



## Internet Governance Forum 2023 | Regional Parliamentary track

### *The Contribution of Parliamentarians to the Internet We Want: An Asia Pacific Perspective*

#### Concept note

#### CONTEXT

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The Internet Governance Forum (IGF), convened annually by the UN Secretary-General, is a global multistakeholder platform that facilitates discussions on Internet and digital policy issues. This year, the Government of Japan will host the United Nations 18th Internet Governance Forum (IGF 2023) under the overarching theme “*The Internet We Want – Empowering All People*”.

The Pacific (PACIGF) and the Asia Pacific IGF (APrIGF) are regional IGF initiatives dedicated to fostering exchanges within the region on relevant digital policy topics. In recent years, the IGF has sought to strengthen the participation of parliamentarians in discussions on some of the most pressing issues related to the use, evolution and governance of the Internet and related digital technologies.

Building on last year's parliamentary track experience, the IGF plans to further strengthen its parliamentary track through expanding its regional activities. With the annual IGF meeting scheduled to be held in Japan, a special focus will lie on the engagement with national parliamentarians in the Asia and Pacific region.

In line with this goal, a symposium dedicated to parliamentarians from across the Pacific and Asian Pacific region is to be held in the context of the 2023 APrIGF meeting, under the overarching title “*The Contribution of Parliamentarians to the Internet We Want: An Asia Pacific Perspective*”.

#### DESCRIPTION

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The initiative is focused on facilitating dialogue and exchanges on key digital policy issues among Members of Parliaments (MPs), and between MPs and other stakeholders from within and beyond the Asian continent.

#### Target audience

- The symposium is dedicated to members of national parliaments from Asian and Pacific countries and members from other regions who would like to attend or contribute. Focus will be given to the Parliamentarians in the information and communication technology (ICT) related committees at the national or regional parliaments, who work on digital affairs and Internet policy issues.

#### Objectives

- Familiarize MPs with the IGF space and the broader international ecosystem for Internet governance and digital policy. Encourage them to actively contribute to relevant regional and international processes.
- Prepare MPs for participation in the IGF 2023 meeting and the dedicated parliamentary track, as well as future IGF meetings and activities.



- Update MPs on a set of Internet governance and digital policy issues relevant to Asian Pacific countries. Facilitate dialogue on these issues with other parliamentarians from around the world, as well as with relevant international and regional organisations from different stakeholder groups (intergovernmental organisations, the technical community, private sector, civil society).
- Discuss the relevance of legislative work in shaping the region's digital future. Highlight issues that need to be considered when legislation for the digital space is developed (e.g., avoiding unintended consequences for the open and global nature of the Internet).
- Facilitate cooperation and exchanges of good practices with MPs from national and regional parliaments, as well as parliaments from other regions, which have advanced legislative work on digital policy issues.
- Expose the MPs to the various digital-related UN: Agenda 2030, the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, the Our Common Agenda Report, the Global Digital Compact.

#### **Co-organizers**

- The symposium is co-organised by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the IGF Secretariat, the Australian Government and the PACIGF and APriGF Secretariat.

#### **OUTPUT**

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Parliamentarians from the region are invited to discuss the proposed issues with experts, share their views, explore the questions at hand, and exchange opinions and experience on existing or potential legislative solutions.

The key messages that emerge from the regional parliamentary track exchanges will be captured as the formal, action oriented regional IGF 2023 parliamentary track output.

#### **REGISTRATION**

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Interested participants can register [here](#) on the APriGF 2023 website: [www.aprigf.au](http://www.aprigf.au)

#### **FORMAT AND PROGRAMME**

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The parliamentary track at the regional IGF will include:

- A parliamentary roundtable during the PACIGF and APriGF meeting, on 31 August.
- A two-day session for parliamentarians, on 31 August and 1 September. This will include closed sessions among MPs and open sessions between MPs and other stakeholders.
- The participation of MPs in other sessions of the PACIGF and APriGF.



The programme is indicative at this stage and will be shaped further in the lead-up to the regional IGF.

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES	
Date and Time	Focus
<b>Parliamentarians meet Youth   31 August 2023 (Brisbane &amp; online)</b>	
31 August 10:00 – 11:00 AEST	<p>[Parliamentary and Youth Panel Discussion] <b>What does Youth have to say? A dialogue between the new generation and Members of Parliaments.</b></p> <p>This open, panel discussion aims at facilitating a unique space by bringing together voices that are often being unheard from the young generation and Members of Parliaments. This session tackles topics of the young generation meeting current and new internet related challenges. The session intends to build confidence of the young generation in the future by including their perspectives in policymaking decisions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What are the main concerns of the young generation in the digital space?</li> <li>✓ What should parliamentarians know about youth priorities in the Internet governance space?</li> <li>✓ How should policymakers be harnessing youth perspectives?</li> <li>✓ Understanding the work of Members of Parliaments: how can they help shape a better digital space for the youngest?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Sumana Shrestha</b>, Member of House of Representatives, Federal Parliament of Nepal (online)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Muhammad Farhan</b>, Member of Parliament, The House of Representative, Republic of Indonesia (online)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Ananya Singh</b>, Youth Advisor to USAID Digital Youth Council (online)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Jobenz Manoa</b>, Managing Director &amp; Cybersecurity Consultant, WebSafe Samoa</li> </ul>
Break	
<b>Parliamentary roundtable   31 August 2023 (Brisbane &amp; online)</b>	
31 August 11:30 – 13:00 AEST	<p>[Parliamentary roundtable] <b>Contributing to Internet Governance Processes: The Key Role of Parliamentarians in shaping the Digital Space</b></p> <p>As the internet continues to grow and new challenges emerge, the governance mechanisms and processes involved adapt to address these issues. The roundtable brings speakers together to inform regional members of Parliaments on current and future Internet governance processes, such as the Global Digital Compact to be agreed at the UN summit of the Future in 2024 or the outcome review process of WSIS+20 in</p>



	<p>2025. The session will put a spotlight on the key role that parliamentarians play in contributing to internet governance processes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What major Internet governance processes are currently ongoing? What are the milestones to focus on?</li> <li>✓ How do these processes intersect, and why do governments need to prepare for them?</li> <li>✓ How can Parliamentarians actively contribute to these processes?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Amandeep S. Gill</b>, UN Envoy on Technology (online)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Wai Min Kwok</b>, Senior Governance and Public Administration Officer, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (online)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Gitanjali Sah</b>, Strategy and Policy Coordinator at the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) (video message)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Hasanul Haq Inu</b>, Parliamentary Standing Committee for Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Chairperson, Bangladesh Internet Governance Forum &amp; President, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-JASOD (online)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Sumana Shrestha</b>, Member of Parliament, Nepal (online)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tenanoia Simona</b>, CEO for the Tuvalu Telecommunications Corporation, a state-owned entity of the Government of Tuvalu</li> </ul>
Lunch Break	
<b>Parliamentary session: Day 1   31 August 2023 (Brisbane &amp; online)</b>	
31 August 13:30 – 15:00 AEST	<b>[APrIGF] Closing Plenary</b>
31 August 15:30 – 15:45 AEST	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Chengetai Masango</b>, Head of Office, IGF Secretariat (online)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Richard Windeyer</b>, Deputy Secretary - Communications and Media Group, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications and the Arts (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Edmon Chung</b>, Chief Executive Officer for DotAsia and as Vice Chair for the Internet Society HK Chapter (onsite)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Anja Gengo</b>, Associate Programme Expert and NRIs Focal Point, IGF Secretariat (onsite)</li> </ul>
31 August 15:45 – 17:00 AEST	<p><b>[Parliamentary Session 1] Where policy meets technology: Parliamentarians and the Technical Community - Part 1</b> (open session: workshop)</p> <p>This session explores the key players in the Internet ecosystem and provides valuable insights into the technical operations of the Internet, with a special focus on Internet standards development. By meeting</p>



	<p>representatives of the technical community, Parliamentarians of the region will discuss the dynamic interplay between policy and technology.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What is the role of governments and other stakeholders in the development of global internet standards?</li> <li>✓ Are all regional voices being heard? What do regional governments find challenging in this space?</li> <li>✓ What can governments do to influence internet standards development and drive innovation?</li> <li>✓ What are the other priority issues in this space and what can policymakers do to resolve them?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Savenaca Vocea</b>, Regional Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement – Oceania, ICANN (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Nigel Hickson</b>, Head, Internet Governance, Department for Science, Innovation &amp; Technology, UK (online)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Bron Gondwana</b>, Chief Executive Officer of Fastmail (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Paul Wilson</b>, Director General, APNIC (onsite)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Sylvia Cadena</b>, Head of Programs and Partnerships, APNIC Foundation (onsite)</li> </ul>
<p>31 August 17:00 – 18:15 AEST</p>	<p>[Parliamentary Session 2] <b>Where policy meets technology: Parliamentarians and the Technical Community - Part 2</b> (open session: workshop)</p> <p>This session addresses the unintended impact that legislation can have on the Internet. By bringing Parliamentarians and the technical community together, this session attempts to bridge the gap between the legislation and the technical operations of the Internet by speaking a common language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What challenges do policymakers face when developing new legislation?</li> <li>✓ What issues do policymakers need to consider when developing legislation for the region?</li> <li>✓ How can governments factor in the borderless nature of the digital space when considering the impacts of proposed legislation?</li> <li>✓ How can policymakers be best equipped with knowledge and insight to avoid an unintended impact of legislation on the Internet?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Jordan Carter</b>, Internet Governance and Policy Director, at the .au Domain Administration (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Rajnesh Singh</b>, Regional Vice-President, Asia-Pacific, Internet Society (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Susan Chalmers</b>, Team Lead, Internet Governance, Office of International Affairs, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce (onsite)</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Edmon Chung</b>, Chief Executive Officer for DotAsia and as Vice Chair for the Internet Society HK Chapter (onsite)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Ian Sheldon</b>, Director, Internet Governance Team, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (onsite)</li> </ul>
31 August 18:15 – 18:30 AEST	<p><b>Closing remarks of Day 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Ian Sheldon</b>, Director, Internet Governance Team, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts (onsite)</li> </ul>
<b>Parliamentary session: Day 2   1 September 2023 (Brisbane &amp; online)</b>	
1 September 09:30 – 09:45 AEST	<p><b>Welcome remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Kunimitsu Ayano</b>, Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Internal Affairs and Communications Japan, Member of the Japanese Parliament</li> </ul>
1 September 09:45 – 11:00 AEST	<p>[Parliamentary Session 1] <b>From local to global: Setting the scene for the annual IGF by including a regional perspective</b></p> <p>In the run-up to the annual IGF, this session intends to explore the regional perspective around the theme of the Parliamentary track at the IGF 2023 in Kyoto: <i>Shaping Digital Trust for the Internet We Want</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What is the current situation in the region as we witness an increasing lack of public trust around privacy, security, consumer and human rights protection?</li> <li>✓ What are the main challenges that policymakers face to help shape a trustworthy digital space in the region?</li> <li>✓ How can Parliamentarians best benefit from the regional IGF? What are they expecting from the annual IGF?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Brendan Dowling</b>, Australia's Ambassador for Cyber Affairs and Critical Technology (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Lefaoali'i Unutoa Auelua-Fonoti</b>, Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Communication &amp; Information Technology, Samoa (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Joyce Chen</b>, Senior Advisor, Strategic Engagement, APNIC (onsite)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Anja Gengo</b>, Associate Programme Expert and NRIs Focal Point, IGF Secretariat (onsite)</li> </ul>
	Break



<p>1 September 11:15 – 12:30 AEST</p>	<p>[Parliamentary Session 2] <b>Governing Data in the Asia-Pacific</b></p> <p>This session aims at outlining key components of data governance, such as data stewardship, and data security and privacy. Parliamentarians will explore how they can best contribute to a trustworthy management of data through policies that are put in place to ensure the availability, integrity, privacy and security of data assets. This session will also facilitate the exchange of best practices among the region and beyond:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ How can countries strengthen data governance in the region, ensuring data protection and privacy?</li> <li>✓ What challenges are policymakers facing in the region?</li> <li>✓ How can policymakers enhance trust and establish data policies for managing data throughout its lifecycle, from creation and acquisition to storage, usage, and disposal?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Maiko Meguro</b>, Director for International Data Strategy and International Affairs at Digital Agency, Japan (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Fitriani Bintang</b>, Southeast Asia Visiting Research Fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and a Research Consultant at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Anju Mangal</b>, Chair of the Asia Pacific Internet Governance Forum (onsite)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Carlos Rey-Moreno</b>, Co-lead Local Networks: Policy and Strategy, Association for Progressive Communications (onsite)</li> </ul>
<p>Lunch Break</p>	
<p>1 September 14:30 – 15:45 AEST</p>	<p>[Parliamentary Session 3] <b>As AI regulation looms: Understanding its governance in the Asia-Pacific</b></p> <p>While artificial intelligence holds immense potential for our economies and societies, the fast pace of digital technology development can challenge our governance systems to ensure the safe and responsible use of AI technologies. As governments need to react fast to avoid an increasing gap between innovation and governance, this session aims at bringing expertise together and sharing best practices and establishing common principles and standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ How can cooperation be strengthened within the region across Governments, industry and experts to elaborate and implement norms, guidelines and principles relating to the responsible use of AI?</li> <li>✓ Policymakers engage in regional cooperation to address global challenges related to AI.</li> <li>✓ How can policymakers ensure that the design and use of AI aligns with universal human rights and is safe, fair, accountable, and transparent?</li> </ul>



	<p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Tenanoia Simona</b>, CEO for the Tuvalu Telecommunications Corporation, a state-owned entity of the Government of Tuvalu (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Mamta Siwakoti</b>, Director, Digital Law and Policy Centre, Nepal (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Amrita Choudhury</b>, Director of CCAOI, UN IGF MAG Member, Chair Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA), Chair, Asia Pacific Regional At Large Structure (APRALO) at ICANN, President of Internet Society India Delhi Chapter (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Bart Hogeveen</b>, Deputy Director - Cyber, Technology &amp; Security, Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) (onsite)</li> </ul> <p><b>Moderator</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Jennifer Chung</b>, Director of Corporate Knowledge for DotAsia Organisation (onsite)</li> </ul>
	<p>Break</p>
<p>1 September 16:00 – 17:15 AEST</p>	<p>[Parliamentary Session 4] <b>Countering misinformation and disinformation in fast-growing online communities</b></p> <p>Countries and regions struggle to combat misinformation and disinformation, while ensuring that freedom of opinion and expression are protected and respected. Addressing misinformation and disinformation requires a multi-faceted approach involving various stakeholders, including governments, technology platforms, media organizations, and the civil society. This session explores how parliamentarians can help tackle the surge of disinformation and misinformation in the digital space.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ How does dis- and misinformation in online spaces affect the region?</li> <li>✓ What challenges do policymakers face when developing legislations?</li> <li>✓ How can countries effectively address online dis- and misinformation?</li> </ul> <p><b>Speakers</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Richard Windeyer</b>, Deputy Secretary - Communications and Media Group, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications and the Arts, Australia (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Youngmi Oh</b>, Researcher at Open Net (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Kyung Sin Park</b>, Executive Director, Open Net; Professor, Korea University Law School (onsite)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Muhammad Farhan</b>, Member of Parliament; from the House of Representatives of the Republic of Indonesia (online)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Shita Laksmi</b>, DiploFoundation, Southeast Asia Representative (online)</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Nthathi Moorosi</b>, Minister of Information, Communications, Science, Technology and Innovation, Lesotho (online)</li> </ul>





	<b>Moderator</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Mr. Pablo Hinojosa</b>, Strategic Engagement Director at the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) (onsite)</li></ul>
1 September 17:15 – 17:30 AEST	<b>Closing remarks of Day 2 and of the regional parliamentary track</b>
As part of the regional Parliamentary track, MPs are cordially invited to a network cocktail reception taking place on 31 August.	
MPs are also encouraged to actively participate in all other regional IGF sessions taking place from 28 to 31 August and contribute their views and experiences to the discussions. The overall programme will be made available in due time.	