts and policy actors. The inclusion of these issues as year-long intersessional activities and within the annual meeting programme was particularly relevant within the wider context of the WSIS+20 review, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda Report, and the Global Digital Compact.

The IGF continued to emphasize the openness and inclusiveness of its processes. Through the call for thematic inputs, the call for session proposals, contributions to intersessional work, and other paths, a large number of stakeholders from around the world to directly shaped IGF 2024 programme.

The 2024 MAG renewal brought new stakeholders into the heart of IGF programme building. Members from historically unrepresented and underrepresented countries were appointed to the MAG (such as Slovakia, Ukraine, Denmark, and Iceland), all coming from diverse backgrounds and disciplines.

Following the MAG's advice on programme planning, the IGF Secretariat shared the annual work plan with national, regional and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs) as well as Dynamic Coalitions (DC). Continuous coordination among these initiatives was conducted by the Secretariat through (bi)monthly online meetings, review of adherence to IGF core criteria, and substantive contributions to their individual processes. Joint work through the Secretariat also helped determine the thematic orientation of NRI and DC main sessions at the annual meeting. Strong support for these networks also resulted in their qualitative renewal.

The IGF 2024 capacity development framework explained in more detail further in this report, also increased stakeholder engagement in intersessional work.

To document the rich discussions at the IGF, session organizers are required to provide straightforward reports shortly after their sessions. They must submit key takeaways and

call-to-action points, followed by a more detailed report by a later deadline. All session outputs are collected in one space on the IGF website. The key takeaways and call-to-action points also contribute to the IGF messages, which are published (in draft) at the end of IGF week and widely distributed. IGF 2024 sessions were captioned in real-time, and live-streamed via the [IGF YouTube](#)<sup>40</sup> channel. All high-level leaders' track and main sessions were interpreted in six UN languages and were also broadcast on UN Web TV and the IGF YouTube channel.

All IGF 2024 outputs<sup>41</sup> are collected in one place on the IGF website to give them more visibility, showcasing the diversity in outcomes and making them easier to access

## 7.2 Technical improvements

In 2024 all good functioning taken from previous IGFs was fully used and exploited, including a clean system for room booking, an automated system for transcript and report publication, as well as an organized, integrated schedule system with the multilingual mobile app that showed registered participants per session, facilitating networking.

The 3D Virtual platform continued to be an accessible system for online participants to mainly interact with the IGF Village.

Specific improvements were made to enhance participants' experience, including changes to how to connect to the sessions and participate online. These improvements ensured no security flaws while maintaining a user-friendly access to content and conversations, and permissions to share content and video. A simple, single registration process was implemented for all participants, both onsite and online.

The server was set in the cloud with elastic capability and prearranged optimized data access, producing zero downtime. The commenting platform was also reorganized for quick finding of content. The feedback on the technical aspects of IGF 2024 was generally positive.

A dedicated landing [webpage](#)<sup>42</sup> for the annual meeting was created to reflect all relevant information in one place. IGF 2024 sessions were captioned in real-time, and live-streamed via [IGF YouTube](#)<sup>43</sup> channel. All high-level leaders' track and main sessions were interpreted in six UN languages.

## 8.2 Advancing outputs

Significant effort was invested in advancing participants' outputs. In the leadup to IGF 2024, several guides were created to inform and orient session organizers, including narrative overviews of the IGF themes. Communication through a regular newsletter, periodic mailing list updates, and the IGF's social media accounts were continuously facilitated throughout the year. UN press releases on the Forum were also published.

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<sup>40</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/user/igf/featured>

<sup>41</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-outputs>

<sup>42</sup> <https://igf2024.intgovforum.org/>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/user/igf/featured>

The IGF 2024 annual meeting resulted in several tangible [outputs](#)<sup>44</sup>, with written output reports emerging from all the intersessional activities, as well as the messages produced for the issue areas, the parliamentary roundtable and the youth track. The [Riyadh IGF Messages](#)<sup>45</sup> were developed based on session reports from the session organizers received within a few hours of their session conclusion.

A communication strategy was developed to support IGF 2024 and its community outreach activities. One press briefing was held and four Media Hub sessions were also produced and distributed to IGF-accredited journalists, the IGF main press mailing list, and media lists at the UN Secretariat through the Department of Global Communications. Also, to support stakeholder engagement between local and global processes, the IGF Secretariat and/or the MAG Chair or Leadership Panel Chair or Vice Chair, participated in several NRIs meetings, such as Finland IGF, Russia IGF, Moldova IGF, Nepal Youth IGF, Togo IGF, EuroDIG and its YouthDIG, Central Asian IGF, Haiti IGF, West African IGF, Benin IGF, Benin Youth IGF, Southeast Asian Youth IGF, Liberia IGF, Youth Myanmar IGF, Tanzania IGF, Mauritius IGF, Caribbean IGF, Cameroon IGF, Ghana IGF, Nigeria IGF, Serbia IGF, Lusophone IGF, East African IGF, North African IGF, Cambodia Youth IGF, Latin American and the Caribbean IGF, Colombia IGF, South Eastern European IGF (SEEDIG), Ukraine IGF and its Youth IGF, Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF, Italy IGF, Afghanistan IGF and others. The IGF Secretariat and/or the MAG Chair also participated in some of the largest global events on the Internet and social development, such as the annual session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), the UN High-Level Political Forum and the Summit of the Future amongst others.

### **Engagement throughout the year with stakeholders and Internet governance-related entities**

Throughout the year, stakeholder engagement and cooperation were facilitated through the intersessional work streams and the NRIs, as well as through the active participation of the IGF Secretariat, UN DESA, the MAG, and the Leadership Panel in key Internet governance meetings.

The Best Practice Forum, three Policy Networks, 31 Dynamic Coalitions and 175 NRIs hosted over a hundred (100) meetings engaging stakeholders from all parts of the world to contribute and exchange good practices. Furthermore, through these intersessional policy and capacity-building activities, as well as through the network of NRIs, the IGF continued to strengthen ties with digitally-focused or digital governance-related organizations worldwide, from dedicated government agencies, regional Internet registries, universities, and processes like NetMundial, and political blocs such as the G20 and European Union Commission, where IGF is a regular participant in its High-level Group on Internet Governance.

Cooperation within the UN System continued to expand. An increasing number and variety of UN agencies – including OHCHR, UNESCO, UNDP, UNIDIR, UNICRI, UNCTED and UN regional commissions – contributed to the IGF's intersessional open consultations and the annual meeting. Additionally, the IGF's affiliation to the GDC Core Group and Cyber Hub further strengthened its network. Through the WSIS and GDC processes, the IGF maintained close

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<sup>44</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-outputs>

<sup>45</sup> [https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/305/28526](https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/305/28526)

ties with the ITU, UNCTAD and the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology (OSET).

The 2024 IGF process continued to focus on contributing to the implementation of the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and Our Common Agenda Report, through the work of the appointed Leadership Panel, forging linkages with NRIs, fostering engagement with parliamentarians and contributing with global multistakeholder input to the implementation on the GDC with the messages emerged from the meeting.

In implementing the [youth engagement strategy](#)<sup>46</sup>, the Secretariat continued to engage with different stakeholders to expand its network of young people gathered around the dedicated mailing list and involved in the planning of the youth track at IGF 2024. It specifically worked with all Youth IGFs and other youth-delegated focal points from national and regional IGFs, as well as with the Internet Society's Ambassadors Programme and the Youth Movement.

IGF Secretariat and UN DESA renewed their partnership with the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) to co-organize the parliamentary track. The parliamentary track gained much prominence this year within different regions and over 90 parliamentarians went through several capacity development activities, such as thematic workshops, and the roundtable hosted at the 19<sup>th</sup> IGF.

The Forum successfully strengthened its engagement with the UN System – moving beyond the inclusion of UN entities as individual organizers of “open forum”-type sessions, and inviting them to coordinate and dialogue with one another within the IGF 2024 High-level Leaders track.

Participants in the High-level track<sup>47</sup> brought diverse backgrounds to the IGF 2024, ministerial representatives and leaders from the private sector, technical community and civil society, including high-level representatives from ITU, European Commission, Google, Digital Cooperation Organization, Kaspersky, ICANN, ISOC, WIPRO, Meta and many others..

The UN Secretary-General and the Minister of Communications and Information Technologies of Saudi Arabia also addressed the meeting, rounding out participation at the highest political levels.

### **Ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)<sup>48</sup>**

The IGF continued to work on implementing the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF. These are namely: *increasing and improving both the tangible outcomes and the overall visibility of the IGF; the working modalities of the IGF, including open consultations, the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and the IGF Secretariat; the funding of the IGF; broadening participation and capacity-building, and linking the IGF to other Internet governance-related entities.*

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<sup>46</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-youth-track>

<sup>47</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/igf-2024-high-level-track>

<sup>48</sup> [https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162012\\_p09\\_EN.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162012_p09_EN.pdf)

Created as one of the major outcomes of the WSIS process, all of the work of the IGF Secretariat aims to ensure that the IGF facilitates implementation of all the agreed action lines, including, but not limited to: (C1) The role of public governance authorities and all stakeholders in the promotion of ICTs for development; (C4) Capacity building and (C11) International and regional cooperation.

### A.3 Facilitation of Participation

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Particular attention in this IGF cycle was given to the substantive and technical aspects of participation, given the hybrid modality and large number of online participants. The Zoom platform was predominately used for enabling the participation of stakeholders in all the intersessional activities, as well as the annual meeting. Online training sessions were held for the session organizers and rapporteurs to familiarize them with the Zoom platform.

The IGF improved its website's automated system for receiving session proposals to allow for a more visible overview of received proposals and related statistics. It also made it technically set to develop its interactive annual meeting's schedule, as well as for all post-session reports and transcripts to be available shortly after each session concludes in a structured manner with the possibility of filtering sessions across themes, meeting days and room. The website also facilitated the possibility of direct communication among registered IGF participants.

A dedicated [webpage](#)<sup>49</sup> for the annual meeting was created to reflect all relevant information in one place. The IGF 2024 sessions were live-streamed via UN Web TV, IGF YouTube and real-time captioned. All main sessions and high-level sessions were interpreted in the six UN languages. These improvements contributed to a record participation of over 10,000 stakeholders at IGF 2024.

## B. Expected Accomplishment 2

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Enhanced collaboration among key organizations dealing with different Internet governance issues in support of the Information Society and development goals

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### B.1 Participation in the 19<sup>th</sup> annual IGF meeting

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The official [statistics](#) regarding IGF 2024 participation were published on the IGF website after the annual meeting ended<sup>50</sup>. The 19th annual IGF meeting received a

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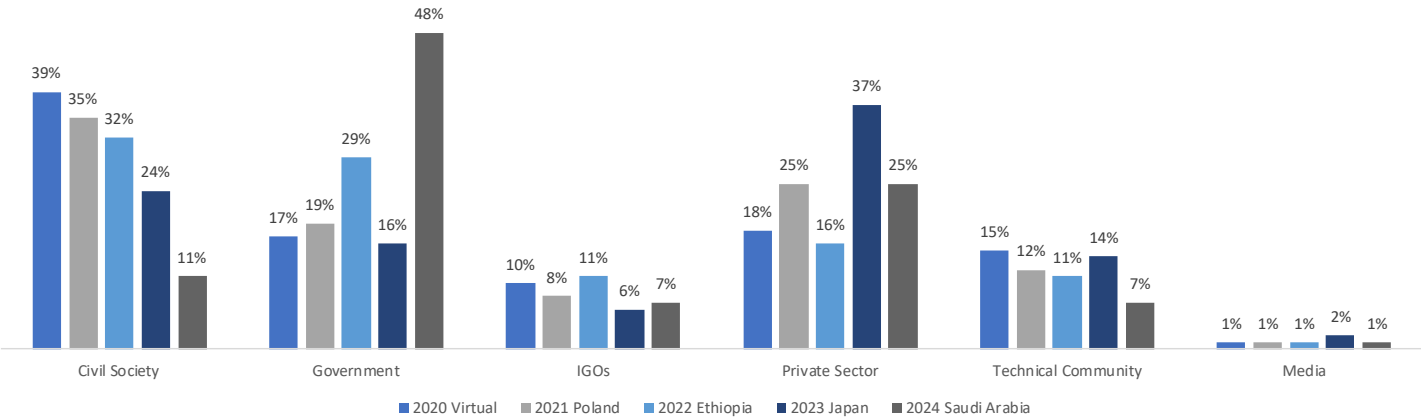
<sup>49</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/dashboard/igf-2024>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-participation-and-programme-statistics>

record number of 11,749 registered participants. At the IGF venue in Riyadh, 7,343 participants collected their badges and participated onsite in the meeting. Over 2,800 stakeholders participated online, making the total participation at the 19th annual IGF meeting over 10,143. The majority of onsite participants came from Saudi Arabia, the United States of America, China, Brazil, Switzerland, Pakistan, the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Nigeria, Germany, Egypt, Kenya, Russia, The Netherlands, Belgium, France and India. Most of the online participants connected from Saudi Arabia, the United States of America, China, Germany and India.

Looking at the stakeholder groups, most of the participants came from the Government (48%), private sector (25%) and civil society (12%), followed by the technical community (7%), intergovernmental organizations (7%) and press (1%).

The Forum saw the participation of representatives from 35 different UN agencies, in addition to a number of other intergovernmental organizations. Below is the visual comparison of the stakeholder groups participation across the last five IGF cycles<sup>51</sup>.

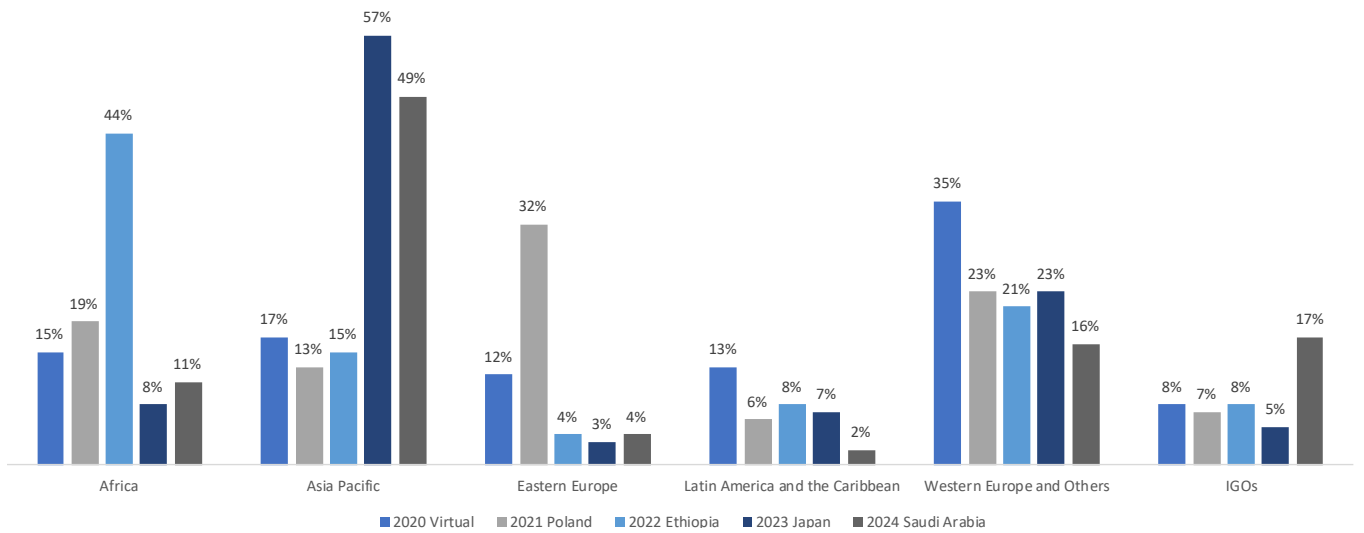


5-year comparison of IGF participation by stakeholder group

In terms of regional diversity, the majority of the participants came from Asia Pacific (50%), followed by WEOG (16%), Africa (11%), GRULAC (2%), Eastern Europe (4%) while 17% indicated to be members of the intergovernmental organizations. Compared to IGF 2023, this year's IGF saw an increase of the participants coming from the Governments (+32%); and of stakeholders from the African region (+3%). The number of stakeholders from GRULAC was lower than in 2023 (-5%).

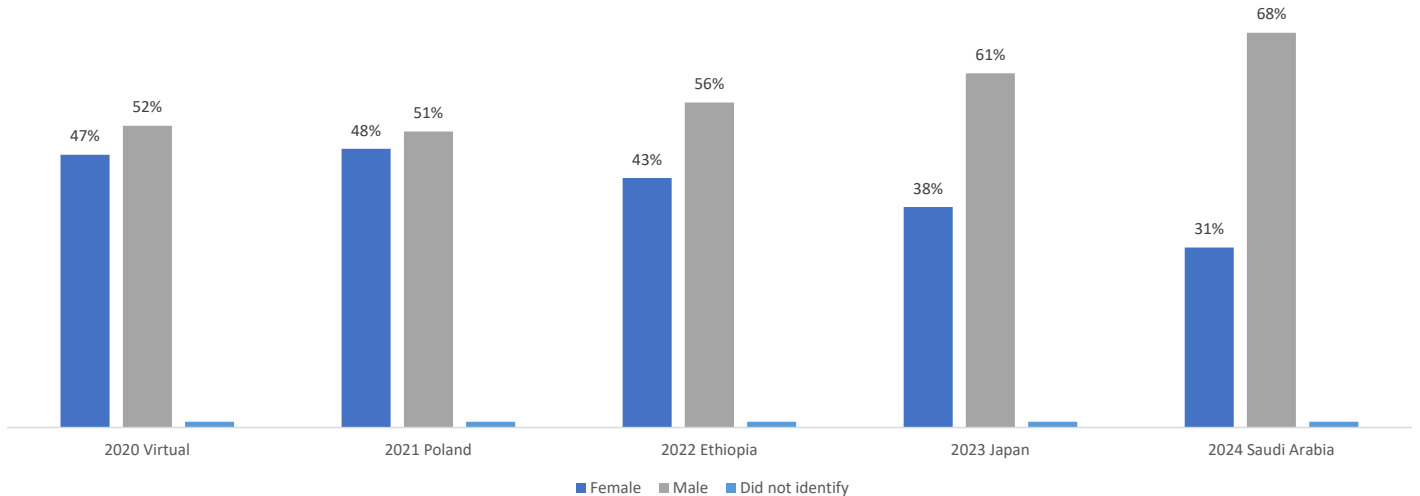
Below is the visual comparison of the regional group participation across the last five IGF cycles.

<sup>51</sup> 2021 Poland; 2022 Ethiopia; 2023 Japan; 2024 Saudi Arabia



5-year comparison of IGF participation by regional group

Gender representation was 68% male, 31% female and less than 1% did not identify. Below is the visual comparison of the last five annual IGF meetings.



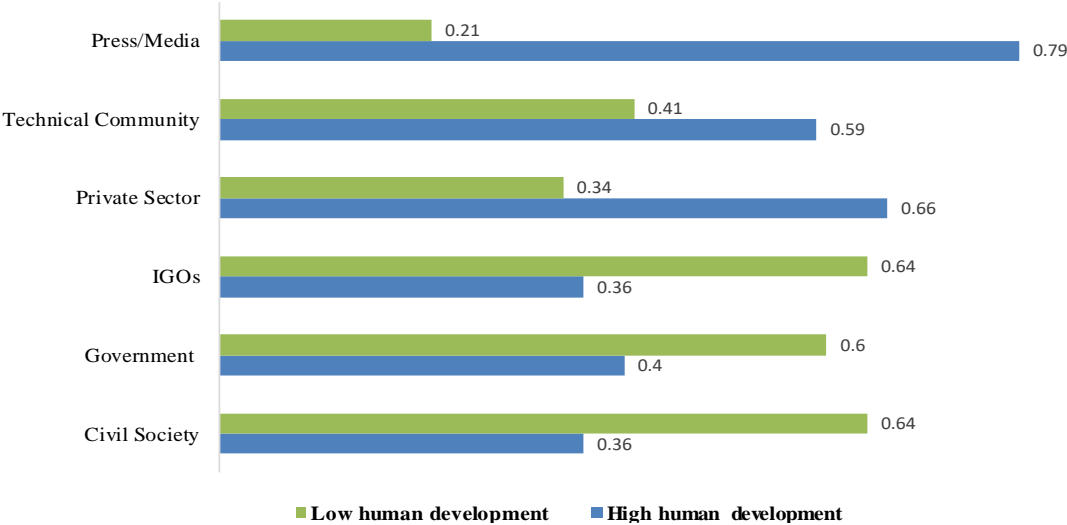
5-year comparison of IGF participation by gender

Over 2% of registered participants indicated to be members of parliament from 27 different countries.

64% of participants indicated to be first-time participants, the majority of them coming from the Host Country and region.



Regarding participation by level of development of the country, based on the latest available [HDI Index](#)<sup>52</sup>, over 54% of all participants came from developed countries classified as very high<sup>53</sup> and 46% from developing countries, not classified as very high. Below is the visual overview of these per stakeholder group.



As illustrated in the graph, the majority of participants from developing countries identified with Civil Society and IGOs, while the biggest number of participants from developed countries came from the media/press and private sector.

The meeting's livestream service attracted over 20,000 unique views. Over 70% of viewers were between 18 and 44 years of age. Livestreams were mostly viewed in Saudi Arabia (+49%), followed by the United States, China, Germany and India.

Week-of media monitoring showed that the IGF was covered in a very high number of major television outlets, including Asharq Bloomberg, Sky News Arabia, CNBC Arabia, Al-Ekhbariya and Saudi Channel, several print and online outlets such as Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Al-Madina, Okaz, Al-Jazirah, Sayidaty, Adwaa Al-Watan, Al-Rajol, and regional and international outlets Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), UN Sustainable Development Blog, Kurdistan24, GlobeNewswire, FinanzNachrichten, as well as outlets in Italy, Senegal and many more.

Thousands of stakeholders interacted with the 19th IGF hashtags #IGF2024 and #MSHDigitalFuture.

Media monitoring during the event week showed extensive coverage of the IGF across major television outlets, including Asharq Bloomberg, Sky News Arabia, CNBC Arabia, Al-Ekhbariya and Saudi Channel, several print and online outlets such as Saudi Press Agency (SPA), Al-Madina, Okaz, Al-Jazirah, Sayidaty, Adwaa Al-Watan, Al-Rajol, and regional and international outlets such as Kuwait News Agency (KUNA), UN Sustainable Development Blog,

<sup>52</sup> <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>

<sup>53</sup> <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-report-2020-readers-guide>

Kurdistan24, GlobeNewswire, FinanzNachrichten, and outlets in Italy, Senegal and many other countries.

A press kit was prepared via [Trello](#), containing a [media advisory](#), essential details about the meeting, access to [photos](#) and [videos](#) and contact information in case of interest in interviews. Opening and closing press releases were issued.

Also via [Trello](#), communications materials were shared with the IGF's session organisers to enhance the promotion of their sessions. The materials included thematic cards, social media guidance, PowerPoint templates and high-resolution logos.

All sessions were streamed and transcribed. The high-level and main sessions were interpreted in the six official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

The meeting featured [307 sessions](#). Breakdowns per session type were: 1 Opening Session, 1 Opening Ceremony, 4 Main Sessions, 91 Workshops, 45 Open Forums, 11 Launches and Awards, 46 Lightning Talks, 11 Networking Sessions, 15 Dynamic Coalition (DC) Sessions, 3 National and Regional Initiatives (NRI) Collaborative Sessions, 51 Pre-Events (Day 0 Sessions), 5 High-Level Leaders Track sessions, 9 Parliamentary Track sessions, 1 Judiciary Engagement Session, 5 Business Engagement Sessions, 1 Global Youth Summit, 1 Best Practice Forum (BPF) Session, 3 Policy Network (PN) Sessions, 1 Open Mic, and 1 Closing Ceremony.

Organizations from five different continents joined the [IGF Village](#)<sup>54</sup> with 80 booths to share their work missions with the Forum's participants. The Village included representatives from all key stakeholder groups: governments and intergovernmental organizations, the private sector, civil society and the technical community.

There were also [34 remote hubs](#)<sup>55</sup> organized around the world from 19 different countries: 50% in Africa; 17% in Asia Pacific; 17% in Latin America and the Caribbean; and 11% in WEOG.

## **[B.2 Participation in various Internet governance-related events and processes](#)**

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The IGF Secretariat continued to engage and collaborate with other Internet governance-related entities.

Throughout the year, the IGF strove to build capacity across various communities and develop a more inclusive and relevant programme. It focused on strengthening existing networks of engagement as well as interacting with new stakeholders. In addition, the IGF actively participated in various international, regional and national events to promote its core values, namely multistakeholder engagement; a people-focused approach to Internet policy:

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<sup>54</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/igf-village-2024>

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-remote-hubs>

and an open, inclusive and transparent dialogue in the service of advancing a robust, safe and accessible Internet for all.

In order to bring the 19<sup>th</sup> IGF process closer to the global community, a dedicated communication and outreach strategy was developed that raised the visibility of the IGF at major gatherings and stakeholder meetings

The IGF Secretariat and/or the MAG Chair participated in a number of national and regional IGF initiatives: Finland IGF, Russia IGF, Moldova IGF, Nepal Youth IGF, Togo IGF, EuroDIG and its YouthDIG, Central Asian IGF, Haiti IGF, West African IGF, Benin IGF, Benin Youth IGF, Southeast Asian Youth IGF, Liberia IGF, Youth Myanmar IGF, Tanzania IGF, Mauritius IGF, Caribbean IGF, Cameroon IGF, Ghana IGF, Nigeria IGF, Serbia IGF, Lusophone IGF, East African IGF, North African IGF, Cambodia Youth IGF, Latin American and the Caribbean IGF, Colombia IGF, South Eastern European IGF (SEEDIG), Ukraine IGF and its Youth IGF, Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF, Italy IGF, Afghanistan IGF and others.

The IGF Secretariat and/or the MAG Chair or Leadership Panel Chair or Vice Chair, also participated in some of the largest global events on the Internet and social development, such as the annual session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), UN High-Level Political Forum, NetMundial+10, The Summit of the Future, and meetings of the European Commission High-Level Group on Internet governance.

The IGF Secretariat played a prominent role in the G20 Digital and Tech Ministers' Track, attending both preparatory meetings for the track's negotiated outcome as well as the G20 meeting in Brazil, in April 2024.

The IGF 2024 intersessional work also engaged with many stakeholders through its open, bottom-up consultations and contributions to developing the final outputs.

Specific efforts were invested by the Host Country, the Government of Saudi Arabia in regard to in-country consultations and ensuring all sectors of the society are engaged in the IGF, including numerous bilateral meetings with the member states represented through diplomatic representatives in Saudi Arabia as well as in-country represented international organizations, engagement with universities or wider regional and international outreach.

## C. Expected Accomplishment 3

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Exchange of information to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet

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### C.1 Accessible and Inclusive Communication and Collaboration

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The exchange of information among the stakeholders engaged in the IGF process is essential for the work of the IGF, given its bottom-up working modalities. The MAG works primarily through up to three in-situ meetings and regular bimonthly online meetings, while the IGF's intersessional work depends on online community input.

The IGF website is among the most valuable tools for stakeholders to find and share information. With the hybrid hosting of IGF preparatory work and the annual meeting, the website is of vital importance to the IGF community. During 2024, it received almost 350,000 connections. Among the countries with the highest number of connections were the United States of America, China, Saudi Arabia, India, the United Kingdom, France, Brazil, Germany, Netherlands and Switzerland.

The IGF website saw a growth of 21% in registered users, with 3,273 new accounts added in 2024, bringing the total number of registered users to 47,622. Among the newly registered users, roughly 39% were female and 61% male, while 0.1% identified as other. Stakeholder-wise, newly registered website users came from civil society (35%), the private sector (25%), Government (20%), technical community (12%) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) (8%). The composition was regionally diversified: Africa (46%), WEOG (11%), Asia Pacific (28%), GRULAC (5%), Eastern Europe (3%), IGO (7%). Countries with more than 100 new accounts in 2024 were Nigeria, India, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Pakistan. Website visitors from the region where the IGF 2024 was hosted (Asia Pacific) notably increased. Mobile usage of the website rose to 33.3%.

The IGF Secretariat manages a large number of electronic mailing and discussion lists to support the preparatory process, facilitate IGF activities and foster focused discussions among stakeholders. These lists include, among others, the MAG list, dedicated lists for the intersessional Best Practice Forum and Policy Networks, NRIs and DC coordination lists, as well as mailing lists to support the different MAG working groups. Mailing list archives are publicly available.

The IGF's social media accounts also generated remarkable growth and impact. The [IGF X account](#) surpassed a milestone of 20,000 followers, with the official [Facebook](#) account close behind with 18,000 followers. Across the IGF's main accounts, X, Facebook and [Instagram](#), followership increased by nearly 15% since 2023. Post impressions, link clicks and general reach all rose significantly relative to 2023 figures, with a strong 300% increase in post views over the previous year – indications that the IGF brand is going farther and finding more new people. Social

media properties have also been diversified with the addition of [LinkedIn](#) at the end of 2023, as well as [Bluesky](#) and [TikTok](#) accounts at the end of 2024. Roughly a year into existence, the IGF's LinkedIn account has enjoyed rapid organic growth with nearly 3,000 followers to date.

Over the course of the cycle, the now well-established network of IGF communications ambassadors, representing a mix of MAG, former MAG and broader IGF community members, was used to amplify the IGF's messaging. Continuing on past years' practice, the stakeholders were actively encouraged to follow a [social media hashtag guide](#) to promote the annual meeting as well as its specific sessions.

Communications activities were ramped up during the 2024 meeting, with press briefings and [five daily media hub sessions](#) run by accredited journalists from around the world. The six journalists were selected as part of the IGF's [first-ever programme](#) to support media professionals from the Global South. Their media hub interviews were posted to the UN's major livestream and video platform, UN WebTV. The press were given ample and clear resources to assist them with coverage, thanks to practical notifications sent via the press mailing list and the IGF website's press kit prepared via [Trello](#), containing a [media advisory](#), essential details about the meeting, access to [photos](#) and [videos](#) and contact information in case of interest in interviews. [Opening](#) and [closing](#) press releases were issued.

At IGF 2024, the communications team was readily available to interface between media present at the meeting and meeting organizers, assisting with queries and coordinating interviews. Several such interviews were conducted, among others, with the Chair the Leadership Panel, Mr. Vint Cerf, and prominent IGF attendees such as Ivana Bartoletti, Chief Privacy and AI Governance Officer at Wipro, and Kaspersky CEO Eugene Kaspersky.

In the months immediately leading up to IGF 2024, communications activities included an extensive social media campaign shared among the Secretariat, DESA communications colleagues and hosting counterparts at the Digital Government Authority in Saudi Arabia. A communications kit was disseminated to all IGF 2024 session organizers through [Trello](#) to help them promote their sessions and the IGF.

A campaign to promote the extensive and varied impacts of IGF, "[Voices of the IGF](#)", gathered approximately fifty-one-minute video testimonials since its start in the second quarter of 2024. Finished and edited videos have been posted to [YouTube](#) and across the IGF's social media platforms, with plans to create a physical display of the testimonials during the 2025 IGF.

To streamline communication over the course of the annual cycle, all details on IGF 2024 preparatory and intersessional work were consolidated in a [dedicated landing page](#)<sup>56</sup>. Key developments and community calls were featured in the website's News section. A regular newsletter was distributed.

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<sup>56</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/dashboard/igf-2024>

The [schedule](#)<sup>57</sup> of the annual meeting is the backbone of the IGF, as it presents a high volume of information on sessions and activities through the IGF-week. In order to help IGF participants navigate the programme and personalize their participation, the website included a built-in [online, interactive scheduling system](#)<sup>58</sup> that allows to filter the schedule by date, meeting room, and session type. Participants could create their own personal schedule by selecting sessions of interest and creating a profile visible to other participants, which further facilitates networking.

The IGF Secretariat continued its work on improving the accessibility of the website and its features. This includes the fulfilment of W3C-WAI standards on the IGF website, expanded multilingual content, availability of the mobile, and implementation of an accessibility layer in the hybrid 3D Virtual tool, for easy navigation. With its user-friendly setup, the IGF Secretariat relied on the Zoom platform for the facilitation of online meetings. The Secretariat is committed to continue improving the accessibility of all its services.

Given the increased effort to produce tangible outputs and outcomes of the meeting, especially those related to major digital policy issues, these were given visibility in a [dedicated section](#)<sup>59</sup> on the IGF website. Outputs once published were also shared in real time to IGF 2024 meeting participants and the IGF community.

## C.2 Resources, Documents and Media Repositories

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The IGF Secretariat continued to add materials to the IGF website, including, but not limited to: various contributions received from stakeholders and syntheses of such contributions, summary reports of open consultations and MAG meetings (including the virtual meetings), background papers submitted by workshop organizers, transcripts of the open consultations and MAG meetings, intersessional documentation as well as transcripts and reports of the various sessions held during the annual IGF 2024 meeting. All these were accessible and mobile-friendly.

Media coverage of the IGF annual meeting was exhaustively documented for public perusal on the website's dedicated Press page - in addition to the resources made available for journalists, from immediately-posted press releases to multimedia resources, such as photos, videos and social-media-friendly promotional materials.

In order to foster and prompt engagement of experts from all stakeholder groups and geographic regions in IGF sessions and workshops, a [List of Resources Persons](#)<sup>60</sup> continued to be populated. The list contains profiles with interests and biographies of experts in the field of Internet Governance who volunteer to join the IGF meeting as support persons or speakers for workshops and other sessions. The list is searchable by regional and stakeholder group, and, new since this year, also by a youth criteria, to foster youth inclusion in the IGF processes. Additionally, to support youth inclusion in the overall programme, the Secretariat cooperated with the Youth IGFs and made a list of youth leaders and experts

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<sup>57</sup> <https://igf2024.sched.com>

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

<sup>59</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-outputs>

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/resource-persons>

willing to contribute to the sessions with indicated interests available to all session organizers.

All documents posted throughout the year, regardless of area of work, continued to be transparently available through the IGF's documents section on the IGF website. The website, including its document repository were migrated to a new container version to improve performance, reliability and security.

### C.3 IGF 2024 Outputs

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As outlined in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, the publication of [the IGF's proceedings](#)<sup>61</sup> is part of the Forum's mandate. In fulfilling this part of the mandate, the IGF Secretariat compiled and published the IGF 2024 [outputs](#)<sup>62</sup>, which included the overall process and substance-related summary of the IGF process including the annual meeting, as well as all transcripts and reports of sessions held during the 19<sup>th</sup> IGF annual meeting.

The [IGF 2024 Summary Report](#)<sup>63</sup> was prepared during the 19<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. The structure of the summary gives priority to key substantive features of the meeting and major outcomes, with links to its procedural aspects. The Summary is widely distributed across various networks in the IGF ecosystem.

To provide a high-level overview for decision-makers of the most current thinking on key Internet governance issues, discussions from the over 300 sessions held during IGF 2024 were distilled into the [Riyadh IGF Messages](#)<sup>64</sup> on the meeting's four themes. The draft Riyadh IGF messages were published in the afternoon of the last meeting day. Post-meeting, participants were given time to digest the messages and advise on substantial improvements, before the final version of the messages were formatted

The parliamentary track that focused on digital trust, concluded with [an output document](#)<sup>65</sup> available in [English](#)<sup>66</sup>, [French](#)<sup>67</sup>, [Arabic](#)<sup>68</sup> and [Spanish](#)<sup>69</sup>.

The IGF 2024 Youth Track's Global Youth Summit produced a set of [messages from youth](#)<sup>70</sup>.

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<sup>61</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-annual-meetings-proceedings>

<sup>62</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-outputs>

<sup>63</sup> [https://mail.intgovforum.org/IGF2023\\_summaryreport\\_final.pdf](https://mail.intgovforum.org/IGF2023_summaryreport_final.pdf)

<sup>64</sup> [https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/305/28526](https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/305/28526)

<sup>65</sup> [https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/333/28522](https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/333/28522)

<sup>66</sup> [https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/333/28522](https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/333/28522)

<sup>67</sup> [https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/333/28523](https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/333/28523)

<sup>68</sup> [https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/333/28525](https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/333/28525)

<sup>69</sup> [https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/333/28525](https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/333/28525)

<sup>70</sup> [https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/327/28527](https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/327/28527)



Session organisers were asked to submit key takeaways and call-to-action points by the end of their meeting day. They were made available on the IGF website, reflecting daily discussions and [contributing to the IGF messages](#) process. Session reports<sup>71</sup> were made available on the IGF website, as soon as submitted by the session organizers, curated together with session [transcripts](#)<sup>72</sup> and [videos](#)<sup>73</sup>.

A year-long preparatory process of the best practice forum and policy networks resulted in tangible output documents.

- The [Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity](#) focused on fostering cooperation to ensure the efficient and effective use of the limited resources for cybersecurity capacity building.
- The [Policy Network on Meaningful Access](#), focused on advocating for the implementation of policy solutions for meaningful access issues, monitoring ongoing and new practices, and fostering multistakeholder debates on connectivity, digital inclusion, and capacity development. It aligned efforts with the Global Digital Compact and WSIS+20 and IGF+20 processes.
- The [Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation](#) explored policy, technical, legal and regulatory measures that may threaten the open, interconnected, and interoperable nature of the Internet. It specifically focused on the commitment outlined in the GDC (article 29(c)) to 'promote international cooperation among all stakeholders to prevent, identify and address risks of fragmentation' and explored how the multistakeholder community can contribute to the operationalization of this commitment.
- The [Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence](#) addressed policy matters related to AI accountability, environmental sustainability in Generative AI, effective governance and interoperability, and tackled labour issues across AI's lifecycle.

#### **[C.4 Dynamic Coalitions and National, Regional, Sub-regional and Youth IGFs](#)**

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Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) are open, multistakeholder and community-driven groups dedicated to an Internet governance issue or set of issues. They emerged at the first IGF meeting in 2006.

During the 2024 IGF cycle, [31 dynamic coalitions](#)<sup>74</sup> were active and worked on topics such as environment, interplanetary Internet, gaming, AI, data and health, blockchain, network neutrality, Internet rights and principles, innovative approaches to connecting the unconnected, Internet of Things, accessibility and disability, child rights online and many others. The [Dynamic Coalition Coordination Group](#) (DCCG)<sup>75</sup> coordinated collective DC activities with support from the IGF Secretariat.

<sup>71</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/igf-2024-reports>

<sup>72</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/igf-2024-transcripts>

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/user/igf/videos>

<sup>74</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/explore-dynamic-coalitions>

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dc-coordination-activities>

At IGF 2024, 26 DCs held [individual sessions](#)<sup>76</sup> to discuss Internet policy issues within their focus and present their work. A [DC main session](#) on the theme "*Contributing to the Global Digital Compact: Dynamic Coalitions Supporting Sustainable Digital Development*" showcased how coalitions can contribute to the GDC and Sustainable Development Goals.

National, Regional, Sub-regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) are organic and independent multistakeholder networks that are discussing issues pertaining to Internet Governance from the perspective of their respective communities, while acting in accordance with the main principles of the global IGF. At the time of the 2024 IGF, 175 NRIs were recognized by the IGF Secretariat.

At the 19<sup>th</sup> IGF in Riyadh, over 100 NRIs co-organized [five sessions](#)<sup>77</sup>, including three thematic collaborative sessions, a main session and a coordination session. The main session focused on the evolution of the multistakeholder approach to digital governance, while the coordination session explored ways the NRIs could support the GDC implementation and WSIS+20 processes. The collaborative sessions unpacked local contexts and perspectives concerning digital inclusion, disinformation and policy challenges related to AI and other emerging tech.

## D. Expected Accomplishment 4

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Strengthen capacity of developing country stakeholders to participate effectively in Internet governance arrangements

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### D.1 Participation of Developing Countries in IGF 2024

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The IGF sees the participation of developing countries as critical for the Forum's success. Its mandate calls for strengthening and enhancing stakeholder engagement from developing countries and contributing to building capacity for Internet governance in those countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise.

The IGF 2024 continued to invest in engagement with stakeholders from developing countries. 128 individuals from least developed or landlocked developing countries (LDC/LLDC), small island developing states (SIDS) or transitional economies, received financial support for meaningful participation in the IGF 2024 in Riyadh. The supported stakeholders received the travel support after confirming their eligibility which included having an interest in Internet governance-related activities and demonstrating commitment to contribute to its community after participating at the IGF 2024 meeting. Preference was given to candidates from underrepresented countries and groups (such as women, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, older persons, youth).

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<sup>76</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-dynamic-coalition-sessions>

<sup>77</sup> <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-nris-session-proposals>

As in previous years, financial support was provided to MAG members from least developed countries, developing countries and transitional economies to enable them to participate in MAG meetings and the 19<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. In 2024, over 20 MAG members and 2 members from the Leadership Panel, as per the eligibility criteria, were supported to participate in the open consultations and MAG meetings in Riyadh and Geneva and the 19<sup>th</sup> annual IGF meeting in Riyadh.

Also, 17 grants were given to support developing communities by supporting the hosting of national or regional IGFs or organizing remote hubs.

## D.2 Capacity Development in Internet Governance

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In order to fulfill its mandate and *contribute to capacity building for Internet governance in developing countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise*<sup>78</sup>, as well as in response to the recommendations of the CSTD's Working Group on Improvements to the IGF *to support the participation of stakeholders from developing countries, in particular, the least developed countries (LDCs)*<sup>79</sup>, and the UN Secretary-General's call for action expressed at the 13<sup>th</sup> IGF stressing that the Forum *must increase its efforts to draw upon the "weak and missing voices" into the IGFs work*<sup>80</sup>, a capacity development plan continued to be developed and implemented<sup>81</sup>.

To respond to the above, the IGF capacity development strategy is developed to particularly:

- *Enhance global understanding of Internet governance issues, by strengthening bottom-up and multistakeholder NRIs processes. Of particular interest are local communities in less developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing states; and*
- *Strengthen the global Internet governance framework, by raising awareness on the importance of more active and consistent engagement of local and regional communities in the IGF intersessional collaborative work.*

In 2024, tailored to the needs of the community and the IGF, the capacity development effort focused on several activities:

- Workshops organised in conjunction with the NRIs, to foster cooperation and develop capacity. Among these, some specifically were organised as part of the youth and parliamentary tracks.
- Training sessions for IGF 2024 session organisers and participants, focused broadly on explaining mechanisms of hybrid participation.
- [Newcomers session](#) for orienting first-time IGF participants.
- Grants support to 15 [NRIs](#) and 5 [remote hubs](#) serving communities from developing countries.

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<sup>78</sup> <https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html>

<sup>79</sup> Report of the Working Group on Improvements to the IGF, section IV.  
[https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/a67d65\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/a67d65_en.pdf)

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2018-address-to-the-internet-governance-forum-by-un-sg-ant%C3%B3nio-guterres>

<sup>81</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-capacity-development-0>

- [Travel support](#) for 128 participants coming from developing countries.

In addition to providing substantive support to the national, regional and youth IGFs, resulting in an annual increase of the [recognised NRIs](#)<sup>82</sup>, financial support was provided for 12 NRIs with a participation scope from developing countries, through a [public call for grants to the NRIs](#)<sup>83</sup>. The value of the grants were up to 5,000 USD for national IGFs, up to 6,000 for sub-regional IGFs and up to 12,000 USD for the regional IGFs. The NRIs that received the grants in 2024 are: *African IGF, Armenia IGF, Caribbean IGF, Columbia IGF, El Salvador IGF, Ghana IGF, LACIGF, Maldives IGF, Namibia IGF, North Macedonia IGF, and SEEDIG.*

Over the years, remote hubs have shown to be good practice for local communities to participate in the annual IGF meeting in an organized, collective, manner. In addition to providing substantial support to the organization of the hubs, the IGF Secretariat specifically provided financial support to five remote hubs in developing countries with small grants of up to 2,500 USD value. The supported hubs were located in Ghana, Benin, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Vanuatu, Nigeria, and the Philippines.

As mentioned above, 128 individuals from developing countries received travel support to participate in-person in the 19<sup>th</sup> annual IGF meeting in Riyadh. The eligibility criteria focussed on supporting the unrepresented disciplines and countries at the IGF, as well as on the prioritization of vulnerable groups such as youth, people with disabilities, refugees, indigenous people, women, elderly etc. These stakeholders were also invited to approach the Secretariat if they needed support to better navigate the IGF 2024 and were encouraged to actively participate in the programme. For several supported stakeholders, the Secretariat managed to ensure concrete support roles and have them connected with the session organizers, through guiding how to support the sessions as rapporteurs or actively contribute to the discussions.

To build a long-term engagement between various communities and the IGF, as well as build and strengthen the overall capacity for Internet governance processes at local and global levels, capacity development workshops were organized in close collaboration with the community. Close to thirty workshops were hosted in conjunction with NRI meetings as part of the parliamentary or youth track or as stand-alone issue-focused sessions at the request of the community. The workshops were hosted back-to-back with the African IGF, WSIS Forum, EuroDIG, Youth LACIGF, LACIGF, Youth African IGF, APriGF, and Youth LACIGF. Among them, four workshops were part of the [IGF 2024 Youth Track](#) specifically designed to support the engagement of youth in the IGF and cooperation among them. As part of [the IGF 2024 Parliamentary track](#), activities involving parliamentarians were conducted alongside five National and Regional IGF initiatives. Nine workshops were part of the Track in Riyadh, specifically designed to support the inclusion of legislators in the IGF and develop cooperation among them and with other stakeholders.

Given the high number of first-time participants at the IGF, the Secretariat continued to implement the [newcomers track](#) by organizing the orientation sessions on Day 1 of the IGF meeting in Riyadh to help orient the new participants.

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<sup>82</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives>

<sup>83</sup> <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-call-for-nris-grants>

Overall, the capacity development workshops had on average around 100 participants each and managed to attract more interest in the IGF intersessional work and the 19<sup>th</sup> annual IGF meeting.

The Secretariat also continued to support the network of DCs, substantively on individual and collective levels.

Specific trainings were hosted for session organizers, including the rapporteurs and moderators. They focused on how to use the IGF 2025 participation platform and maximize opportunities for themselves and other participants. A [Trello](#) communications kit was provided to session organizers to support the holding of their sessions.

As schools on Internet governance (SIG) have been emerging for years and more rapidly in the last few years, the Secretariat continued to cooperate and support SIGs including by making available its [syllabus](#)<sup>84</sup> which can guide stakeholders wishing to organize different forms of SIGs.

### **D.3 Internships and Fellowships at the IGF Secretariat**

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The IGF continued to build capacity through in-office training on Internet governance matters. Its fellowship programme supports stakeholders from developing countries, while its internship programme is open to anyone wishing to learn about Internet governance.

During 2024, two interns, from the US and Ghana, joined the IGF Secretariat. They had the opportunity to work directly on Internet governance issues and benefit from unparalleled, up-close expertise engaging with the IGF community.

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<sup>84</sup> [https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot\\_download/253/21174](https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/253/21174)

## Conclusion

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The 2024 IGF cycle was marked by innovations and built on the successes of recent years. It continued a trajectory of growth and improvement for which the IGF has been known during its current mandate. Key areas of progress over the past year included expanding stakeholder engagement – particularly among underrepresented groups and within critical political and institutional decision-making spaces – fostering new policy discussions, and enhancing technical and communication measures to make the IGF more accessible and visible than ever. The 19th annual meeting in Riyadh, which attracted over 10,000 participants - the highest attendance in IGF history - along with the high-quality input process leading up to the event, highlights the success of the IGF's outreach efforts. It also underscores the growing demand for a public digital policy forum that embodies the IGF's unique attributes. The 19<sup>th</sup> IGF as well as the two Open Consultations and MAG meetings were hybrid, allowing for maximal inclusivity.

The aim to increase engagement in IGF processes was furthered on multiple fronts, with new milestones reached. The meeting's dedicated tracks for high-level leaders, parliamentarians, and youth, which are groups that are traditionally under-represented yet critical to inclusive digital policy formation, guaranteed these perspectives were given ample space, visibility, and opportunity to shape IGF outcomes. Additionally, attention was given to increasing participation from business and the judiciary. A notable effect of the meeting's more developed high-level component was a stronger representation of the UN System at the IGF 2024.

Throughout the year, structured and consistent capacity development activities by the Secretariat reached stakeholders uninitiated to the IGF, particularly from developing and least developed countries, while a renewed MAG welcomed new membership from countries underrepresented in the body.

Continuous efforts were invested to improve the IGF, in line with its mandate in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society agreed at WSIS. In recent years, these efforts have included evolving responses to the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, published in 2020, and the Secretary-General's report on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, Our Common Agenda, published in 2021, as well as the Global Digital Compact adopted in 2024.

The 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society, along with the review of the IGF mandate, spanned nearly all IGF program activities. It highlights the significance of the coming year when the global community will reflect on past achievements and chart a path forward toward a sustainable digital future for all.

In 2024, the Secretary-General-appointed Leadership Panel, a high-level multistakeholder body with responsibilities to provide strategic inputs and advice to the IGF, promoted the Forum and its outputs, supported high-level engagement and fundraising, and exchanged IGF outputs with other stakeholders and relevant fora. The 15-member Panel met twice in person and held virtual plenaries.

The IGF continued to plan its contribution to digital governance worldwide, including informing the WSIS+20 review and supporting the implementation of the Global Digital

Compact. The IGF 2024 Messages, reflecting key takeaways from the Forum's discussions, are expected to represent the Forum's input into various digital governance and development processes.

The 2024 IGF also broke ground in terms of opening new policy fronts through its intersessional work on artificial intelligence, Internet fragmentation, meaningful access, cybersecurity, environment, interplanetary Internet, gaming, data and health, blockchain, network neutrality, Internet rights and principles, innovative approaches to connecting the unconnected etc.

Technical improvements over the year made participation easier and smoother. The recently revamped website was moved to a new server, while the IGF Mobile App was upgraded and adjusted to the 2024 meeting. The 3D-rendered meeting venue served as an additional and visually compelling platform, particularly for online participants. In parallel, communications activities were ramped up in the months immediately preceding and during the 19th IGF, all resulting in record mainstream news media coverage for an IGF.

The 20th annual IGF meeting will be hosted by the Government of Norway in Lillestrøm from 23 to 27 June 2025. As it begins a new cycle, primarily guided by the global multistakeholder community demand, the Secretariat, working alongside the Leadership Panel, the MAG, and in close cooperation with UN DESA, will remain committed to further improving IGF processes, reach, and impact. It will also draw on the organizational and substantive lessons learned over the past year, including the recommendations from the EGM report.