

Progress Report
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“Internet Governance Forum”
Project to support the Internet Governance Forum



Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2022
Annual Progress Report

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Introduction

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF)W 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](#)¹ 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 2022 IGF cycle included many intersessional activities and the 17th annual IGF meeting which was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 28 November to 2 December 2022. The meeting was hosted in a hybrid format, allowing for full engagement of both online and onsite participants.

Under the overarching theme [‘Internet for a Shared, Sustainable and Resilient Future’](#), the meeting marked the seventh gathering of the global multistakeholder IGF community since the renewal of the IGF’s mandate for 10 years by the [UN General Assembly \(Resolution A/RES/70/125\)](#)². The IGF 2022 planning process started immediately after the 16th IGF concluded in Poland. The IGF 2022 Host Country, as well as the IGF 2022 Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), whose renewal was announced on the last day of the 2021 IGF, immediately commenced planning the 17th IGF, building on the organizational and substantive feedback from the community received through a traditional taking-stock process. The planning cycle included two online Open Consultations and MAG Meetings – in February hosted online and in July 2022 hosted at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Switzerland; and thirty-eight online MAG³ meetings and its working groups.

Focusing on improving working modalities, the IGF’s preparatory process, including its intersessional activities this past year, have been guided by its extended ten-year mandate, calling for the IGF to *continue to show progress on working modalities and the participation of relevant stakeholders from developing countries*⁴, by the recommendations of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Working Group on Improvements to the IGF⁵ and the IGF Retreat Proceedings convened by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)⁶. The Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation⁷ and

¹ https://www.intgovforum.org/filedepot_download/4099/516

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

³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/mag-meeting-summaries>

⁴ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/125>

⁵ https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162012_p09_EN.pdf

⁶ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/3367/711

⁷ <https://undocs.org/A/74/821>

Our Common Agenda Report⁸ also featured prominently the overall planning process. Particularly, in light of the references these documents make to the IGF as well as the IGF's mandate, the second IGF retreat was organized, called the [Expert Group Meeting](#) (EGM)⁹.

The 17th annual IGF meeting was hosted under the overarching theme, "Internet for a Shared, Sustainable and Resilient Future". It provided a platform for advancing critical Internet policy discussions through several annual workstreams and close to 300 different sessions, focused on five main themes. The Forum featured discussion 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. Its thematic structure was closely aligned with the community's interest and the issues proposed to be tackled in the upcoming [Global Digital Compact](#) (GDC).

The 2022 IGF stood out in terms of the diversity of participation and discussions, engagement of different stakeholders especially members of parliaments and youth, advanced cooperative efforts of different UN agencies, as well as of its high-level track. Particularly, important was the first in person meeting of the recently appointed IGF Leadership Panel by the Secretary-General. Overall visibility grew as well, including through addresses from the UN Secretary-General, Prime Minister of the Federal Republic of Ethiopia and many others. This underlines the importance of digital technologies and digital transformation for people's wellbeing and emphasizes the role the IGF plays for better policies and cooperative mechanisms among stakeholders.

The structure of the programme was designed in a way to include various sessions focused on the five main themes, but also dedicated tracks for high-level leaders, parliamentarians and youth. The 2022 IGF was also output-oriented, with tangible outcomes emerging from the meeting, including as thematic key messages ("[Addis Ababa IGF Messages](#)¹⁰"). All outputs, consolidated under "[IGF 2022 Outputs](#)"¹¹, drew from individual reports of the programme's sessions.

Advancements made by the IGF have been recognized by the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in its [Resolution E/RES/2019/24](#)¹², adopted on 23 July 2019, 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 Internet Governance Forum 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 draft resolution proposal [A/RES/74/197 of 19 December 2019](#)¹³ 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*. In recognizing the need for further improvement, GA resolution A/RES/74/197 also acknowledged the need for the extension of the IGF's mandate

⁸ <https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/>

⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-expert-group-meeting>

¹⁰ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/249/24066

¹¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2021-outputs>

¹² https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ecosoc_res_2019d24_en.pdf

¹³ <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/74/197%20>

beyond 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.

Activities undertaken in 2022

Below is a consolidated summary of activities undertaken in preparation for the 17th annual IGF meeting is available below. Its structure is developed around the four expected accomplishments listed in the [IGF Project Document](#)¹⁴:

- 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

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

A.1 IGF 2022 Preparatory Process

Immediately after the 2021 annual meeting in Poland concluded, the 2022 IGF planning cycle started, building on the 2021 outcomes. The meeting was hosted in a hybrid format allowing for inclusion of all stakeholders, regardless of participating online or onsite in Addis Ababa. The preparatory cycle started with the renewal of the MAG and was carried out over several open consultations and meetings, public surveys, calls for contributions and engagement strategies, as explained further below.

¹⁴ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/4099/516

1.1 Renewal of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG)

The 2022 MAG was announced¹⁵ on 6 December 2021, on the last day of the 16th annual IGF meeting. Within a total of 40 members, 20 were newly appointed. Members come from all stakeholder groups and regions, representing governments, civil society, the private sector and technical community. All members of the MAG serve in accordance with the [MAG Terms of Reference](#)¹⁶ and in their personal capacity, but are expected to have close linkages with their respective stakeholder groups. Representatives of previous host countries and relevant international and intergovernmental organizations were also invited to attend the MAG meetings.

The United Nations Secretary-General appointed Mr. Paul Mitchell of the United States as the Chair of the MAG for 2022.

As with every year, the process for renewing the MAG was carried out through bottom-up, open community consultations. In order to achieve a timely and effective renewal, and based on feedback from various stakeholders (including from the IGF Retreat in 2016), steps were taken to continue improving the process 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 members, the terms served, stakeholder and regional affiliations for each member were published.
- A [guidance note](#)¹⁷ was published with the Call. This 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 (noting those that were un- or under-represented); and a summary of the number of terms served by each member, along with their stakeholder and regional affiliations.
- Priority was given to the eligible candidates coming from historically underrepresented regions. Careful consideration was given to 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 the 2022 year were met. These relate to, among others, improving 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 thirty-eight meetings of the MAG and its working groups, one of which was hosted as hybrid and the rest online¹⁸. In addition, more than one hundred open online meetings were held to support MAG working groups, IGF intersessional work streams, and national, regional and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs).

For inclusion's sake, the 17th annual IGF was held as a fully hybrid meeting, with participants joining onsite, in Addis Ababa, and online. With the objective of making participation in the

¹⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/mag-2022-members>

¹⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-terms-of-reference%20>

¹⁷ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-mag-renewal-2022-general-guidance>

¹⁸ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/mag-meeting-summaries>

meeting meaningful and inclusive for all attendees, several innovations and specific features were introduced:

- Community-centred interactive intersessional work carried in the leadup to the 17th 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 had also chartered four [MAG-led working groups](#)¹⁹, namely the Working Group on Outreach, Engagement and Communications (WG-OEC), Working Group on Hybrid Meetings(WG-Hybrid), Working Group on IGF Strategy (WG-Strategy) and Working Group on Workshop Process (WG-WSP). These groups worked throughout the year on their respective focus areas.

2.2 Open Consultations and MAG Meetings

Two Open Consultants and MAG Meetings were hosted during the 2022 IGF cycle: the first hosted online on 23-25 February and the second one hosted hybrid from the United Nations Office at Geneva on 6-8 July. Both meetings featured live streaming and transcription. The meetings were moderated by the MAG Chair, Mr. Paul Mitchell, while the IGF Secretariat was represented by Mr. Chengetai Masango. On behalf of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Mr. Wai Min Kwok participated. Also in attendance were the IGF 2022 Host Country – Government of Ethiopia’s representatives, H.E. Ms. Huria Ali Mahdi, State Minister at the Ministry of Innovation and Technology and Ms. Said, Myriam, Digital Advisor and the Office of the Prime Minister.

The core objective of these meetings was to plan the IGF process, including its preparations, intersessional work and the 17th annual meeting.

The key points discussed across 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 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.*
- *Improve 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 hear updates from a number of organizations, among which are the UN Institute for Disarmament Research, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Council of Europe, UNESCO, Association for Progressive Communications (APC), APNIC, DiploFoundation and Geneva Internet Platform, DotAsia, ICC Basis, AfriNIC, ITU, CGI.br, the Internet Society (ISOC), European Commission and the Internet Corporation for Assigned

¹⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-working-groups>

Names and Numbers (ICANN).

To address the above key points, inputs from the IGF community, and proposals relating to the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation calling for a more focused IGF and the priorities set by the Our Common Agenda report, the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) opted to continue with an issue-driven approach to the IGF 2022 programme, toward a dual goal:

- The evolution and strengthening of the IGF, by encouraging targeted, deeper discussion on specific issue areas and, therefore, more focused outcomes.
- The preservation of the IGF's open and bottom-up character, as a space 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 2022 themes were aligned closely with the priorities outlined in the Secretary-General's proposed Global Digital Compact, as well as with community inputs received through a traditional public call. The programme's structure aims to encourage focused discussion that delves more deeply into specific issue areas thereby potentially leading to more focused outcomes. The five thematic areas are associated with corresponding narratives, policy questions and issues, to help orient session organisers when submitting session proposals.

Overall, session proposers could choose between the following [session types](#)²⁰:

- [Open Forums](#), sessions organized by governments, treaty-based international organizations, and global organizations with international scope and presence, with operations across regions, dealing with Internet governance issues;
- [Town Halls](#), sessions organized by entities dealing with Internet governance issues of international scope;
- [Launches and Awards](#), sessions to present and discuss Internet governance-related academic and/or research initiatives or outputs such as research or think tank work, books and similar;
- [Lightning Talks](#), brief, to-the-point, prepared presentations specific Internet governance issues;
- [Networking Sessions](#), gatherings of stakeholders interested in same or similar issues; icebreaker sessions; social gatherings; gatherings of people and organizations from a particular region, stakeholder group, or area of activity;
- [Pre-events](#), sessions hosted on the day before²¹ the IGF official programme begins.
- [NRIs](#) and [DC sessions](#), as interactive formats organized by multistakeholder networks of NRIs and DCs.

2.4 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 UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and Our Common Agenda. The Secretary-General appointed the [Leadership Panel](#)²², as a strategic high-level multistakeholder body. The 15-member Panel met in person for the first time at the 17th annual IGF meeting. Members also met with many other organizations and engaged with the

²⁰ <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf%C2%A02022-call-for-session-proposals>

²¹ 28 November

²² <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-leadership-panel-members>

community through an open town hall to gather inputs on needs and expectations which could orient the panel's work in 2023.

The IGF continues to plan its contribution modality to the Secretary-General's proposed Global Digital Compact on norms, principles and values. The IGF 2022 Messages, reflecting key takeaways from the forum's discussions, are expected to constitute input into the GDC development process.

In parallel with structural changes, efforts are invested in advancing long-term sustainability of the forum. In this regard, the next host countries are being explored, new partnerships and cooperation mechanisms.

3. IGF Expert Group Meeting

The Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation²³ and Our Common Agenda Report²⁴ also featured prominently the overall planning process. Particularly, in light of the references these documents make to the IGF as well as the IGF's mandate, the second IGF retreat was organized. This [Expert Group Meeting](#) (EGM)²⁵ was hosted from 30 March until 1 April 2022 in New York City at the premises of the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations. It gathered a group of experts from all regions and stakeholder groups, which intensively discussed the achievements made so far, recognized potentials for improvements and challenges to address. The discussion considered how the IGF can contribute to advancing digital cooperation and implementing proposed initiatives in this area, within the broader context of the ongoing process on strengthening and improving the IGF as a space for global multistakeholder discussion on Internet policy issues. It resulted in several concrete recommendations outlined in the [EGM's Report](#)²⁶ which will guide the strategic approach to the work of the IGF.

4.1 Intersessional work and collaboration with National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives

In between the two annual IGF meetings, the community works on several substantive activities and discusses them at the annual IGF meeting. These activities are collectively called the IGF intersessional work and take the following forms²⁷:

- [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, based on broad bottom-up community consultations, are dedicated to identifying status quo and current issues including the policy gaps, existing capacity and conditions, local specificities, good and bad practices, and possible ways forward through actionable activities led by identified implementation parties.

In 2022, two BPFs and two PNs were implemented:

²³ <https://undocs.org/A/74/821>

²⁴ <https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/>

²⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-expert-group-meeting>

²⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/report-from-expert-group-meeting>

²⁷ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/thematic-intersessional-work>

- **BPF on Cybersecurity**, focused on *identifying further cybersecurity initiatives, bringing the voices of those most affected by cybersecurity events forward, and analysing the complex interplay between norms and cybercrime legislation.*
- **BPF Gender and Digital Rights**, focused on *impact of regulations from a gender justice perspective;*
- **PN on Meaningful Access**, focused on *persistent challenges to meaningful and universal Internet access;*
- **PN on Internet Fragmentation**, focused on *definition and impact of the fragmentation.*

[24 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 Global Digital Compact and discussed it during their dedicated main session.

More than a hundred and fifty five (155) [national, regional and youth IGF initiatives \(NRIs\)](#)²⁸ identified through a bottom-up process their collective thematic focus on the principles for the core of the Internet and prepared a dedicated session for the 17th IGF.

Both DCs and NRIs networks developed their bottom-up agendas related to their work plan and future process improvements on which they focused agendas for their traditional coordination sessions hosted shortly after the IGF 2021 annual meeting.

A.2 The 17th Annual IGF Meeting

In 2022, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) held its 17th annual meeting in a hybrid format, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and online. Under the overarching theme *Internet for Shared, Sustainable and Common Future*, the meeting featured discussion 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, business, 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 fulfill the nexus of respect for human rights and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

1.2 About the hybrid format

The 17th IGF was held as a fully hybrid meeting, with participants joining onsite, in Addis Ababa, and online. With the overall objective of making participation in the meeting meaningful and inclusive for all attendees, the hybrid format included several features:

- [Participating platform](#) through which the meeting discussions were facilitated in an as-equal-as-possible manner for all participants, regardless of connecting to it from the venue or any other part of the world. The platform also meant that

²⁸ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives>

speakers/moderators/rapporteurs were able to [participate and contribute](#) either online or onsite.

- [3D Venue](#) was created as an equivalent to the onsite venue. As onsite participants, the online participants also had an opportunity to enter the meeting rooms and connect to the participating platform.
- [IGF Village](#) booths, hosted by over 60 organizations at the venue, had their online equivalents.
- [Remote hubs](#) facilitated the participation of those unable to travel.
- [Bilateral meetings](#) could also be organized with online participation.
- [Networking opportunities](#) also allowed for online participation through digital networking platforms and online connection to physically hosted events.
- [New website](#) and [mobile app](#) were also made available to support easier navigation of the IGF 2022 content.

To provide a high-level overview for decision-makers of the most current thinking on key Internet governance issues, discussions from close to 300 sessions held during IGF 2022 have been distilled into [IGF 2022 Outputs](#)²⁹, and specifically the key takeaways from all sessions fed into the [Addis Ababa IGF Messages](#)³⁰ structured per issue area³¹.

2.2 IGF 2022 High-Level Leaders Track

Co-organised by the Host Country and UN DESA/IGF Secretariat, the [IGF 2022 High-Level Leaders' Track](#)³² engaged experts and leaders from all stakeholder groups into discussions on a series of key questions such as access and connectivity, cybersecurity and digital rights. The track saw participation of seventeen ministers and vice-ministers. Overall, fifty-seven high level experts took part in the track. The significant increase in the number of high-level officials participating, particularly at the ministerial and Government levels, including from France, the Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States, testifies to the popularity and visibility of the track, with the potential to enlarge it in coming years.

The sessions of the high-level track were:

- Universal, affordable and meaningful connectivity
- Digital Rights
- Digital trust and security

3.2 Strengthened parliamentary track

Building on the past years' experience, the IGF focused on further strengthening its [Parliamentary Track](#)³³, in particular through expanding a set of intersessional activities dedicated to fostering interparliamentary dialogue and cooperation on key digital policy issues. With the IGF 2022 meeting scheduled to be held in Ethiopia, the focus was placed on engagement with parliaments and parliamentarians on the African continent. Below is an overview of activities undertaken in 2022

²⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-outputs>

³⁰ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/249/24066

³¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2021-outputs>

³² <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/igf-2022-high-level-track>

³³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-parliamentary-track>

Digital Policy Symposium for Parliamentarians across Africa

On 18–19 July 2022, 30 parliamentarians from 20 African countries got together in a dedicated [digital policy symposium](#) to discuss challenges and opportunities related to the digital economy and society and explore their role in shaping an inclusive and human-centric digital future. The two-day event was held in the context of the annual meeting of the Africa Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) and also marked the launch of the [African Parliamentary Network on Internet Governance \(APNIG\)](#). The discussions are summarised in an [output document](#).

Parliamentary Track at IGF 2022

During the IGF meeting in Addis, over 80 parliamentarians from more than 35 countries, as well as the European Parliament and the Pan-African Parliament, got together - on site and online – to exchange experiences and interact with other stakeholders on [issues related to addressing cyberthreats](#). Over four very rich and engaging sessions, parliamentarians highlighted the importance of whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches to strengthening cybersecurity and combating cybercrime, as well as the need to advance effective and efficient regional and international cooperation in these areas.

A strong call was made for parliamentarians to continue and strengthen their engagement with the IGF, take part in national and regional IGF initiatives, and consider the work carried out in these for a as resources to inform their parliamentary discussions and activities.

These and other messages are reflected in the parliamentary track [output document](#) which is intended to inform parliamentary action in the years to come. The output document is available in English, French and Spanish.

Toolkit for Parliamentarians

The IGF Secretariat published a [Guide to Key Digital Policy Issues and Related Processes and Organizations: Toolkit for Parliamentarians](#), intended to:

- Provide MPs with an overview of the IGF ecosystem and its relevance for parliamentary activities.
- Serve as a toolkit to assist MPs navigate several key Internet and digital policy issues (i.e. focus areas) – envisioned to be covered by the GDC and discussed at IGF 2022 – as well as related processes and organizations.

4.2 Involvement of UN agencies

Following last year's practice, the Forum saw 40 entities from the UN system involved in the 17th IGF as organizers or speakers in sessions. A high-level UN Open Forum dedicated to how the United Nations system can support digital transformation and the Global Digital Compact engaged senior officials of 12 diverse UN agencies and entities: DESA, ECA, the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, FAO, UNIDIR, UNCTED, UNESCO, OHCHR, UNDP, UNJSPF, ITU and UN Women. The 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

The [IGF 2022 Youth Track](#)³⁴ was composed of four capacity development workshops and a Global Youth Summit, all focused on unpacking digital transformation. It was designed and co-organized by the Youth IGF coordinators, IGF 2022 Host Country, IGF Secretariat and several international youth-focused organizations.

Capacity development workshops

Four capacity development workshops were hosted in conjunction with the regional IGFs (EuroDIG, African IGF, Asia Pacific IGF and Youth Latin American IGF), focusing on particular aspects of digital transformation such as policy challenges, education, AI and cybersecurity.

IGF 2022 Global Youth Summit and Messages from Youth

The four workshops feed into the final activity of the track which is the [IGF 2022 Global Youth Summit](#), as a traditional IGF session which facilitates dialogue between young people and senior stakeholders. Youth from all five regions of the world engaged in a dialogue with senior experts coming from different backgrounds and countries. More details about the IGF 2022 Youth Track and the Summit are available on the [dedicated page](#). All discussions are consolidated in [Messages from Youth](#).

6.2 Improving visibility and tangible outcomes of the 17th 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 2022 engaged stakeholders from all sectors with interest or expertise in Internet governance. The working groups the MAG charted for 2022 were open to everyone, allowing for broad stakeholder engagement.

Further, in light of high interest from the community and their global political relevance, the IGF strategically emphasized issues of access and inclusion and Internet fragmentation. This enabled the IGF to expand its community to non-traditional actors from the fields of sustainability, environment and climate change. The inclusion of these issues as a year-long intersessional activity and within the annual meeting programme was also welcomed in the wider context of the WSIS+20, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda Report.

The IGF continued to emphasize the openness and inclusiveness of its processes, including through the call for inputs, session proposals, and contributions to intersessional work, bringing together a large number of stakeholders from around the world to directly shape IGF 2022 programming.

The 2022 MAG renewal also brought new stakeholders into the heart of IGF programme building. Members from historically un-represented and underrepresented countries were appointed to the MAG (such as Tuvalu, Peru, Uganda, Malawi and Kyrgyzstan) as well as from underrepresented disciplines (such as AI-experts and parliamentarians).

³⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-youth-track>

In parallel with the MAG's advice on programme planning, the IGF Secretariat confirmed 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 to these networks also resulted in their qualitative renewal.

The IGF 2022 capacity development framework, further explained in more detail in this report, also increased participation in intersessional work.

The **high-level leaders track** brought together leaders and experts from all stakeholder groups. The track was used, in particular, to increase engagement with other United Nations processes. Building on a practice introduced at IGF 2019, a **parliamentary roundtable** was hosted this year in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Members of parliaments from around the world came together to discuss cybersecurity challenges. Through the **youth track**, including several youth flash sessions and a dedicated Global Youth Summit, young people from different parts of the world discussed ways they can benefit from digital transformation calling for better inclusion and more capacity development.

7.2 Technical improvements

A number of technical improvements were introduced to support the facilitation of a fully hybrid meeting, starting with transferring the recently revamped IGF website to a new server to enable absorbing the load impact. The IGF Mobile App was also adjusted to the 2022 requirements. A 3D participation platform was also integrated into the IGF website to support hybrid format implementation.

A dedicated landing [webpage](#)³⁵ for the annual meeting was created to reflect all relevant information in one place. IGF 2022 sessions were captioned in real time, and live streamed via [IGF YouTube](#)³⁶ channel. All high-level leaders' track and main sessions were interpreted in six UN languages.

8.2 Advancing outputs

Much effort was invested in advancing participants' outputs. In a leadup to IGF 2022, several guides for the meeting orientation were produced, including the narrative overviews of each of the five themes, as well as overarching policy questions to help guide the discussion. Communication through a regular monthly newsletter, periodic mailing list updates, and the IGF's social media accounts, was continuously facilitated throughout the year. UN press releases on the Forum were also published.

The IGF 2022 annual meeting resulted in a number of tangible [outputs](#)³⁷, with written output reports emerged from all the intersessional activities, as well as the messages produced for the issue-areas, the parliamentary roundtable and youth track. The [Addis Ababa](#)

³⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/dashboard/igf-2021>

³⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/user/igf/featured>

³⁷ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-outputs>

[IGF Messages](#)³⁸ 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 2022 and its community outreach activities. In addition, both IGF Daily Bulletins and Media Wrap-ups were produced during the 17th IGF, extending the offering of easily digestible communication outputs for participants and media at the meeting. Also, to support stakeholder engagement between local and global processes, the IGF Secretariat and/or the MAG Chair participated in several NRIs meetings, such as Greece IGF, Armenia IGF, Japan IGF, Central Asian IGF, Russian IGF, India Youth IGF, Vietnam Youth IGF, Nigeria IGF, Asia Pacific regional IGF, Small Islands and Developing States (SIDS) IGF, African IGF, Youth West African IGF, Serbian IGF, Ecuador IGF, North African IGF, Lebanon IGF, Italy IGF, Georgia Youth IGF, South Sudan IGF, Finnish IGF, Caribbean IGF, Central African IGF, African IGF, Youth African IGF, EuroDIG, Nepal Youth IGF, Ethiopia IGF, Myanmar Youth IGF, Trinidad and Tobago 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) and UN High-Level Political Forum, in addition to a media event by Foreign Policy magazine.

Cooperation with other Internet governance-related entities

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

The two Best Practice Forums, two Policy Networks, 24 Dynamic Coalitions and 155 NRIs hosted over a hundred (100) meetings engaging stakeholders from all parts of the world to contribute and exchange good practices. The NRIs expanded throughout the year with fourteen new IGFs emerging.

The 2022 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 first-time appointed Leadership Panel, forging linkages with NRIs, fostering engagement with parliamentarians and contributing with a global multistakeholder input to the consultations on the Global Digital Concept with the messages emerged from the meeting.

The IGF continued to actively participate in the European Commission's High-Level Group on Internet Governance (HLIG) and contributed to the work of the Commission on digital matters. The IGF 2022 established cooperation partnerships for IGF 2022 and beyond.

A capacity development project continued to be implemented in collaboration with Microsoft's UN Affairs office called "Our Digital Future" (ODF). This capacity development workshop series aimed to bring together diverse stakeholders to share best practices and build capacity in developing countries on the digital transformation and cybersecurity fronts. The participants had the opportunity to learn about sustainable digital transformation and sound policy for safe and secure AI. The implementation of the workshops, part of IGF's

³⁸https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/249/24066

overall capacity development framework, associated its discussions with the sustainable development goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 9 (Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation) and SDG 16 (Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies).

The Secretariat continued to support addressing environment-related issues in Internet governance through a newly formed [Dynamic Coalition on Environment \(DCE\)](#)³⁹ which has built on the work of the Policy Network on Environment.

In implementing the [youth engagement strategy](#)⁴⁰, the Secretariat continued to engage with different stakeholders to expand its network of young people gathered around the dedicated mailing list and involved in planning of the youth track at IGF 2022. 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 established a partnership with the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) and national Parliament of Ethiopia to co-organize the parliamentary track along with UN DESA⁴¹. The parliamentary track gained much prominence this year and over 100 registered parliamentarians went through several capacity development activities, such as thematic workshops, and the roundtable hosted at the 17th 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 2022 High-level Leaders track. This included an [UN-dedicated open forum](#) focused on ways the UN System is supporting digital transformation and looking toward the Global Digital Compact. In addition to engagement during the annual meeting, a UN-only mailing list has been established through the Secretariat, where its network of UN agency contacts receives news of IGF-related developments and opportunities, including the opportunity to contribute 'UN Digital Stories' to the IGF's monthly newsletter.

Among those who participated in the [High-level track](#)⁴², alongside ministerial representatives and leaders in the private sector, technical community and civil society, such as those coming from UNECA, ITU, African Union Commission, ICANN, Ghana.com, Alliance for Affordable Internet, Meta, Caribbean Telecommunications Union, ETNO, University of Witwatersrand, NATO, Africa ICT Alliance, and many others listed on the IGF website.

The UN Secretary-General and Ethiopian Prime Minister also addressed the meeting, rounding out participation at the highest political levels.

³⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-environment-dce>

⁴⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-youth-track>

⁴¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-parliamentary-track>

⁴² <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/igf-2022-high-level-track>

Ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)⁴³

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.*

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

Particular attention in this IGF cycle was given to the substantive and technical aspects of participation, given the hybrid modality. The Zoom platform was predominately used for enabling 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 for direct communication among registered IGF participants.

A dedicated [webpage](#)⁴⁴ for the annual meeting was created to reflect all relevant information in one place. The IGF 2022 sessions were live streamed via the IGF YouTube and real-time captioned. All main sessions and high-level sessions were interpreted to six UN languages. As a result, the IGF 2022 saw a record participation of over 5,000 stakeholders, as illustrated further below in the statistics part.

⁴³ https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162012_p09_EN.pdf

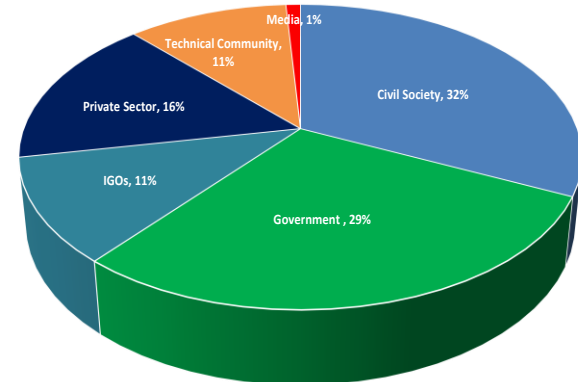
⁴⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/dashboard/igf-2022>

B. Expected Accomplishment 2

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

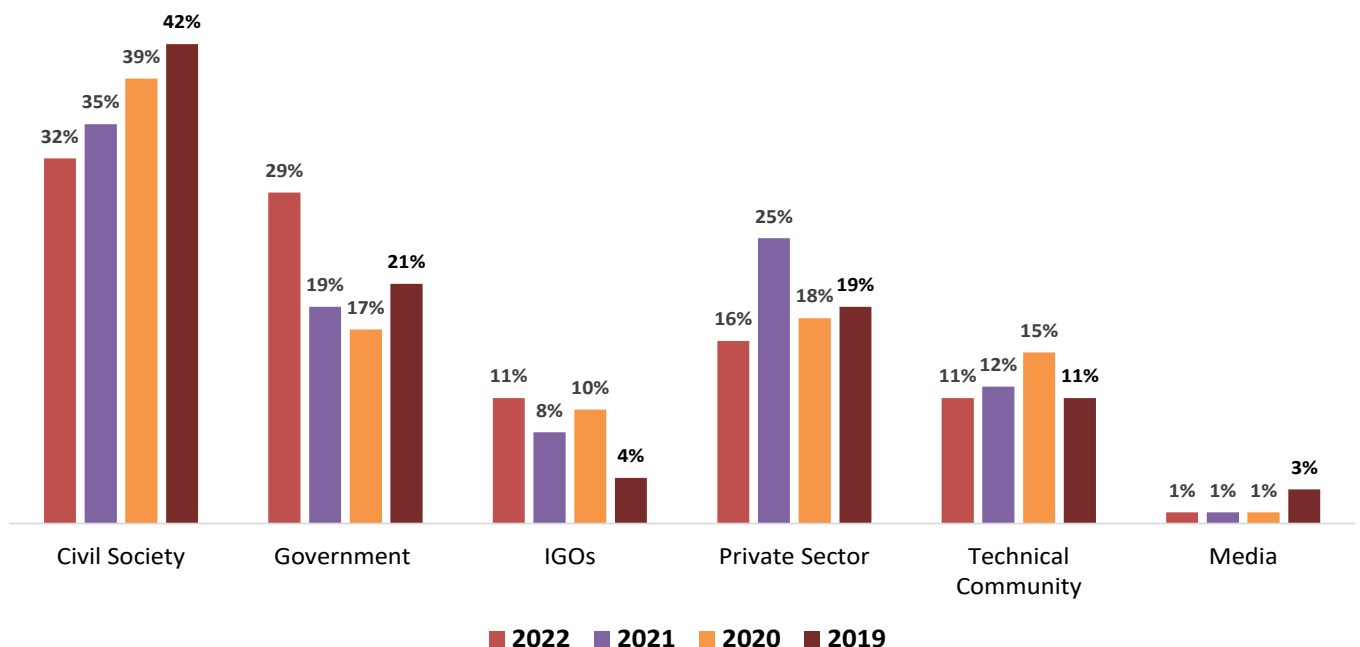
B.1 Participation in the 17th annual IGF meeting

The official [statistics](#) regarding IGF 2022 participation were published on the IGF website after the annual meeting ended⁴⁵. A total of 5,120 stakeholders from 170 countries participated in the 17th IGF. At the IGF venue in Addis Ababa, 2,520 participants collected their badges. The majority of the participants came from Ethiopia, USA, Brazil, China, Germany, Nigeria, Kenya, UK, India, Ghana, Italy and Russia.



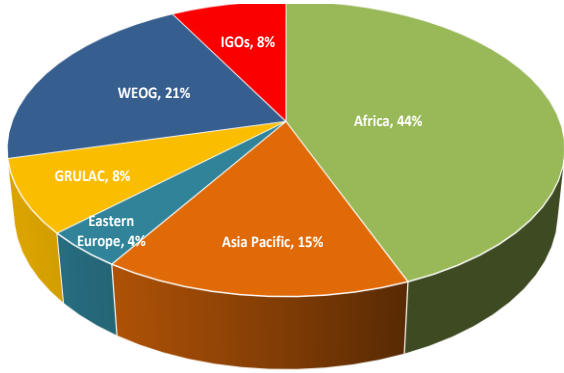
Participation by stakeholder

Looking at the stakeholder groups, most of the participants came from the civil society (32%) and Governments (29%), followed by the private sector (16%), technical community (11%), intergovernmental organizations (11%) and press (1%). Compared to the IGF 2021, this year's IGF saw an increase in representation of Governments (+10%), intergovernmental organisation (+3%). The Forum saw participation of representatives from approximately 40 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 four IGF cycles⁴⁶.



4-year Comparison of IGF participation by Stakeholder

In terms of regional diversity, the majority of the participants came from Africa (44%), followed by WEOG (21%), Asia-Pacific (15%), GRULAC (8%), Eastern Europe (4%) while 8% indicated to be members of the intergovernmental organizations.



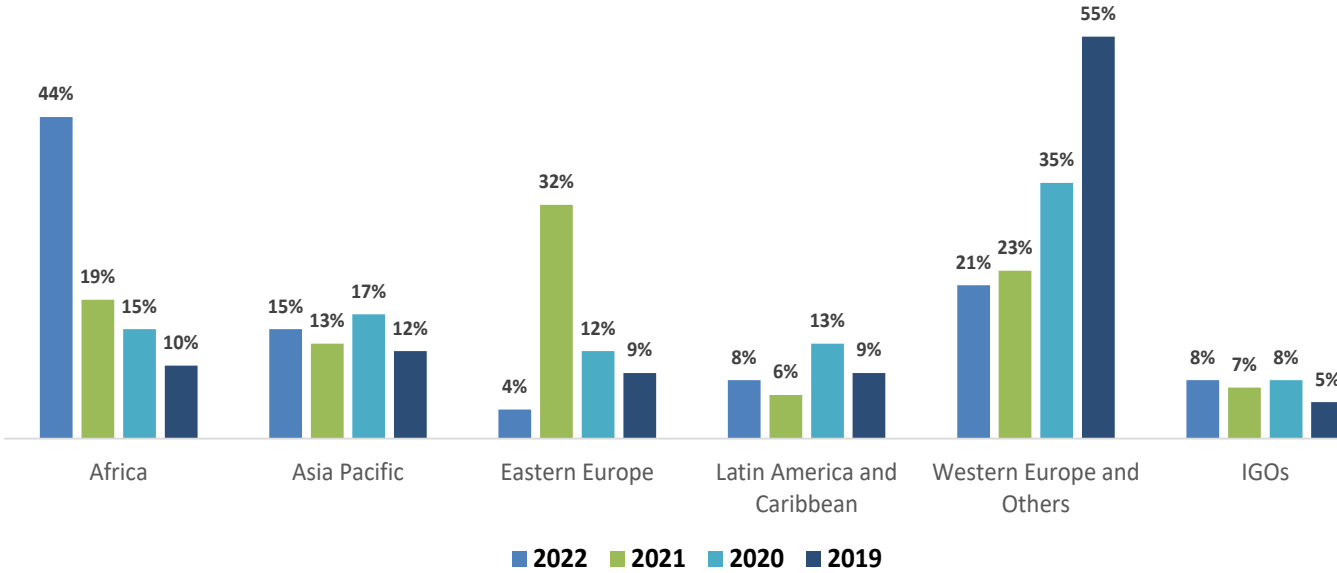
Participation by region

Compared to IGF 2021, this year’s IGF saw an increase in representation of stakeholders from Africa (+25%), Asia Pacific (2%); and GRULAC (+2%). The number of stakeholders from Eastern Europe was significantly lower than that in 2021 (-28%), when the IGF was held in that region.

Gender representation was 56% male, 43% female and 1% self-identified as other.

About 2% of registered participants indicated to be members of parliaments from 35 different countries. 64% participants indicated to be the first-time comers.

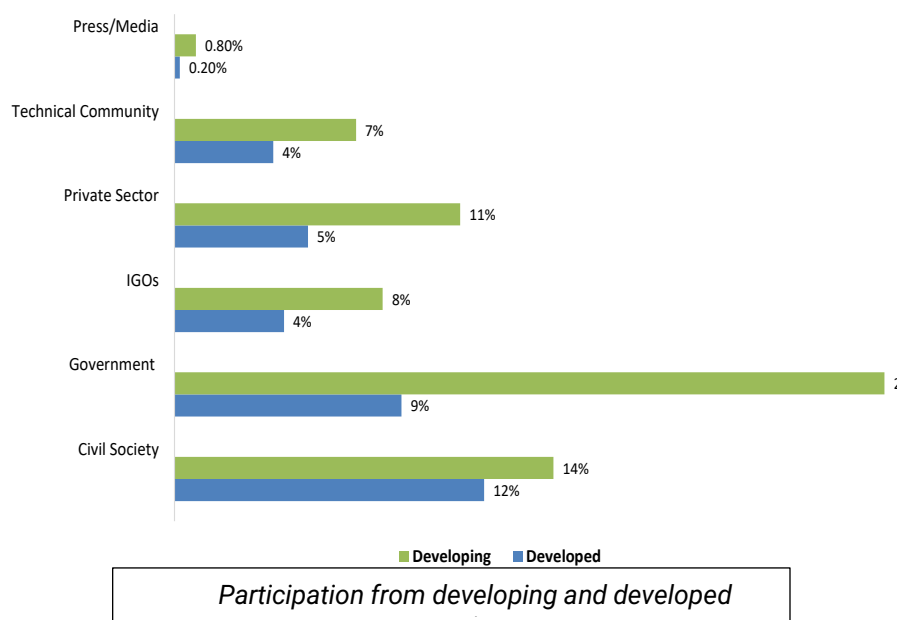
Below is the visual comparison of the regional group participation across the last three IGF cycles.



4-year Comparison of IGF participation by Regional Groups

Regarding participation by level of development of the country, based on the latest available [HDI Index](#)⁴⁷, about 33% of all participants came from developed countries classified as very high⁴⁸ and 67% from developing countries, not classified as very high.

As illustrated on the graph, the majority of developing country participants associate with Governments while the biggest number of participants from developed countries came from civil society.



The meeting’s live stream service attracted over 10,000 unique views. Over 27% of viewers were up to age 35.

Over 2,300 media articles were produced on IGF 2022. Major coverage came from the US (39%), followed by Ethiopia (23.4%) and India (15.8%) and included articles featured in [AP News](#), [VOA News](#) and [UN News](#). The press briefing hosted on 29 November resulted in 229 media articles, garnering 14.8 million unique visitors.

Full media coverage is available at the press page of the [IGF website](#). The greatest volume of press coverage was in English (96,9%).

There were 212,500 social media posts on the IGF 2022 and its themes. This is a significant increase from the 11,000 posts seen last year. Engagement (clicks, shares, likes, etc.) was close to 300,000, significantly higher than the 27,000 recorded for IGF 2021. The cumulative potential reach across all platforms was 3.5 billion, up from 744 million last year.

Most of the social media engagement came from female users (58.8%). The majority of the social media interactions were among stakeholders of age 18 to 34 (+90%).

Close to 250,000 users interacted with the meeting’s official hashtags #IGF2022 and #ResilientInternet.

The livestream over IGF [YouTube](#) recorded close to 10,000 views. Users were mostly male (66.1%) between 25 and 44 years old (64%). The livestream was most extensively viewed in Ethiopia (+45%), followed by the USA, Russia, Brazil and India.

⁴⁷ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>

⁴⁸ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-report-2020-readers-guide>

The meeting featured [293 sessions](#)⁴⁹. Breakdowns per session type were: 1 Opening Session, 1 Opening Ceremony, 5 Main Sessions, 79 Workshops, 45 Open Forums, 29 Town Halls, 10 Launches and Awards, 31 Lightning Talks, 11 Networking Sessions, 20 DC Sessions, 7 NRI Collaborative Sessions, 31 Pre-Events (Day 0 Sessions), 5 High-level Leaders Track, 4 Parliamentary Track sessions, 1 Global Youth Summit, 2 BPF Sessions, 2 PN Sessions, 7 Closed Sessions, 1 Open Mic and 1 Closing Ceremony.

Organizations from five different continents joined the [IGF Village](#)⁵⁰ with 60 booths to share their work missions with the Forum's participants. The Village included representatives from all key stakeholder groups: governments and intergovernmental organizations, private sector, civil society and technical community.

There were also [34 remote hubs](#)⁵¹ organized around the world: 67% in Africa; 9% in Latin America and Caribbean; 9% in Asia Pacific; 12% in WEOG and 3% in Eastern Europe.

B.2 Participation in various Internet governance-related events and processes

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 the multistakeholder engagement; a people-focused approach to Internet policy; 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 17th IGF process closer to global community, a specific communication and outreach strategy was developed that resulted in raising visibility of the IGF through major gatherings of stakeholders, such as a number of national and regional IGF initiatives where the IGF Secretariat and/or the MAG Chair participate remotely (Greece IGF, Armenia IGF, Japan IGF, Central Asian IGF, Russian IGF, India Youth IGF, Vietnam Youth IGF, Nigeria IGF, Asia Pacific regional IGF, Small Islands and Developing States (SIDS) IGF, African IGF, Youth West African IGF, Serbian IGF, Ecuador IGF, North African IGF, Lebanon IGF, Italy IGF, Georgia Youth IGF, South Sudan IGF, Finnish IGF, Caribbean IGF, Central African IGF, African IGF, Youth African IGF, EuroDIG, Nepal Youth IGF, Ethiopia IGF, Myanmar Youth IGF, Trinidad and Tobago 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), UN High-Level Political Forum, and meetings of the European Commission High-Level Group on Internet governance.

⁴⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-sessions>

⁵⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/igf-village-2022>

⁵¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-remote-hubs>

The IGF 2022 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, Government of Ethiopia 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 Addis Ababa as well as in-country represented international organizations, engagement with universities, cultural institutions such as museums, or wider regional and international outreach.

C. Expected Accomplishment 3

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

C.1 Accessible and Inclusive Communication and Collaboration

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 this year, the website was particularly vital to the IGF community. During 2022, it received more than 250,000 connections. Among countries with the highest number of connections were Ethiopia, United States of America, China, India, Germany, United Kingdom, Nigeria, France, Brazil and Switzerland.

The IGF website saw a growth of 21% registered users, represented by 7,751 new accounts, making the 2022 year ending with a total of 44,349 registered individual users. Among the newly registered users, roughly 40% were female and 60% male, while 0.3% identified as other. Stakeholder-wise, newly registered website users came from civil society (26%), private sector (21%), Government (32%), technical community (10%) and intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) (11%). The composition was regionally diversified: Africa (55%), WEOG (13%), Asia Pacific (14%), GRULAC (6%), Eastern Europe (3%), IGO (9%). Countries with more than 100 new accounts during 2022 were Ethiopia, China, United States, Nigeria, Kenya, Germany, Brazil, India, United Kingdom and Ghana. Website visitors from Africa notably increased, as the region where the IGF would be hosted. Mobile usage kept in 28.5%.

The IGF's social media accounts also saw a significant increase in traffic. For example, the IGF Twitter account grew from 12,200 to 15,700 followers at the end of IGF 2022, while Facebook 14,000 followers intensified their interactions. More connections were made between IGF social media properties and other UN accounts to strengthen intra-institutional ties. In the months leading up to the annual meeting, IGF "social media ambassadors" were also recruited among MAG members and members of the IGF community in an effort to amplify the IGF's messaging. Continuing on past years' practice, the community was actively encouraged to follow a social media hashtag guide to promote the annual meeting as well as its specific sessions.

There were 212,500 social media posts on the IGF 2022 and its themes. This is a significant increase from the 11,000 posts seen last year. Engagement (clicks,

shares, likes, etc.) was close to 300,000, significantly higher than the 27,000 recorded for IGF 2021. The cumulative potential reach across all platforms was 3.5 billion, up from 744 million last year.

Most of the social media engagement came from female users (58.8%). The majority of the social media interactions were among stakeholders of age 18 to 34 (+90%).

Close to 250,000 users interacted with the meeting's official hashtags #IGF2022 and #ResilientInternet. The livestream over IGF YouTube was also vibrant recording close to 10,000 views.

Communications activities were ramped up during the 2022 meeting, with IGF [2022 Daily Bulletins](#) and [daily media wrap-ups](#), in addition to standard UN press releases. 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 page, which included a [Press Kit](#) and link to multimedia materials on [Trello](#). Continuing last year's practice, the communications team was readily available interface between media present at the meeting and meeting organizers, assisting with queries and coordinating interviews. In order to bridge the media coverage gap that has tended to exist around annual meetings, intensified on-the-ground activities along these lines may be replicated in future.

In the months immediately leading up to IGF 2022, communications activities included an extensive social media campaign shared among the Secretariat, DESA communications colleagues and hosting counterparts at ECA and Ministry of Innovation and Technology of Ethiopia. A first-ever [Communications Kit](#) was also disseminated to all IGF 2022 session organizers to help them promote their sessions and the IGF more broadly.

To streamline communication over the course of the annual cycle, all details on IGF 2022 preparatory and intersessional work were consolidated in a dedicated [landing page](#)⁵², while the most important developments and community calls continued to be posted in the website's News section. A regular monthly newsletter also continued to be sent.

The [schedule](#)⁵³ of the annual meeting is central to the IGF, as it presents a high volume of information across several days. In order to help IGF participants navigate the programme and personalize their participation, the new website included a built-in an [online, interactive scheduling system](#)⁵⁴. This allowed for sessions to be viewable according to time, day, meeting room, session type and theme, and for users to select sessions of interest and save them in their personal schedules. Users also had the ability to create profiles displaying their Internet governance related interests and expertise.

⁵² <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/dashboard/igf-2022>

⁵³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/schedule>

⁵⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/schedule>

The IGF Secretariat continued its work on improving accessibility of the website and its features. A number of improvements were made in 2022 with the introduction of the new website, including the fulfilment of W3C-WAI standards, 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 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](#)⁵⁵ on the IGF website. Outputs once published were also shared in real time to IGF 2022 meeting participants and the IGF community.

C.2 Resources, Documents and Media Repositories

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 2022 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 the engagement among stakeholders, a [List of Resources Persons](#)⁵⁶ continued to be populated, to put at the community's disposal to create profiles with interests and biographies. In addition to the [list](#)⁵⁷ being searchable by regional and stakeholder groups, technical improvements were made this year to make the list search by youth criteria, all with an aim to foster youth inclusion in the IGF processes, and to support session organizers in their search for experts on a particular topic from a particular region or sector. Additionally, to foster youth inclusion in the overall programme, the Secretariat cooperated with the Youth IGFs and made available to all session organizers a list of youth leaders and experts willing to contribute to their sessions with indicated subjective interests.

All documents posted throughout the year, regardless of area of work, continued to be transparently available through the IGF's documents section.

⁵⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-outputs>

⁵⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/resource-persons>

⁵⁷ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/resource-persons>

C.3 IGF 2022 Outputs

As outlined in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, the publication of the [IGF's proceedings](#)⁵⁸ is part of the Forum's mandate. In fulfilling this part of the mandate, the IGF Secretariat produced and published the [IGF 2022 outputs](#)⁵⁹, 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 17th IGF annual meeting.

The [IGF 2022 Summary Report](#)⁶⁰ was prepared during the 17th annual meeting. The structure of the summary was overhauled, to give 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 2022 were distilled into the [Addis Ababa IGF Messages](#)⁶¹ on the meeting's five themes. The parliamentary roundtable, focused on legislative approaches to cybersecurity concluded with [output document](#)⁶² translated into [English](#)⁶³, [French](#)⁶⁴ and [Spanish](#)⁶⁵. The Global Youth Summit also produced a set of [messages from youth](#)⁶⁶ shortly after the session ended. These were made available at the IGF website on each meeting day, reflecting daily discussions and the final consolidated version was announced on the last day. Post-meeting, participants were given time to digest the messages and advise on substantial improvements, before the final version of messages is formatted. This reporting-out process of developing concrete thematic output of more than 300 sessions, was done on the basis of input session [reports](#)⁶⁷ received the session organizers within 12 hours of their session end. Reports were made available at the IGF website, as soon as submitted, curated together with session [transcripts](#)⁶⁸ and [videos](#).⁶⁹

A year-long preparatory process of the two best practice forums resulted in tangible output documents. The [BPF on Gender and Digital Rights](#)⁷⁰ focused on understanding how gender based disinformation has been deployed as a strategy against women and gender-diverse groups.

The [BPF on Cybersecurity](#)⁷¹ built on its last year's report by focusing on the drivers of cyber norms and testing these norms concepts against historical Internet events, to better understand how specific norms can be effective at mitigating adverse cybersecurity events.

⁵⁸ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-annual-meetings-proceedings>

⁵⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-outputs>

⁶⁰ https://mail.intgovforum.org/IGF2022_summaryreport_final.pdf

⁶¹ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/249/24066

⁶² https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/249/24060

⁶³ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/249/24060

⁶⁴ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/249/24079

⁶⁵ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/249/24080

⁶⁶ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/257/24058

⁶⁷ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/igf-2022-reports>

⁶⁸ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/igf-2022-transcripts>

⁶⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uck0zf4oI0IsJLh1owwUQSFQ>

⁷⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-bpf-gender-and-digital-rights>

⁷¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/bpf-cybersecurity>

The [Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation \(PNIF\)](#)⁷² and its multistakeholder working group focused on looking into the technical, policy, legal and regulatory measures and actions that pose a risk to the open, interconnected and interoperable Internet..

The multistakeholder working group of the [Policy Network on Meaningful Access \(PNMA\)](#)⁷³ worked throughout the year to continue bringing clarity on why achieving meaningful and universal Internet access remains so challenging, in spite of years of efforts by policy makers and other actors from all stakeholder groups.

All the IGF 2022 outputs were made available during the meeting. A few hours after each session, resulting videos and transcripts were uploaded to the IGF YouTube account and IGF website.

C.4 Dynamic Coalitions and National, Regional, Sub-regional and Youth IGFs

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.

There are currently [24 active dynamic coalitions](#)⁷⁴ concerned with topics such as Internet rights and principles, innovative approaches to connecting the unconnected, accessibility and disability, child online safety, environment and many others. The continuous annual collective activities of the DCs are coordinated by the [Dynamic Coalition Coordination Group \(DCCG\)](#)⁷⁵ with support from the IGF Secretariat.

At IGF 2022, 20 DCs held [individual sessions](#)⁷⁶ to discuss Internet policy issues within their focus and present their work. A [DC main session](#) on the theme *Our Digital Future: How IGF Dynamic Coalitions Support the Global Digital Compact* showcased how DCs can contribute to the development of the IGF into an “IGF+”, as suggested in the UN Secretary-General’s [Roadmap on Digital Cooperation](#), and to the principles of the [Global Digital Compact](#).

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. To date, 155 NRIs are recognized by the IGF Secretariat.

At the 17th IGF in Ethiopia, over 100 NRIs co-organized [seven sessions](#)⁷⁷, including five thematic collaborative sessions, a main session and a coordination session. The main session focused on safeguarding and strengthening the core principles of a trusted Internet, while the coordination session emphasized the need for more sustainability in stakeholder engagement, cooperation and funding for the NRIs in order to build a more stable IG(F) ecosystem. The collaborative sessions unpacked local contexts and perspectives concerning access, data governance, child online safety, the forthcoming twenty-year review of WSIS and the role of the

⁷² <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/policy-network-on-internet-fragmentation>

⁷³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-policy-network-on-meaningful-access>

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

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

⁷⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-dc-sessions>

⁷⁷ <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-nris-collaborative-sessions>

Internet in democracy.

D. Expected Accomplishment 4

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

D.1 Participation of Developing Countries in IGF 2022

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

The IGF 2022 continued to invest in engagement with stakeholders from developing countries. Over 140 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 2022 in Addis Ababa, out of which 8 were also supported to participate in the parliamentary symposium in Malawi. 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 2022 meeting.

Preference was given to candidates from underrepresented countries and groups (such as women, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, older persons, youth).

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 17th annual meeting. In 2022, 14 MAG members were supported to participate in the second open consultations and MAG meeting in Geneva and the 17th annual IGF meeting in Addis Ababa. In addition, 2 members of the Leadership Panel received support to travel to the 17th annual IGF meeting in Addis Ababa, as per the eligibility criteria.

D.2 Capacity Development in Internet Governance

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*⁷⁸, as well as in a 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)*⁷⁹, and the UN Secretary-General’s call for action expressed at the 13th IGF stressing that the Forum *must increase its efforts to draw upon the “weak and missing*

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

⁷⁹ Report of the Working Group on Improvements to the IGF, section IV.
https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/a67d65_en.pdf

voices" into the IGFs work⁸⁰, a capacity development plan continued to be developed and implemented⁸¹.

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 2022, tailored to the needs of the community and the IGF, the capacity development effort focused on several activities:

- Support to organization of NRIs meetings, remote hubs and inclusion of un(der)represented stakeholders through travel support
- Workshops organized in conjunction with NRIs, to develop capacity and foster cooperation. Some workshops were organized as part of the youth, parliamentary and newcomers tracks.
- Training sessions for IGF 2022 session organizers and participants, focused broadly on explaining the mechanisms of hybrid participation.
- Cooperation and support to schools on Internet governance

In addition to providing substantive support to the national, regional and youth IGFs, resulting in an annual increase of the [recognised NRIs](#)⁸², financial support was provided for 18 NRIs with a participation scope from developing countries, through a [public call for grants to the NRIs](#)⁸³. 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 2022 are: *Chad IGF, Chile IGF, Democratic Republic of Congo IGF, Ecuador IGF, El Salvador IGF, Ghana IGF, Liberia IGF, Rwanda IGF, The Gambia IGF, Africa IGF, Asia Pacific IGF, Central Asian IGF, EuroDIG, North African IGF, West African IGF and Vietnam Youth IGF.*

Over the years, remote hubs have shown to be a good practice for local communities to participate in the annual IGF meeting through an organized, collective, manner from the comfort of their place of living. In addition to providing substantive support to the organization of the hubs, the Secretariat specifically provided financial support to six remote hubs in developing countries with small grants of up to 2,500 USD value. The supported hubs were located in Armenia, Bangladesh, Ghana, Nigeria, Zambia and Benin.

As mentioned above, 143 individuals from developing countries received travel support to participate in-person in the 17th annual IGF meeting in Addis Ababa. The eligibility criteria called for supporting the unrepresented disciplines and countries at the IGF, as well as for

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

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

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

⁸³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-call-for-nris-grants>

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 with any support needed to better navigate the IGF 2022 and specifically were encouraged to take active participation 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.

In order to build a long-term engagement between various communities and the IGF, as well as to build and strengthen the overall capacity on Internet governance processes at local global levels, the capacity development workshops were organized in close collaboration with the community. Twenty-one thematic [workshops](#)⁸⁴ were hosted in conjunction with the NRIs meetings on topics related to inclusion, digital transformation and SDGs, IGF evolution and WSIS+20 review, Artificial Intelligence, access and connectivity and cybersecurity. The workshops were hosted back-to-back with the West African IGF, WSIS Forum, EuroDIG, African IGF, Youth African IGF, APriIGF, and Youth LACIGF. Among them, four workshops were part of the [IGF 2022 Youth Track](#) specifically designed to support engagement of youth in the IGF and cooperation among them; and twelve were part of the [IGF 2022 Parliamentary track](#), specifically designed to support inclusion of legislators in the IGF and develop cooperation among them. Given a high number of first-time participants at the IGF, the Secretariat continued to implement the [newcomers track](#) by delivering the orientation session at the 17th IGF's day 0 in Addis Ababa to help orient the participants. Overall, these workshops had on average around 100 participants each, and managed to attract more interest in the IGF intersessional work and the 17th annual IGF meeting.

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

Cooperation was sought with the session organizers, including the rapporteurs and moderators. For these stakeholders, specific trainings were hosted on how to use the IGF 2022 participation platform and maximize opportunities for themselves and other participants.

As schools on Internet governance (SIG) have been emerging for years and more rapidly in the few last years, the Secretariat recognizes their value as an effective way of developing capacity in Internet governance. To support the existing schools and especially the potentials for new ones, the Secretariat [cooperated](#)⁸⁵ with the DC on Schools on IG (DC-SIG) and produced a [syllabus](#)⁸⁶ which can guide stakeholders wishing to organize different forms of SIGs. The syllabus was successfully tested in practice with the Ethiopian School on Internet governance, also supported by the Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA).

⁸⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-capacity-development-workshops>

⁸⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/supporting-sigs>

⁸⁶ https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/253/21174

D.3 Internships and Fellowships at the IGF Secretariat

The IGF continues 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 in need to learn about Internet governance.

During 2022, two female interns from the UK and Germany and one male intern from the US, 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.

Conclusion

The 2022 IGF cycle was notable for its innovations and for having built on the successes of recent years, extending a trajectory of growth and improvement for which the IGF has been known during its current mandate. The expansion of stakeholder engagement, including of under-represented groups and into vital political and institutional decision-making spheres; the fostering of new policy discourses; and the strengthening of technical and communication measures to make the IGF ever-more accessible and visible; constitute main areas of progress over the past year.

The 17th 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, also traditionally under-represented and critical to digital policy formation, guaranteed these perspectives were given ample space, visibility, and opportunity to shape IGF outcomes. A secondary effect of the great care placed in developing the meeting's high-level component was strong UN System representation. 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 the membership of countries underrepresented or never-before present in the body, such as Tuvalu, Peru, Uganda, Malawi and Kyrgyzstan.

Continuous efforts are 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 his report on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, [Our Common Agenda](#), published in 2021.

In 2022, the Secretary-General appointed a [Leadership Panel](#), as a high-level multistakeholder body with responsibilities to provide strategic inputs and advice to the IGF, promote the Forum and its outputs, support high-level engagement and fundraising, and exchange IGF outputs with other stakeholders and relevant fora. The 15-member Panel met in person for the first time at the 17th annual IGF meeting. Members also met with other organizations and engaged with the community through an open town hall session that

enabled them to gather views from Forum participants about their needs and expectations and could help orient the Panel's work in 2023.

An Expert Group Meeting was organized by DESA in March 2022 to contribute to advancing digital cooperation and strengthening and improving the IGF as a space for global multistakeholder discussion on Internet policy issues. Its [report and recommendations](#) contribute to the work of the Leadership Panel and the MAG.

The IGF continues to plan its contribution to the Secretary-General's proposed [Global Digital Compact](#). The IGF 2022 Messages, reflecting key takeaways from the Forum's discussions, are expected to represent its input into the GDC development process.

The 2022 IGF also broke ground in terms of opening new policy fronts through its intersessional work: two best practice forums on gender and on cybersecurity; as well as two policy networks focused on meaningful access and Internet fragmentation

Technical improvements were also made to make the 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 2022 meeting. The [3D-rendered meeting venue](#) supported the online participation better. In parallel, communications activities were ramped up in the months immediately preceding and during the 17th IGF, all resulting in high social media interactions and.

The 18th annual IGF meeting will be hosted by the Government of Japan from 8 to 12 October 2023. As it begins a new cycle, together with the Leadership Panel, the MAG and cooperating closely with UN DESA, the Secretariat will commit to further improving IGF processes, reach and impacts, and to draw on the organizational and substantive lessons learned over the past year including the EGM report recommendations. It will also pay attention to aligning and connecting its work to the UN Secretary-General's vision for a Global Digital Compact.