



# IGF

Internet  
Governance  
Forum  
**RIYADH  
2024**

It is our pleasure to extend a formal invitation to you for a distinguished panel titled:

## **IGF to GDC: An Equitable Framework for Developing Countries.**



21 September, 2024



18:00 to 18:45



**The Pierre, A Taj Hotel**  
New York – WEDGEWOOD ROOM

### **H.E. Eng. Ahmed Alsuwaiyan**

Governor of the Saudi Digital  
Government Authority  
IGF Leadership Panel Member (2024 Host Country)

## Concept Note for Side Event at the Summit of the Future Action Days

### Title of the Panel:

### “IGF to GDC: An Equitable Framework for Developing Countries”

#### Background

The United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) brings together stakeholders from various sectors to discuss digital public policy. While it does not produce negotiated outcomes, the IGF informs and inspires policymakers in both the public and private sectors. The IGF operates year-round, engaging in policy, outreach, and community and capacity-building activities. These efforts aim to foster a common understanding of how to maximize digital opportunities and address digital risks and challenges. The IGF’s intersessional work culminates in annual meetings where delegates discuss critical issues, share best practices, and exchange policy recommendations. The outputs from these meetings are shared with global and national decision-making bodies.

The IGF plays a pivotal role in the development and promotion of the Global Digital Compact. As a platform that brings together a wide range of stakeholders, the IGF provides a unique space for dialogue and collaboration on digital governance issues. The discussions and insights generated at the IGF contribute to the shaping of the Global Digital Compact by highlighting the diverse perspectives and needs of different sectors and regions. The IGF’s inclusive and transparent approach ensures that the principles of the Global Digital Compact are informed by a broad and representative range of voices, making it a truly global initiative

#### Objectives

This workshop aims to foster dialogue and collaboration between the IGF and the Global Digital Compact (GDC), focusing on equitable digital development for developing countries. The session seeks to bridge the gap between the IGF and the GDC, emphasizing practical solutions and equitable digital development. By fostering cooperation, we can create a more inclusive and impactful global digital ecosystem. Additionally, the session will provide a preview of the 19th IGF, scheduled to take place in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, from December 15-19, 2024.

#### Key Themes

- **Harnessing Innovation and Balancing Risks in the Digital Space:** This theme will explore how to leverage technological advancements while managing associated risks. It emphasizes the need for innovative solutions that drive progress without compromising security and privacy.

- **Enhancing the Digital Contribution to Peace, Development, and Sustainability:** This theme focuses on the role of digital technologies in promoting global peace, fostering sustainable development, and supporting humanitarian efforts. It highlights the potential of digital tools to create positive social and environmental impacts.
- **Advancing Human Rights and Inclusion in the Digital Age:** The 2024 IGF will emphasize the importance of protecting human rights and promoting inclusion in the digital era. This theme will address how digital technologies can be used to ensure equitable access and participation for all individuals, particularly marginalized communities.
- **Improving Digital Governance for the Internet We Want:** This theme will discuss strategies for enhancing digital governance to create a more inclusive, transparent, and accountable internet. It will explore frameworks and policies that support the development of a fair and open digital ecosystem.

## Participants

The event will bring together representatives from various stakeholder groups, including government officials, private sector leaders, and intergovernmental organizations' representatives.

1. Mr. Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development
2. H.E Mr. Yamanaka Osamu, Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative (Japan)
3. Ms. Maria Fernanda Garza, CEO, Orestia and First Vice Chair, International Chamber of Commerce
4. Ms. Ahunna Eziakonwa, UNDP's Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Africa
5. H.E. Mr. Hisham ALSheikh, Vice Governor of Digital Government Authority (Saudi Arabia)
6. Moderator: Mr. Chengetai Masango, Programme Manager, IGF Secretariat

## Logistical Details

- **Date and Time:** 21 September, 2024, from 6:00 PM to 6:45 PM
- **Venue:** The Pierre, A Taj Hotel, New York  
2 E 61st St, New York, NY 10065, United States
- **Registration (until 15 Sept):** <https://indico.un.org/event/1013653/>
- **Contact Information:** For any inquiries, please contact Mr. Misfer Alghamdi at +966503664845 or [mghamdi\\_p@dga.gov.sa](mailto:mghamdi_p@dga.gov.sa)