



INTERNET
GOVERNANCE
FORUM
POLAND
INTERNET UNITED

6-10 DECEMBER, KATOWICE

MEDIA ADVISORY

16th Internet Governance Forum

6-10 DECEMBER

What?

Surging Internet use during the COVID-19 pandemic has been accompanied by growing data breaches and a lack of Internet accountability has contributed to a wave of incendiary hate speech around the world. To address these dangerous trends and to spur efforts to ensure an open, secure and free digital future for all countries and individuals, UN Secretary-General António Guterres will convene the Internet Governance Forum on 6 to 10 December in Poland. The Conference will bring together thousands of innovators, big tech executives, young people, ministers and parliamentarians to leverage the power of the Internet while tackling the risks.

Why?

According to the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the estimated number of people who used the Internet during COVID-19 surged to 4.9 billion in 2021, from 4.1 billion in 2019. Remote education, remote work and remote health services came within the reach of many. However, approximately 2.9 billion people around the world still remain without Internet access and risk being left behind.

But the vulnerabilities of the Internet are also growing. The cost of data breaches is expected to top \$5 trillion by 2024. And the lack of accountability in cyberspace has made the Internet a vehicle for the spread of hate speech, violent extremism and misinformation on the pandemic.

The Forum's theme "Internet United" calls for stepping up collective efforts to achieve universal access and meaningful connectivity, economic inclusion and human rights protection online. Four cross-cutting issues, including climate, e-waste and the environment, data and consumer protection and trust, security and stability, will also be covered.

Who?

Mr. Andrzej Duda – President of the Republic of Poland

Mr. Mateusz Morawiecki – Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland;

Mr. António Guterres – UN Secretary-General

Mr. Liu Zhenmin – UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

Mr. Houlin Zhao – Secretary-General, International Telecommunication Union

Ms. Michelle Bachelet-Jeria – UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
Ms. Maria Francesca Spatolisano – Interim Head, UN Office of the Secretary General’s Envoy on Technology
Ms. Nighat Dad – Facebook Oversight Board Member
Mr. Vint Cerf – Co-founder of the Internet and Vice President at Google
Mr. John Frank – Vice President, UN Affairs, Microsoft
Ms. Aminath Shauna – Minister of Environment, Climate Change, and Technology, Maldives and many more

Major moments

- 6 Dec, 4:00 pm CET: [IGF Global Youth Summit](#)
- 6 Dec, 1:00 – 1:30 pm CET: [Daily press briefing with special guest](#)
- 7 Dec, 10:00-11:30 am CET: [Official opening](#) with speeches by the President of Poland Andrzej Duda and the UN Secretary-General António Guterres.
- 7 Dec, 11:40 am-12:10 pm CET: [Opening press conference](#) with Minister Janusz Cieszyński, Secretary of State, Government Plenipotentiary for Cybersecurity in Poland and Mr. Liu Zhenmin, UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs.
- 8 Dec, 1:00 – 1:30 pm CET: [Daily press briefing with special guest](#)
- 9 Dec, 1:00 – 1:30 pm CET: [Daily press briefing with special guest](#)
- 10 Dec, 1:00 – 1:30 pm CET: [Closing press briefing on the outcomes of the Forum](#)

Where?

In person: International Congress Centre (MCK) in Katowice, Plac Sławika i Antalla 1, Katowice

Online: [3D virtual venue](#) and through the IGF app available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#)

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

Registration: <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2021-registration>

Hashtags: #IGF2021 #InternetUnited

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