



Compendium of NRIs 2021 Discussion Priorities

Subtitle



Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum

COMPENDIUM OF

NATIONAL, REGIONAL, SUB-REGIONAL AND YOUTH IGF INITIATIVES
INTERNET GOVERNANCE THEMATIC FOCUS

2021



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INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

The Internet Governance Forum is a global multistakeholder platform that facilitates the discussion of public policy issues pertaining to the Internet governance¹. The IGF was one of the most important outcomes of the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) that mandated the United Nations Secretary-General to formally convene the Forum on 18 July 2006.

In the resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 December 2015, (70/125) 'Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society'², the existing mandate of the IGF as set out in paragraphs 72 to 78 of the Tunis Agenda was extended for another 10 years.

Institutionally, the IGF is supported by the IGF Secretariat, administered by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), while the programme of the annual IGF meeting is developed by the Multistakeholder Advisory Group.

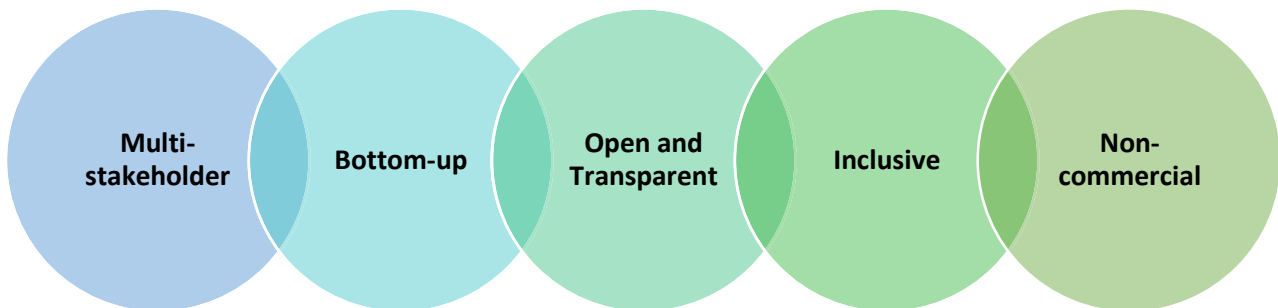
So far, sixteen annual meetings of the IGF were hosted by various governments. The 17th IGF is scheduled to be hosted by the Government of Ethiopia in Addis Ababa; while the IGF 2023 will be hosted by the Government of Japan and IGF 2025 by the Government of Russia. A number of expressions of interest have been received for hosting of the 2024 IGF.

¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/about>

² https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/ares70d125_en.pdf

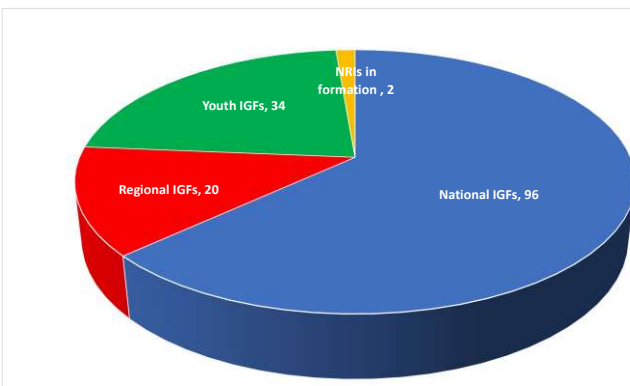
ABOUT THE NRIs

Since the IGF was convened, multistakeholder communities of some countries and regions felt inspired by the IGF concept and decided to apply the same set of principles and procedures in their local environments. Just like the IGF, the NRIs organize their national or regional IGF's in an open and transparent, inclusive, bottom-up and multistakeholder manner. In simple words, we could say that the NRIs act as IGF's organized around the world! The NRIs are autonomous national and/or regional multistakeholder platforms that facilitate discussions on public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. The overall planning of the annual programme is facilitated by the multistakeholder organising team in an open, consultative and bottom-up manner across its respected community. All stakeholders act on equal footing while engaging in dialogues on Internet governance matters.



The IGF Secretariat supports stakeholders in their bottom-up requests to establish the IGF-like process for a particular community. The Secretariat is entrusted by the NRIs to conduct the formal recognition process and lists initiative son its website, after concluding the process through which it confirms that a particular NRI follows a set of IGF's baseline principles and procedures. Namely, that the NRIs runs its process in an open, inclusive, transparent, bottom-up, multistakeholder and non-commercial framework. These principles and related procedure are explained in more detail in the [NRIs Toolkit](#)³, available in six official languages of the UN.

Since 2006 until the present moment, these processes resulted in over 130 countries and regions having established their national, regional, sub-regional or youth IGF initiatives (NRIs). The IGF saw a rapid, evolutionary growth⁴ of the NRIs across its three phased mandated extension. Since 2015 when the



IGF's mandate was extended for 10 years, the number of recognised NRIs has almost tripled. At the beginning of the IGF 2022 cycle, the number of national IGFs was 96; while 20 IGFs were recognised on a sub-regional and regional levels. 34 independently organised Youth IGFs were recognised. A number of national and/or (sub)regional IGFs facilitated integrated programmes for youth, which do not

³³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/nris-toolkit-how-to-start-your-igf-initiative>

⁴ The IGF Secretariat conducts the retroactive recognition, which reflect the total number of the NRIs historically. These numbers are the existing records during the IGF relevant annual meeting.

amount to the mentioned number of Youth IGF initiatives.

The NRIs organise their annual meetings where different experts, leaders and those with interest in Internet governance engage in informed exchanges on local issues, good practices and action-oriented ideas forward. The multistakeholder organising committees produce annual reports which are submitted to the IGF Secretariat to confirm the recognition status for the next year and inform the broader community about their meeting's outcomes and outputs. Some of the NRIs also run intersessional activities, such for example are capacity development trainings and webinars for their communities, or particular strategies for stakeholder engagement.



i To learn more about the NRIs, the following sources can be useful:



[NRIs Toolkit](#)
[How to start your IGF Initiative?](#)
[Available in: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish](#)



[Youth engagement at the IGF](#)
[Youth IGF initiatives and other capacity development processes](#)

- **NRIs pages at the IGF website**
<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives>
- **Frequently Asked Questions about the NRIs**
<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/frequently-asked-questions-about-the-nris>

Acknowledgements

The “Compendium of National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives” was prepared by the Internet Governance Forum Secretariat (IGF) through the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) by the IGF Secretariat’s NRIs Focal Point, in close coordination with designated NRIs coordinators, as listed on the IGF website⁵. The NRIs referenced in this Compendium were described on the basis of their annual reports for 2021 years and/or video and transcript materials.

⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/nris-points-of-contacts-coordinators>

Foreword

The Internet and on it based technologies and services are integral part of people's daily lives. Their rapid development and deployment are continuously impacting and transforming our livelihoods. As proven accelerators of the sustainable development, the digital technologies are, however, not affecting everyone in a same way. No access at all or a sub-standard access to the Internet is a reality for over half of the world's population. This further causes inequalities in economic, social and cultural statuses. The more technologies develop, the wider this gap becomes. As the digital landscape is different, so are the digital issues across cities, countries and regions. But, it is not just geographically that Internet governance issues differ. This problem is far more complex and relates also to different communities and their specific issues. For example, in some parts of the world, women and girls are not treated the same as others in an online domain. Likewise, elderly population, youth, people with disabilities, indigenous people, migrants and refugees, are just some of the examples of vulnerable groups that require strategic multistakeholder investment for their digital inclusion.

Because of all this, the IGF, as the global forum focused on global digital public policy matters, faces continuous challenges in developing and addressing a globally relevant agenda and ensuring that no one is left behind. The NRIs are among the Forum's most critical partners for understanding the global priorities. As multistakeholder networks at local levels, the NRIs allow for deeper learnings of local challenges and good practices.

The Internet's development and Internet Governance activities should be guided through equal and meaningful participation of all stakeholders across the world. It is imperative that we increase participation of stakeholders from all countries and regions, and particularly from the developing world. The National and Regional IGF Initiatives (NRIs) are central to this effort and are important and crucial collaborators.

This compendium outlines the specific challenges the NRIs have, as well as the actions recommended to be taken for a better Internet for all. As a whole, the compendium points at convergencies, but also divergencies that exist among digital ecosystems on local levels. All this sends a clear message that advancing the Internet toward becoming a powerful force for good, equally for all, requires people to unite in the richness of their digital policy differences. The NRIs show in practice how this is achieved through their annual meetings and related intersessional activities, reflected on the following pages of this publication.

IGF Secretariat

Introduction

This publication aims at providing an overall analytical overview of the NRIs discussion areas during 2021. It presents thematic trends on a collective level, as well as the discussions focus on an individual level.

References made to any practices, tools or services does not imply an endorsement on the side of the United Nations or the mentioned NRIs. The NRIs platforms as neutral, open spaces for all stakeholders to come together and exchange inputs and ideas on matters marked as priorities by wider communities.

The overall thematic interests on the NRIs agendas are collected and clustered under eight broad Internet governance discussion areas, as endorsed by the IGF MAG in 2018 and slightly adjusted in 2019 by the NRIs network. These are: *Access and Inclusion, Cybersecurity, Data, Digital Rights & Freedoms, Economic Issues & Sustainability, Internet governance ecosystem, New & Emerging Technologies and Technical Issues*. Given that many of the issues are crosscutting, in case of doubts, the discussion context helped understand under which cluster a particular issue fits more appropriately.

The compendium is structured in two major parts, with the first part presenting an overall collective analytical overview of discussion trends, followed by the second part of described discussion areas of individual NRIs.

Stakeholders are welcomed to communicate any comments of feedback on this publication by emailing the IGF Secretariat at igf@un.org.

NRIs Discussion Priorities

During 2021, 89 NRIs had hosted their annual meetings. It is an established procedure that the NRIs annual programmes are developed in a bottom-up manner through public call for inputs issued to all stakeholders of their targeted communities. Usually, issues received are clustered within thematic discussion areas, subject for further consideration of the NRIs multistakeholder organising committees.

In order to understand global Internet governance issues' priorities, the IGF Secretariat analyses digital policy discussion areas through agendas of the NRIs annual meetings hosted during the mapped time period. Below is an overview of the 2021 discussion areas gathered across 89 NRIs annual meetings for 2021 IGF cycle.

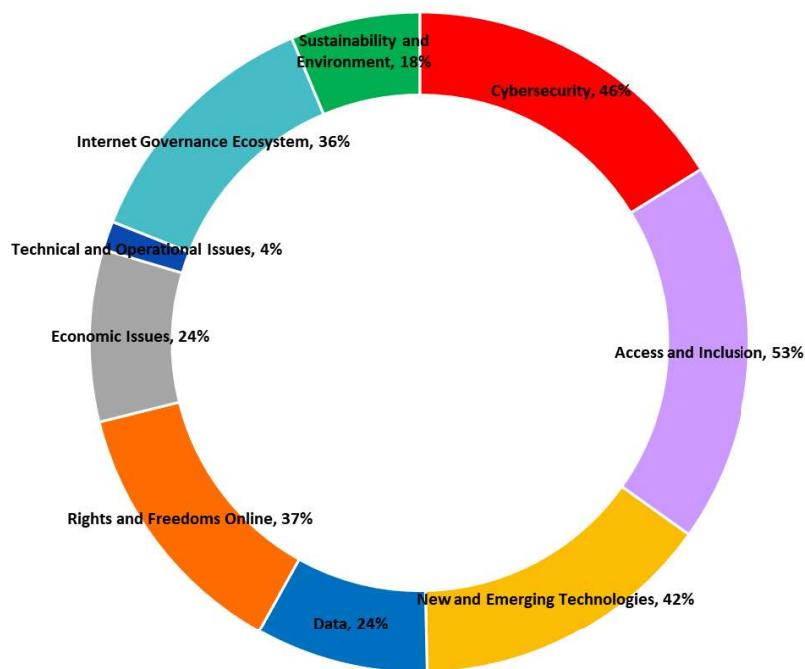
Access and digital inclusion

By looking into the substantive orientation of the NRIs annual meeting programmes, it is evident that several discussion areas emerged as priorities across the majority of the NRIs. The discussion narratives mostly related to areas of access and digital inclusion, followed by cybersecurity, new and emerging technologies as well as rights and freedoms online. The processes for Internet governance discussion

and decision-making framework also featured prominently the NRIs agendas.

In comparison to 2020 digital policy trends, it is evident that *safety and security* regained attention, while the biggest policy shift happened in respect to new and emerging technologies becoming the second top priority of the NRIs people-shaped agendas. However, it is worth of noting that the majority of the issues discussed under the thematic clusters are crosscutting and discussed in correlation with each other, depending on the context.

More in-depth review of the particular discussion areas shows that *digital inclusion and access* mostly related to affordability of



Graph 1

Priority discussion areas across 89 NRIs annual meetings in 2021

broadband and mobile Internet access; digital skills and all-stakeholder inclusion, especially of vulnerable and marginalized groups. On the latter, a number of NRIs recognized people in rural areas, youth and women and girls as groups which require tailored action to be meaningfully included in digital dynamics.

Cybersecurity frameworks' prioritized issues related to the overall concept of cybersecurity public policy, safety online, cybercrime and trust. The last year's trend of child and youth protection online continued to grow this year, as well.

NRIs communities also extensively discusses matters related to *new and emerging technologies*. The most represented issues related to introducing and benefiting from 5G technologies, to governance of artificial intelligence. Notable were specific discussions about way algorithms are designed and interacted with people's rights and freedoms. Further, discussions developed around the governance of artificial intelligence, smart devices and role blockchain technologies have in the overall societal development.

Rights and freedoms online were also a thematic area highly prioritized by many NRIs. Close to 40% NRIs multistakeholder discussions focused on human rights, such as right to privacy and freedom of expression, but also the ways digital identity reflects on economic and social rights.

Areas related to *Internet governance ecosystem* focused on the current 'state of play' of national, regional and global Internet governance processes. This domain discussion a myriad of topics, from reflecting to the past 18 years of the WSIS processes, to the role big tech companies plan in the discussion and decision-making process to the online culture developed so far.

Unlike last year, *economic issues* were slightly reduced in terms of the explicit representation on the NRIs 2021 agendas. However, it is important to underline that issues related to digital economy overall was crosscutting many other thematic clustered analysed. This especially related to cybersecurity and trust, where safety of e-trade and e-commerce was broadly discussed, to access and digital inclusion where economic benefits were one of the most important consequences of digital inclusion and transformation.

Data discussion areas continued to relate to data protection and data governance and data privacy. Unlike last year, where data localisation was part of many NRIs agendas, this year's overview did not note explicit focus, although it emerged as part of the overall data governance context.

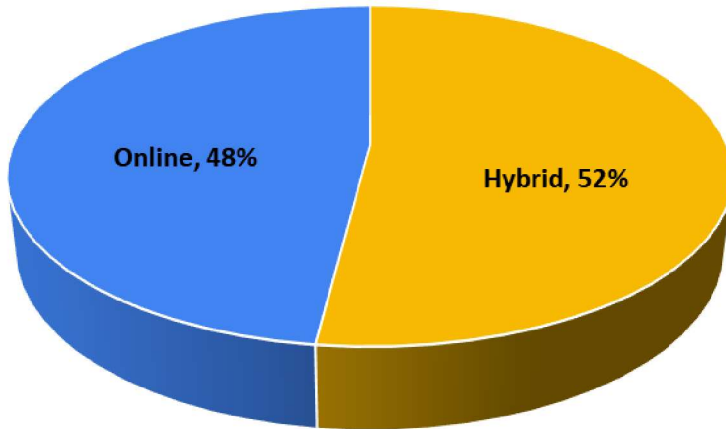
Sustainability, and especially matters related to intersections of environment and digitalisation continue the last year's trend of growth.

Significantly less than last year, present across the NRIs agendas were also *technical and operational matters*, such as the core Internet infrastructure and domain name system (DNS).

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact discussion narratives. While not many NRIs included direct reference of the pandemic in their discussion agendas, the discussion contexts notably reflected also the pandemic's impact, especially in respect to the proven need of everyone to have meaningful access to the Internet and the fact that digital divides are now more illustrated, globally.

COVID-19 impact

As noted above, substantively, the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the 2021 NRIs discussion narratives. However, the biggest impact still occurred in the domain of procedures, specifically how the meetings were hosted. Last year, the pandemic reduced the ability of many NRIs to host the annual meeting at all. This year, more NRIs managed to host their meetings: from 71 in 2020 to 89 in 2021. Unlike last year,

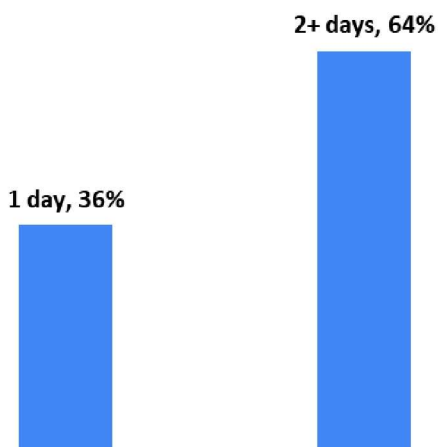


Graph 2: Format of 89 NRIs annual meetings in 2021

when less than 3% hosted their meetings in person, while all others were hosted online, this year, despite the pandemic's presence globally, 48% NRIs hosted their annual meetings completely online, while 52% hosted their meetings in a hybrid format, which means with onsite and online participation possibility.

2021 also saw an increase in capacity development activities across NRIs. These took different forms, from webinars to producing written publications on substantive and

process-related Internet governance matters, to workshops, seminars and schools on Internet governance. Youth-engagement was discussed broadly across 89 NRIs annual meetings which took place in this year.



Given the online format of NRIs meetings, there were variations also in the overall design of the meetings. While 36% hosted 1-day long annual meeting, 64% meetings' discussions spanned across 2 or more days. There were cases where NRIs hosted workshops and other session types over several weeks' time period. The main goal of this creative and strategic approach to meeting formats was to reduce the overall fatigue noted by many and allow for a balanced and easier to manage schedule of important and complex discussions.

The average participation across all 89 NRIs meetings in 2021, indicates that around 15,000 individuals directly participated in the IGF-like discussion processes around the world.

OVERVIEW OF NRIs DISCUSSION AREAS 2021



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO IGF

Digitalization the 'new norm'

Annual meeting	28-19 January 2021, hosted online
Estimated # participants	100
Website	www.igf.tt
Contact	info@igf.tt

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

The national IGF of Trinidad and Tobago hosted its annual meetings under the overall themes of 'Digitalization the 'new norm. The agenda focused on the following areas, set as priorities by the community: digitalization and multistakeholder approach, cybersecurity, tech and education and digital entrepreneurship.

In regard to the digitalization and multistakeholder approach, the participants underlined the need for fresh ideas on how to better harness the potential of digitization, foster networking within business, and to build trust in digital technologies by creating greater transparency around them. They called for a clear vision on how to achieve these goals which should be discussed and agreed among all stakeholders.

During the panel focused on cybersecurity, participants discussed the level of awareness and knowledge it needs to exist on the side of all stakeholders to self-prevent from encountering malicious activities. It was stressed that it is crucial to develop safety plans for protection of online users, especially targeting vulnerable communities such as children. The COVID-19 pandemic crosscut the discussion narratives underling how it forced people to turn to the Internet more and at the same time exacerbated the online threats. This was especially discussed in the context of education, where the participants looked at innovative approaches to digitalization advancing education and making it accessible to everyone. It was called for adapting teaching methods to changing societal situation and using digital technologies as facilitator of that process.

The exchanges about digital entrepreneurship focused on ways of making it sustainable and globally competitive. Participants noted the value of encouraging a greater uptake of digital entrepreneurship by creating an enabling environment, encouraging development, and collaboration, developing capacity on innovation for students, Also, financing and infrastructure, as critical tools for digital entrepreneurship, need to become more accessible.



ESTONIA IGF

Tomorrow's weather on the Internet

Annual meeting	25 May 2021, hosted online
Estimated # participants	500
Website	
Contact	

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

The national IGF of Estonia was hosted online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The main topics discussed related to disinformation online, environment and Internet sovereignty.

The community discussed the ways to combat inaccurate information online communicated through social media. Recognizing that there are several approaches to having social media platforms to deal with this problem, questions were raised about ways home pages are dealt with and if the current system is enough to deal with disinformation online given its impact and the imperative to respect human rights.

Discussion also developed around the Estonian Internet footprint and impact on the environment.

Participants also exchange views regarding ways of understanding the concept of Internet sovereignty. The role of governments was especially discussed, as well as the recognized growing fragmentation.



RUSSIAN YOUTH IGF

Annual meeting	6 April 2021, Moscow
Estimated # participants	
Website	http://youth.rigf.ru/en
Contact	youthrigf@gmail.com

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

The inaugural Youth IGF of Russia gathered stakeholders from different disciplines to discuss issues related to access, digital economy, ethics, data, trust, engagement of youth and values of the information society. The community spoke about the Internet as an opportunity for sharing and gaining knowledge; as a space for exercising the freedom of speech and universal values. A message to minimize the harmful effects modern technologies have for the environment and human rights was sent. Further, the multistakeholder global community was invited to address some of the most pressing needs that exist in Internet governance ecosystem, outlined below.

As an international community asset, the Internet must serve equally everyone, which calls for urgent bridging of the digital divide. Capacity development is necessary in addition to the deployment of the infrastructure, especially recognizing the need for investment for marginalized and vulnerable communities such as elderly population.

Further, the forum called for ensuring that the processes of digital transformation of the economy are inclusive and for promotion of the role of young people in these processes.

The discussion on digital ethics and digital hygiene underlined the need to provide extensive and ongoing education about digital hygiene and digital culture on the Internet, especially for children and youth; and emphasized the development of critical thinking and the observance of precautionary measures in virtual space.

Exchanges on data and content online developed around the user-centric ideas calling for more social responsibility of businesses toward users regarding positing to their online platforms. It was called for promoting positive content, conducive to the development of useful skills and the acquisition of new knowledge. Participants also discussed the creatin of cross-university social networks to generate and promote positive content.

Safety and security topics were also extensive discussed. The community underlined the need for a safe Internet for all especially underlining the needs of children and young generation. Ensuring compliance of tech companies with applicable laws was also seen as critical.

Finally, the discussion evolved towers discussing values and engagement of youth in Internet governance. It was stressed that there is a need to develop an information society based on knowledge, reliable and scientifically verified information, including modern digital technologies, which exists in a value-based and ethical environment. Participants called for all Youth IGFs to united for the sake of forging inclusion of youth in relevant processes. Participants welcomed the idea of creating a Youth Digital Ombudsperson institution and urged others to follow the example.



RUSSIAN IGF

Annual meeting	7-9 April 2021, Moscow
Estimated # participants	150
Website	www.rigf.ru
Contact	rigf@cctld.ru

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

During the 2021 edition of the Russian national IGF, the community discussed topics¹ related to information security, trust in the Internet, regulation of social networks, data sovereignty, use of artificial intelligence and many other important issues linked with Internet development, the formation of the ecosystem of the Internet governance and international cooperation.

In regard to the evolution of Internet governance and making the Internet a safer place, the community endorsed several messages and action points the overall ecosystem should strive to, such as to build an inclusive digital economy and society; to develop human and institutional capacity; protect human rights and human agency; promote digital trust, security and stability; and to foster global digital cooperation.

Emerging technologies, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and ethics were also discussed extensively. Participants recognized the need for a responsible approach toward deployment of AI technologies especially in sectors such as health or transportation, given a direct impact on people.

Data sovereignty was discussed in the context of data security, cloud computing, technological sovereignty and data management at the macro-level. Participants called for new architecture and a that allows for legal interoperability between different actors. Further, participants called for creation of conditions for individuals to protect their personal data and for businesses to be able to work with data.

Discussions also developed around the responsibility digital platforms have toward users and the state. Exchanges referenced the need for creating of equal competitive conditions for domestic and foreign developers operating on the digital technologies and services market.

Cybersecurity and trust also featured the programme prominently. Overall, participants called for measures to promote the role of all stakeholders, including the private sector and civil society, in improving security when using ICTs. More cooperation between all stakeholders backed with internationally accepted standards for a safe online environment is needed. Finally, in order to protect the community's user rights, it was called for more dialogue between the platform management and the users in regard to the rules of behaviour and understanding how users' data are managed and utilized.

¹ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/131/20576



SEEDIG

Your 2021 digital agenda

Annual meeting	Series of online events June-November 2021
Estimated # participants	200
Website	www.seedig.net
Contact	excon@seedig.net

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SEEDIG hosted several online events spread throughout the year. The programme focused on universal acceptance, sustainable future, Artificial Intelligence, building more inclusive Internet governance and data.

Participants discussed the concept of the universal acceptance is aimed to make the online environment more inclusive and barrierless for everyone.



TANZANIA IGF

Internet United: The lessons of Internet resilience in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic

Annual meeting	5 November 2021, Dar es Salaam
Estimated # participants	110
Website	www.tzigf.or.tz
Contact	tanzaniacommunity@intgovforum.org

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

The national IGF of Tanzania hosted its annual meetings under the overall theme: Internet United: The lessons of Internet resilience in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic. The community-set agenda focused on topics such as digitalization of agriculture, universal acceptance, digital inclusion, Internet shutdowns, misinformation online and overview of Internet governance ecosystem.

In regard to the digitalization of agriculture, stakeholders underlined that it creates an opportunity for young people where they can use technology or Agtech to monitor and improve farm yields. Also to use or create applications to market the products from the farms create wealth and help to fight poverty.



EuroDIG

Into Europe's Digital Decade

Annual meeting	28-30 June 2021, hosted online
Estimated # participants	500
Website	www.eurodig.org
Contact	www.eurodig.org/contact

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic EuroDIG held its second virtual meeting from 28-30 June 2021. As digitalization was seen as experiencing a true catalyzation driven by the current pandemic the technological advances as well as the growing digital divide were important topics discussed at this meeting. The meeting was based around 8 themes and included almost 50 sessions. The 4 focus sessions were on environmental sustainability, digital interdependence, cybersecurity, and the European mediascape.

Achievements and action plans for a sustainable ICT environment in the future were examined. The plan for the next decade was seen as especially important due to the EU's digital action plan and the Green Deal strategies. Education, access, decentralization, regulatory frameworks and standardized methodologies were seen as imperative to a sustainable future.

Europe's role in governing digital interdependence was one of the focus areas at this meeting. Risk management, security technology, and legal instruments were seen as building blocks for trust and accountability, as well as targeted regulation. However, emphasizing the EU's regulatory power too much was seen as counter-productive.

Furthermore, the new European proposals for cybersecurity, namely NIS2 and the cybersecurity agenda were discussed. The need to educate companies on these new proposals and help guide them into compliance was highlighted. But it was also seen as essential to gain more clarity on the accountability mechanisms and the roles of different entities under the scope of NIS2.

Support was expressed by all relevant actors for innovative efforts to create a trusted European media space. The need for a multistakeholder approach and media education was strongly emphasized to build this safe and harmonious media system.



BENIN IGF

Digitalization the 'new norm'

Annual meeting	28 September 2021, hosted online
Estimated # participants	100
Website	www.fgi.bj
Contact	info@fgi.bj

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

The 10th annual meeting of the Benin IGF took place on September 28, 2021, under the theme “Prospects for Benin’s Digital Economy 2021-2030”. It consisted of three sessions; two were about the digital economy of Benin and one was about challenges that are being faced when digitizing processes, the interoperability of databases and the digital future of universities.

This meeting allowed for an exchange on database interoperability, issues surrounding electronic payment, the future of universities and the level of the digitalization of processes within public and private companies. Benin’s digital economy was reviewed and solutions to the identified challenges were proposed in order not to miss the prospects envisioned for the digital economy of Benin by 2030. Various Beninese stakeholders have gained a better overview of what has been achieved in terms of digital technology and the digital economy and what still needs to be done.

At the end of the meeting many recommendations were made by various stakeholders, and it was emphasized that the government’s efforts towards digitization should continue, as significant progress has already been visible. These recommendations included, but were not limited to, making the Internet connection affordable and accessible in rural areas, providing training to improve digital skills for teachers and young people, and renewing the Internet infrastructure. Furthermore, it was recommended that inclusive multistakeholder processes should take place to give an input into national digital strategy documents and these strategy documents should be available in national languages and audio versions so that they are accessible to everyone. The disparities that have become more visible through the COVID-19 health crisis were recognized and it was stated that they should be reduced.



NORTH AFRICAN IGF

Digitalization the 'new norm'

Annual meeting	12-13 November 2021, 28-19 January 2021, Tangier, Morocco
Estimated # participants	300
Website	www.naigf.org
Contact	tijani.benjema@topnet.tn

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

The 5th annual North African IGF took place in Nouakchott, Mauritania from 12-13 November 2021 in a hybrid format. It consisted of four thematic sessions under the overarching theme “Digital development: priorities and opportunities in the North African region”. 10 leading experts addressed the topics of digital transformation, blockchain and crypto-currency technology, opportunities and challenges of the digital economy, and data governance in the era of digital transformation.

Different strategies were identified in different North African countries regarding digital transformation. These differences included previous achievements, the obstacles encountered, and future projects that are planned.

The debate on Blockchain technology touched on aspects such as the integrity and immutability of data, its transparency and in consequence the lack of privacy, the high power consumption and the size of the database which increases infinitely, especially for large chains like bitcoin.

The community addressed the accelerated digitization of different countries' economies through the COVID-19 pandemic. They raised the importance of overcoming connectivity and bandwidth challenges to ensure a reliable digital economy.

There was a strong focus on the issue of data security, as it was said to affect states and governments as well as business enterprises and even individuals. Several laws and regulations were discussed that have been put into effect for data protection, but their applicability was seen as very limited in different jurisdictions as the Internet is global. The European General Data Protection Regulation was viewed as the only one that has extraterritorial scope as it applies even to non-European companies that collect and use data from Europeans.



REPUBLIC OF KOREA IGF

New Beginnings: Governance of Equality, Fairness, and Participation

Annual meeting	20 August 2021, hosted online
Estimated # participants	150
Website	www.krifg.kr
Contact	info@krifg.kr

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

The 10th annual Korean IGF took place on 20 August 2021 under the theme “New Beginnings: Governance of Equality, Fairness, and Participation”. Equality, Fairness, and Participation were the three tracks that all the 11 sessions fell under.

Intergenerational accessibility was seen as important in the age of digital transformation. The participants emphasized not to leave the elderly population behind and to provide senior friendly accessibility to digital devices as well as additional digital skill training for the elderly population. They also raised the issue of insufficient media literacy training in schools for children and youth that need to be provided so that young people can develop the right skills to be safe on the internet.

AI ethics was a big topic at the Korean IGF. The community agreed that more awareness for gender discrimination through AI needs to be created and the necessity to work with various levels of actors was emphasized. The community also addressed the need of an AI system that can build trust in data sharing but also take advantage of its benefits. How AI needs to be regulated and how to build AI Governance was discussed as well.

Concerns were raised about damage to fair competition and consumers through the empowerment of online platforms, due to more online shopping and online media consumption.

The importance of Multistakeholderism was emphasized in many of the sessions and having a venue where all stakeholders could participate and express their opinions in the national policy establishment and implementation process, was seen as essential.



MAURITIUS IGF

Eliminating Barriers in Internet Governance Processes

Annual meeting	11-12 November 2021, Port Louis
Estimated # participants	100
Website	www.mauritius.intgovforum.org
Contact	info@halleymovement.org

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

The annual Mauritius Internet Governance Forum was hosted in Mauritius from 11 to 12 November 2021 under the theme “Eliminating Barriers in Internet Governance Processes”. This year the topics were on online safety, especially for children, the use of social media by migrants and sustainability and social impacts.

This meeting led to 7 recommendations on child online safety.

A computer emergency and response team that was set up in 2008 handles and coordinates security issues at national level. It was acknowledged that knowing about this can especially protect children from online predators that target unsuspecting kids. It was also recommended to have a national online reporting system that allows the public to report cybercrimes on social media. Another suggestion was to use online and IP address tracking to ensure that cyber criminals are caught and prosecuted.

It was agreed on that parent teacher conferences should also create awareness among parents to ensure their children are safe from online predators. Encouraging parents to create safe spaces for their children to discuss their online activities could stop some cases before they get out of hand. The idea of creating awareness about these topics to children directly, eg. through child friendly booklets or through podcasts was emphasized.

The Mauritius IGF hopes that this meeting will have empowered children, parents and the community whilst dealing with Internet Governance and given them a deeper understanding of Internet related topics. They also expect to see more reporting of online child abuse cases and a decrease in fake news circulating in the community.



INDIA IGF

Digitalization the 'new norm'

Annual meeting	28-19 January 2021, hosted online
Estimated # participants	100
Website	www.indiaigf.in
Contact	info@indiaigf.in

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

The Indian Internet Governance Forum was held from 25 to 27 of November 2021 under the theme “Empower India through the Power of Internet”. 19 Sessions were held at this meeting, but further sessions took place at the Pre-Indian IGF and the Post-Indian IGF.

The importance of having this multi-stakeholder forum in India was underlined, as well as India’s role in defining Internet governance practices all over the world. Leveraging the potential utility networks and participating in decision making processes with local, national and state level government was seen as essential.

The need to eliminate access barriers for inclusive and meaningful engagements, through affordability, multilingualism, and accessibility for people with disabilities was highlighted. A possible solution that was named was that developers and owners should invest in making their software’s UA compliant. It was agreed that more effort needs to be put into overcoming digital inequality in India and the role of multistakeholderism and media education was emphasized. It was said that the discrimination that people with disabilities, women, and minorities face should be addressed. Teaching youth about the threats and vulnerabilities on the internet was seen as a priority to keeping young people safe.

The idea to have a Universal Declaration of Digital Rights was expressed and it was said that India should lead that initiative. But it was also agreed on that there should be more India-specific standards like 5Gi, to build India-specific utilities. To tackle cybersecurity issues in India it was stressed that existing legislations would need to be modified and new legislations would need to be introduced.

Data that was presented showed significant progress of digital payment processes in India which was seen as a driver for social economic progress.



LEBANON
INTERNET
GOVERNANCE
FORUM

LEBANON IGF

Digital Transformation for Resilience

Annual meeting	23-24 November and 7 December 2021, hosted online
Estimated # participants	150
Website	www.igflebanon.org
Contact	N/A

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

The third annual Lebanese Internet Governance Forum took place on 23 and 24 November and 7 December 2021 under the theme “Digital Transformation for Resilience”. The community participated in 3 workshops and 4 main sessions under the themes digital transformation, digital access and inclusion, security and trust, and digital rights and freedoms.

The importance of making information available to enhance media work and scientific research was raised as well as the difficulties that journalists face in obtaining information. Furthermore the legal system that impedes the free circulation of information and the digital transformation strategy were analysed. The current situation of the Lebanese infrastructure was discussed in light of the economic crisis. It was stated that the network has withstood until now, but suffers from an acceleration in costs due to the consumption of diesel. As the speakers discussed the energy crisis and its impact on the Internet, they proposed using alternative sources of energy such as solar energy. The meeting highlighted the need to defend the rights of students, women and persons with disabilities. It also touched on the priority of access to food, access to school, learning, and provision of electricity, which were seen as the basics of life before the Internet.

In light of the multi-faceted crises that occur locally and globally, the necessity to take an accelerated leap towards the digital transformation of operations management, services and education was emphasized. The limitations and challenges that Lebanon faces were discussed as well as the future goals. The speakers discussed the difficulties that workers in the field of informatics are currently facing in terms of implementing information security, including the difficulties in the availability of the Internet, electric energy, and the purchase of necessary equipment and programs in light of the economic crisis and the Covid-19 pandemic.

Overall, 6 recommendations were made at the meeting. It was recommended to enshrine the right to Freedom of Expression and the right to Access of Information, in line with the Lebanese constitution and international conventions and enforce them, as well as implement a digital transformation plan. It was also said to develop the infrastructure to secure a solid and basic Internet that ensures access for all on Lebanese territory at a reasonable cost and acceptable speed. The community agreed that an educational curricula needs to be developed that effectively uses technology and initiatives that develop the knowledge economy should be supported. The importance of multi-stakeholder involvement, including especially the most marginalized groups was highlighted.



SPAIN IGF

The Internet unites us

Annual meeting	16-17 November 2021, hosted online
Estimated # participants	150
Website	www.igfspain.org
Contact	igfspain@etsit.upm.es

KEY DISCUSSION AREAS

The annual Spanish IGF meeting was held from 16 to 17 November 2021 under the overarching theme “The Internet unites us”. 8 thematic sessions and an opening and closing ceremony took place at this meeting.


European Platform Regulations were discussed as well as how to design an effective DSA/DMA so that institutions and citizens have confidence in products and services, and can take advantage of the opportunities offered by the digital economy. A session was also held on the European Digital Markets Regulation (DMA) that is currently being processed in the European Parliament.

Creating European regulatory harmonization and flexibility were seen as necessary for achieving a successful digital market. The lack of trust in the digital ecosystem that represents a clear inhibitor for digitization was addressed as well. It was said that the European Union is working to define a new strategy for the management and exploitation of the personal data of its citizens, which was discussed from different perspectives. The Digital Services Act (DSA) proposed by the European Commission and its impact on the fundamental rights of EU citizens, especially the Right to Freedom of Expression, was explored as well.





Social and environmental issues played an important role at this meeting as well. Speakers described the actions that are being carried out in relation to environmental sustainability and climate change and how new technologies can help reduce energy consumption, through renewable energies. Solutions to bridging the digital divide in rural areas were explored, as one cause was seen in the migration to large urban centers.

The community discussed the role that digitalization plays in the labor market, paying special attention to the new forms of remote work since the Covid-19 pandemic.

List of Recognized NRIs¹








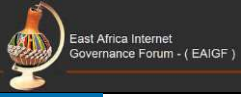












Logo and Name of the IGF Initiative		Website
	Benin IGF	http://fgi.bj/
	Botswana IGF	https://botswana.intgovforum.org/
	Burkina Faso IGF	http://igf-burkina.org/
	Cameroon IGF	http://www.igf.cm/
	Chad IGF	https://www.chadigf.org/
	Côte D'Ivoire IGF	https://fgi.ci/
	Democratic Republic of the Congo IGF	http://www.fgi.cd/
	Gabon IGF	http://www.igf.ga/
	The Gambia IGF	http://www.gmigf.gm/
	Ghana IGF	https://igf.org.gh/
	Kenya IGF	http://kigf.or.ke/
	Madagascar IGF	https://madagascar.intgovforum.org/
	Malawi IGF	https://malawi.intgovforum.org/
	Mauritius IGF	https://mauritius.intgovforum.org/
	Mozambique IGF	Initiative inactive
	Namibia IGF	https://namibia.intgovforum.org/
	Nigeria IGF	http://www.nigf.org.ng/
	Rwanda IGF	http://ricta.org.rw/
	Senegal IGF	http://isoc-senegal.org/

¹ Latest update : 4 January 2021

 SLIGF Sierra Leone Internet Governance Forum	Sierra Leone IGF	https://sierraleone.intgovforum.org/
 South African Internet Governance Forum	South Africa IGF	https://www.zaigf.org.za/index.html
 IGF South Sudan Internet Governance Forum	South Sudan IGF	http://southsudanigf.net/
 IGF SUDAN	Sudan IGF	http://igf.sd/igf/
 TzIGF Tanzania Internet Governance Forum	Tanzania IGF	https://www.tzigf.or.tz/
 IGF Togo	Togo IGF	https://intgovforum.tg/
 IGF Tunisie	Tunisia IGF	http://www.igf.tn/
 IGF Uganda Internet Governance Forum	Uganda IGF	https://isoc.ug/index.php/tag/igf/
 IGF Zambia Internet Governance Forum	Zambia IGF	http://digitalrightsafrika.org/zambia-internet-governance-forum/
 ZIGF Zimbabwe Internet Governance Forum	Zimbabwe IGF	http://www.zigf.org.zw/
 IGF Afghanistan 2019	Afghanistan IGF	http://igf.af/
 BIGF Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum	Bangladesh IGF	http://bangladeshigf.org/
 IGF CHINA IGF	China IGF	http://igfchina.caict.ac.cn/
 IGF INDONESIA	Indonesia IGF	http://igf.id/
Japan IGF	Japan IGF	https://japanigf.jp/
 IGF LEBANON	Lebanon IGF	http://www.igflebanon.com/
 Nepal IGF	Nepal IGF	http://igf.org.np/
Pakistan IGF	Pakistan IGF	http://pakistanigf.pk/
 Kri-IGF 한국 인터넷거버넌스포럼 SOUTH KOREA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM	Republic of Korea IGF	http://krigf.kr/
 IGF Sri Lanka	Sri Lanka IGF	http://www.igf.lk/
 Vanuatu IGF Internet Governance Forum	Vanuatu IGF	http://www.internet.org.vu/
 AlbIGF	Albania IGF	http://www.albigf.al/
 arm IGF	Armenia IGF	http://armigf.am/
 RIGF AZERBAIJAN	Azerbaijan IGF	http://rigf.az/en/
 IGF BELARUS	Belarus IGF	http://igf.by/

	Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF	http://bhigf.ba/en
	Croatia IGF	https://www.carnet.hr/en/projekt/internet-governance-forum/
	Estonia IGF	http://paev.internet.ee/
	Georgia IGF	https://igf.ge/
	Hungary IGF	https://www.igfhungary.hu/
	Moldova IGF	http://migf.rts.one/
	North Macedonia IGF	http://igfmkd.mk/
	Poland IGF	https://mc.gov.pl/igfpolska
	Russia IGF	http://rigf.ru/
	Slovenia IGF	http://sloigf.si/
	Ukraine IGF	http://igf-ua.org/en
	Argentina IGF	http://igfargentina.org/
	Barbados IGF	http://igf.bb/website/
	Bolivia IGF	http://www.igfbolivia.bo/
	Brazil IGF	http://forumdainternet.cgi.br/en/
	Colombia IGF	http://www.gobernanzadeinternet.co/
	Costa Rica IGF	http://www.igfcostarica.cr/
	Dominican Republic IGF	http://isoc-rd.org.do/publicaciones/noticias/concluye-dialogo-gobernanza-organizado-por-isoc-rd/
	Ecuador IGF	https://igfecuador.ec/
	El Salvador IGF	http://igf.sv/
	Guatemala IGF	http://www.igf.gt/
	Haiti IGF	https://isoc.ht/news/le-forum-national-sur-la-gouvernance-de-linternet-haiti-2019/
	Honduras IGF	https://www.uth.hn/igfhonduras

	Mexico IGF	http://www.gobernanzadeinternet.mx/
	Panama IGF	http://www.igfpanama.pa/
	Paraguay IGF	https://foro.igf.org.py/
	Peru IGF	http://gobernanzadeinternet.pe/
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines IGF	http://isoc.vc/
	Trinidad and Tobago IGF	http://mag.tt/
	Uruguay IGF	http://igf.isocuy.org/
	Venezuela IGF	http://igfve.org/
	Australia IGF	https://www.igf.org.au/
	Austria IGF	https://www.igf-austria.at/
	Canada IGF	https://canadianigf.ca/
	Denmark IGF	http://www.fremtidensinternet.dk/
	Finland IGF	http://internetforum.fi/
	France IGF	https://isoc.fr/ateliers/#comite
	Germany IGF	https://www.igf-d.de/
	Italy IGF	http://www.igfitalia.org/
	Malta IGF	http://www.mca.org.mt/migf/about-migf
	Netherlands IGF	http://www.nligf.nl/
	New Zealand IGF	http://nethui.org.nz/
	Portugal IGF	http://www.governacaodainternet.pt/
	Spain IGF	https://igfspain.org/
	Switzerland IGF	http://www.igf.swiss/
	United Kingdom IGF	http://www.ukigf.org.uk/

	United States of America IGF	https://www.igfusa.us/
	African IGF	https://afigf.org/
	Arab IGF	
	Asia Pacific regional IGF	https://www.aprigf.asia/
	Central African IGF	http://fgiac.org/
	Central Asian IGF	http://caigf.org/
	Caribbean IGF	http://www.ctu.int/internet-governance
	Commonwealth IGF	http://www.commonwealthigf.org/
	East African IGF	https://isoc.ug/index.php/east-africa-internet-governance-forums/
	European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG)	http://www.eurodig.org/
	Latin American and Caribbean IGF (LACIGF)	https://lacigf.org/
	Macao IGF	http://www.hnet.asia/event/eng/igf2016.html
	Pacific IGF	https://www.picisoc.org/events-2/pacific-regional-meeting-reports/
	North African IGF	http://naigf.org/
	Persian IGF	https://persianigf.org/ <i>*initiative inactive</i>
	Southern African IGF	https://www.saigf.org/
	South European Dialogue on Internet Governance (SEEDIG)	http://www.seedig.net/
	West African IGF	https://www.waigf.org/
	Hong Kong IGF	https://www.isoc.hk/hkigf/
	Quebec IGF	https://isoc.quebec/en/projects/fgi-quebec-en/fgi-quebec-2020-en/
	Netherlands Youth IGF	https://www.nligf.nl/en/young-igf-2/
	German Youth IGF	https://yigf.de/
	Asia Pacific Youth IGF	http://www.yigf.asia/
	Youth LACIGF	http://youthlacigf.org/

	Youth IGF of Hong Kong	http://hk.yigf.asia/index.html
	Youth IGF of Turkey	https://igfturkey.wordpress.com/
	Youth IGF of Ukraine	
	African Youth IGF	http://youthigf.mysxl.cn/
	Youth IGF of China	
	Albania Youth IGF	http://youthigf.al/
	India Youth IGF	https://youthigf.in/
	Indonesia Youth IGF	http://youth.igf.id/
	Nigeria Youth IGF	https://youthigf.ng/
	West African Youth IGF	https://wayigf.org/
	Armenia Youth IGF	http://yigf.am/
	Italy Youth IGF	https://igfgiovani.wordpress.com/
	Malaysia Youth IGF	www.igfy.my/
	Nicaragua Youth IGF	www.nicaraguayouth.intgovforum.org
	Afghanistan Youth IGF	https://youth.igf.af/
	Russian Youth IGF	http://youth.rigf.ru/
	Chad Youth IGF	https://chadyouth.intgovforum.org/
	Ghana Youth IGF	https://igf.org.gh/youth-igf/
	Youth Ukraine IGF	http://igf-ua.org/en/youth-igf-ua

Overview of all NRIs available on the IGF website

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

Digital technologies have proven themselves as accelerators of sustainable development. However, if not backed with good policies, they can have detrimental effects on people's wellbeing, ranging from economic and security aspects, to human and other rights and environmental sustainability.

Internet is all prevailing. Traditional frameworks of national borders, jurisdictional scope or local actions are challenged. Its good governance calls for a multistakeholder international global cooperation. Governments, international and intergovernmental organizations, civil society, academic and research sectors, technical communities, media and all other disciplines have a role to play in creating a safe, accessible and affordable Internet for all. However, global networks, initiatives and partnerships can not work without understanding of local specificities of the Internet. Internet governance issues and conditions are different between cities, countries and regions. This is what makes an organized multistakeholder effort on local levels pivotal. Despite the ongoing and emerging issues related to digital public policy, the national, regional, sub-regional and youth IGF initiatives are an encouraging factor of confidence that the global community can respond to these and long-term facilitate development of the Internet of use to all. This Compendium highlights the substantive priorities of some of the NRIs hosted over 2021 annual cycle.

<https://www.intgovforum.org/>