

# Youth IGF Nepal 2022

# SUMMARY REPORT

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Following the National ICT Day of Nepal on 2 May 2022, the Youth Internet Governance Forum (yIGF) Nepal concluded its first annual meeting with the slogan of “Empowering Youths for Open and Inclusive Internet”. The event focused on promoting and protecting youths in digital spaces, empowering youths for Internet freedom, and making the Internet open and inclusive.

Around 50 participants from different stakeholder groups including government, civil society, academia, the private sector, the technical community, media, and students attended the program.

Objectives of the event:

1. To promote and encourage open and inclusive multi-stakeholder dialogue and exchange of ideas among all stakeholders involved with Internet governance-related issues in Nepal;
2. To raise awareness, build capacity, and promote a better understanding of Internet governance-related matters among the youth community; and
3. To identify emerging issues and bring them to the attention of the relevant institutions and the general public.

### Program Agenda

Time	Title	Guest/Speaker
10:00 – 11:00	Registration and Tea/Coffee	
11:00 - 11:45	Opening Remarks	1. Anja Genjo 2. Anju Mangal 3. Birendra Kumar Mishra 4. Sunaina Ghimire Pandey 5. Deepa Bhattarai 6. Ananda Gautam
11:45 - 12:00	Tea Break	
12:00 - 12:30	Internet Governance Ecosystem and Nepali Landscape	Babu Ram Aryal
12:30 - 13:00	Digital Safety: Promotion v. Protection of Youth in Digital Space	1. Aishwariya Kc 2. Deepa Bhattarai
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch	
14:00 - 14:45	Panel Discussion on "Internet freedom, youth empowerment and challenges"	1. Prabesh Subedi 2. Ashirbad Tripathi 3. Prapossa KC 4. Surendra Tiwari (Moderator)
14:45 - 15:45	Panel Discussion on "Empowering the role of youths for open and inclusive internet"	1. Sunny Chendy 2. Amrita Choudhury 3. Babu Ram Aryal 4. Aris Ignacio
15:45 - 16:00	Closing Remarks	Ananda Raj Khanal
16:00 onwards	Hi-Tea	

The program opened with remarks from two special guests Anja Genjo, National and Regional Initiative (NRI) Coordinator at UN-IGF secretariat, and Anju Mangal, Chair at Asia Pacific

regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) Multi-stakeholder Group (MSG). They discussed the importance of ICTs and underlying policies related to the Internet that have been illustrated during the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, the Chair of Nepal-IGF MSG Mr. Birendera Kumar Mishra, Vice-Chair of APSIG Mr. Babu Ram Aryal, Director of National Telecommunication Authority Mr. Min Parsad Aryal, and Former Vice-Chair of CAN Federation Ms. Sunaina Ghimire Pandey was among the guests of opening remarks. Addressing the opening remarks Ms. Genjo congratulated the yIGF Nepal team for organizing this event and the importance of ICTs and underlying policies related to the Internet that has been illustrated during the covid pandemic. She highlighted there are many existent issues which are related to the Internet and not all of those issues could be solved by this generation so we need next-generation Internet leaders who continue to address those issues and that's exactly where youth IGFs come into play. Youth IGFs should focus on equipping the youths with the capacity to be able to make their decisions when their time comes.

Also, the youths should represent the issues of their respective community to build the iInternet we all want. Afterward, Ms. Mangal expressed her joy in being around the young people and she raised a question in regards to the theme of the event to think about people in rural communities, people with disabilities, and people with very low income while discussing the open and inclusive Internet. She also inspired all the participants that whatever agenda they want to focus on their agenda should always reflect the agenda of their respective communities.

After the opening remarks Mr. Ananda Gautam, Vice-Chair and coordinator of Youth IGF Nepal welcomed all the guests and participants to the event, expressing his hopes to involve more youths in the Internet governance ecosystem. Afterward, Mrs. Sunaina Pandey Ghimire underlined the emerging importance of the Internet in our daily life, as well as her concern for the challenges that we might face in accessing the Internet which might be difficult due to the existing multiple taxes that need to be paid by the ISPs.

Similarly, Mr. Min Parsad Aryal, director of Nepal Telecommunication Authority, appreciated such an initiative to be organized by the youths, and he expressed both his individual and institutional support for this kind of initiative which will play a vital role in awareness of Internet issues among youth. Finally the chief guest of the event, Mr. Birendra Kumar Mishra, emphasized that the Internet has become vital to everyday life in some countries; it has also been accepted as a fundamental right, and we should focus on achieving it as so. In addition to that, safe Internet access and cybersecurity are very important aspects and this calls for youth to be engaged in the issues of Internet governance. He also focused that youth should be involved in policy making for an open and inclusive Internet. He concluded his remarks by mentioning that in the upcoming days, the Nepal IGF and youth IGF Nepal could work collaboratively to engage more stakeholders in these kinds of deliberative discussions.

## Sessions

### Internet Governance Ecosystem and Nepali Landscape

Speaking at this session, Mr. Babu Ram Aryal took the participants through the history of Internet governance and its inception at the World Summit on the Information Society in 2003 and 2005, which established the IGF. Mr. Aryal also elaborated on how the IGF facilitates discussion over the emerging issues of Internet governance. He also stressed that the IGF is an open forum where anybody can join either as a participant or as a resource person or as a contributor. Just go to the IGF website and subscribe to the mailing list on whatever topic you are interested in.

He also shared that the discussion about the Internet Governance Forum started back in 2008 but the first Nepal IGF was concluded in 2017 after the Nepal IGF MSG was formed. Afterwards Nepal IGF organized 3 annual meetings also in addition to that Nepal school on Internet governance has also been established in 2018 which aims to enhance the capacity of young people on Internet governance issues and coming today the Youth IGF Nepal has organized its first meeting.

### Digital Safety: Promotion v. Protection of Youth in Digital Space

Ms. Aishwariya KC and Ms. Deepa Bhattarai were the speakers for this session. Ms. KC started her presentation by sharing the trends of cyber incidents executed in Nepal over the time. Afterwards she shared about the types of threats in cyberspace, dos and don'ts during the online presence. Ms. Bhattarai concluded the session by discussing the Cyber Law Enforcement Mechanism in Nepal, the investigation procedure of cyber crime in Nepal, cybercrime statistics of Nepal, and the legal provisions related to cybercrime.

### Panel Discussion on "Internet freedom, youth empowerment and challenges"

The panel discussion on "Internet freedom, youth empowerment and challenges" was moderated by Advocate Surendra Tiwari while Mr. Prabesh Subedi, Mr. Ashirwad Tirpathy, and Ms. Prapoosa KC were among the panelists. Ms. KC discussed the legal aspects of Internet freedom mentioning the provisions of Electronic Transactions Act, Privacy Act and National penal code.

Mr. Subedi outlined the civil society perspective of Internet freedom raising the issues of Internet affordability, challenges of misinformation and disinformation while ensuring the freedom of expression still exists. He also stressed that when we talk about Internet freedom we also need to have digital literacy to empower the youths in protecting Internet freedom. Mr. Tirpathy focused on the access for freedom and the issues of digital divide. He shared about the importance of need-based Internet solutions to shrink the digital divide.

The Internet has become a very powerful tool and we have to make sure it is used for good. He also expressed his concern that being a very powerful tool it has both faces of good and bad so it remains on the end users responsibility how they would use this opportunity. In addition to that he

also emphasized that only access is not the issue, the affordability of the devices to use the Internet is equally important and the aspect of cyber hygiene should also be considered while talking about Internet freedom.

### Panel Discussion on "Empowering the role of youths for open and inclusive internet"

The panel discussion on “Empowering the role of youths for open and inclusive internet” was moderated by Ms. Paribhasha Pradhan while Satish Babu Chair at APSIG, Srinivas (Sunny) Chendi Senior Advisor at APNIC, Amrita Choudhury Vice-Chair at APRALO, Babu Ram Aryal Vice-Chair at Nepal IGF MSG and Aris Ignacio Fellowship Committee Co-Chair at APrIGF were invited at the session as the panelists.

In the panel discussion Satish Babu discussed the significance of the School on Internet Governance to empower the youth, providing them the very basic knowledge about the internet governance ecosystem and the emerging issues around. Sunny shared about the role of APNIC in empowering the role of youths by supporting the IGF works and encouraging the youth participation in keeping the Internet single, global, open, stable, and secure.

Amrita discussed ICANN, which is a multi-stakeholder platform where stakeholders from the private sector, the technical community, and civil society come together to discuss governing policies for the names (domain names) and numbers (IP addresses) of the Internet. Likewise Babu Ram Aryal discussed about the emergence of Nepal IGF, Internet Society Nepal Chapter, and the Nepal School on Internet Governance, which paved the way to empower youths, and he also mentioned that he is very happy that he could see the fellows from the APSIG, NpSIG, Nepal IGF are actively engaging with youth IGF Nepal.

Similarly, Aris Ignacio shared his motivation for involving young students in local and regional IGF. He mentioned that youth people have a lot of innovative ideas and representing them in such a forum will help them open up to the policy discussions that will shape the future of the Internet and empowering them is the only way to engage youths in shaping the Internet from the perspective of youth.

### Closing Remarks

Mr. Ananda Raj Khanal, who is also a former UN IGF MAG member and former Senior Director of Nepal Telecommunication Authority, was invited as a guest for the closing remarks. Mr. Khanal sincerely highlighted that while we are at the closing of this first youth IGF Nepal have you been able to know what exactly Internet governance is and what are the issues around Internet governance.

He further added if the participants are aware of the recent amendment in the national broadcasting regulation which enforces all OTT services to be licensed and raised a concern that this is one of the serious issue which tries to undermine the right to freedom of expression which has been guaranteed by the Constitution, and as a young person involved in Internet governance, you need to know about it and have a position to lead the debate.

He further emphasized that you need to answer 3 basic questions if you want to engage in Internet governance processes. First, do you know about a topic? Second, can you take a position? And third, one is can you take the lead? Apart from these, there might be many motivating factors and opportunities which also includes traveling to different destinations, networking with like minded people around the globe and widening the knowledge about the pertaining issues related to the Internet.

Concluding this remarks, Mr. Khanal underlined that this is a first step towards the long journey this forum should organize more such events, engage more young people and highlight the agenda that has not been prioritized by the government, regulatory authority and other stakeholders rather than the issues that had already made their way and realized to all stakeholders.

Followed by the closing remarks of Mr. Khanal, the chair of the program Ms. Deepa Bhattarai expressed her vote of thanks to all the supporters, guests/speakers, team members and especially the participants to make this youth IGF Nepal 2022 a successful event and officially closed the event.

### Final Takeaways:

Throughout the program representatives from different stakeholders encouraged youth to participate in the policy discussions related to the Internet and related emerging technologies. The issue of the multiple taxation in case of Nepal was also raised during the discussions, while Mr. Min Prasad Aryal has committed to support this kind of event to empower the youth voices.

The trends of cybersafety, cyberhygiene and the pathways for the remedies to be taken and the role of regulatory authorities and law enforcement agencies were also discussed. While discussing Internet freedom the role of regulators to make the Internet more affordable and accessible were also raised, additionally the importance of digital literacy was also discussed.

The event concluded outlining that all the stakeholders should stand on their own roles to make the Internet open and inclusive. Also they have to play a significant role to empower the youth engagement and participation in these issues to make sure that the power of the Internet is used for good.



## Guest/Speakers



**Anja Genjo**  
NRI Initiative Coordinator, UN-IGF



**Anju Mangal**  
Chair, APriGF



**Srinivas (Sunny) Chendi**  
Senior Advisor, APNIC



**Birendra Kumar Mishra**  
Chair, Nepal IGF



**Amrita Choudhury**  
Vice-Chair, APriGF



**Ananda Raj Khanal**  
Former MAG Member, UN-IGF



**Babu Ram Aryal**  
Vice-Chair, APSIG



**Aries Ignacio**  
Co-Chair, APriGF Fellowship Committee



**Sunaina Ghimire Pandey**  
Former Vice President, CAN Federation



**Prabesh Subedi**  
Founder, Digital Media Foundation



**Deepa Bhattarai**  
Chair, Youth IGF Nepal



**Ananda Gautam**  
Vice-Chair/ Coordinator, Youth IGF Nepal



**Ashirwad Tripathy**  
President, Educating Nepal



**Surendra Tiwari**  
Advocate, Imperial Law Associates



**Prapoosa KC**  
Advocate, Green Law Associates



**Aishwariya KC**  
Information Security Officer, Fonepay

## Attendance

S.N	Full Name	Gender	Affiliated organization	Stakeholder
1	Aakash silwal	Male	cloudfactory	Academia
2	Aashutosh Dhital	Male	Islington college	Private Sector
3	Abhash Swar	Male	NAC	Government
4	Aishwarya Kc	Female	Fone Pay	Private Sector
5	Alisha Bhandari	Female	Delta Law Firm	Private Sector
6	Alok Tiwari	Male	Nepal Telecommunication Authority	Government
7	Ananda Gautam	Male	Internet Governance Institute	Technical
8	Ananda Niraula	Male	Nepal Police	Government
9	Anjana Devkota	Female	Nepal Telecommunication Authority	Government
10	AR Khanal	Male	Nepal IGF	Civil Society
11	Arvin Ghimire	Male	Student	Student
12	Ashirwad Tripathy	Male	Educating Nepal	Civil Society
13	Ashish B.K.	Male	Individual	Private Sector
14	Bharat Basyal	Male	Individual	Technical
15	Birendra Sha	Male	AHTB	Private Sector
16	Deepa Bhattarai	Female	Nepal Police	Government
17	Deepa Sapkota	Female	National Land commission	Government
18	Deepash Ojha	Male	Imperial Law Associate	Private Sector
19	Dharmendra Mehta	Male	Nepal Telecommunication Authority	Government
20	Diksha	Female	Nepal Law Campus	Academia
21	Dikshya Sharma	Female	CiST	Academia
22	Dilli Ram Paudel	Male	Digital Media Foundation	Civil Society
23	Diwa Ghimire	Female	WYA	Academia
24	Dristi Sharma	Female	Student	Student
25	Everest K.C.	Male	LogPoint Nepal Pvt. Ltd.	Technical
26	Hari Regmi	Male	Vairav Technology Pvt Ltd	Technical
27	Hasina Rupakheti	Female	Lex Nepal	Private Sector
28	Ishara Dhakal	Female	Smart Telecom	Technical
29	James Shrestha	Male	Open Knowledge Nepal	Technical
30	Jigyasha Khadka	Female	Delta Law	Private Sector
31	kabita bahing	Female	Body & Data	Civil Society
32	Kamala Adhikari	Female	Forum For Digital Equality	Civil Society
33	Kamala Karki	Female	Individual	Individual
34	Kapil Rokaya	Male	IIMS college	Private Sector
35	Karishma Parajuli	Female	ISMT College	Academia
36	Kushal Aryal	Male	Student	Student
37	Lipasha Shrestha	Female	yIGF Nepal	Civil Society

S.N	Full Name	Gender	Affiliated organization	Stakeholder
38	Mahima Pradhan	Female	Body and Data	Civil Society
39	Maitri Ratna Bajracharya	Male	Fonepay payments service limited	Private Sector
40	Manil Singh	Male	Blue Diamond Society	Civil Society
41	MOHAN BUDHACHHETRI	Male	<a href="http://Khabarmukam.com">Khabarmukam.com</a>	Media
42	Mohan Kumar Shah	Male	Individual	Technical
43	Nabin Ghimire	Male	Lawyer association	Academia
44	Nabin Ghimire	Male	Nepal Law Campus	Academia
45	Prabash Subedi	Male	Digital Media Foundation	Civil Society
46	Prapoosa KC	Female	Green aw Associates	Private Sector
47	Pratikshya Budhathoki	Government		
48	Puza Banjara	Female	Bharosaa Nepal Pvt.Ltd.	Academia
49	Qurra Tul Ain Nisar	Female	Individual	Civil Society
50	Ramu Sapkota	Male	Independent Journalist	Media
51	Regina Bhujel	Female	Himalayan Lawyers and Associates	Private Sector
52	Regina Bhujel	Female	Himalayan Lawyers and Associates	Private Sector
53	Rikesh mandal	Male	Islington college	Private Sector
54	Ritu Shrestha	Female	sanothimi campus	Civil Society
55	Sadichchha Silwal	Female	Digital rights Nepal	Civil Society
56	Sandeep Yadav	Male	EBpearls	Private Sector
57	Sanjay Rizal	Male	Kathmandu university	Academia
58	Sanjina Kshetri	Female	Digital Rights Nepal	Private Sector
59	Sanjish Aryal	Male	NIC asia bank	Private Sector
60	Sanju Maharjan	Female	Nepal Law Campus	Academia
61	Saphala Khadka	Female	Nepal law campus	Academia
62	Saphala khadka	Female	Nepal law campus	Academia
63	Saroj paudel	Male	Imperial law Associates	Private Sector
64	Sarthak Neupane	Male	Kathmandu university	Civil Society
65	Saurav Gautam	Male	TU Institute of Engineering Pashchimanchal Campus	Academia
66	Seema Adhikari	Female	Imperial law Associates	Private Sector
67	Shiva Basyal	Male	Nepal Telecommunication Authority	Government
68	Sindu KC	Female	IIMS	Academia
69	Sirisha Shrestha	Female	Global peace foundation	Private Sector
70	Sumitra Pandey	Female	Nepal Law Campus	Academia
71	Surendra Bajagain	Male	Media	Media
72	Surendra Tiwari	Male	Imperial LAw Associate	Private Sector
73	Vandana Mishra	Female	Himalayan Lawyers Associates	Academia

S.N	Full Name	Gender	Affiliated organization	Stakeholder
74	Vishal Gewali	Male	Nepal Police	Government
75	Zerga fatma	Female	Gouvernement	Government