

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



Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2023 **Annual Progress Report**

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Introduction

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 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 2023 IGF cycle included many intersessional activities and the 18th annual IGF meeting which was held in Kyoto, Japan, from 8 to 12 October 2023. The meeting was hosted in a hybrid format, allowing for full engagement of both online and onsite participants.

Under the overarching theme [‘The Internet We Want - Empowering All People’](#), the meeting marked the eighth 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 2023 planning process started immediately after the 17th IGF concluded in Ethiopia. The IGF 2023 Host Country, as well as the IGF 2023 Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), whose renewal was announced on the last day of the 2022 IGF, immediately commenced planning the 18th IGF, building on the organizational and substantive feedback from the community received through a traditional taking-stock process. The planning cycle included two in-person Open Consultations and MAG Meetings, as well as Leadership Panel Meetings – in March hosted in Vienna, Austria, and in July 2023 hosted at the United Nations Office at Geneva, Switzerland; and over thirty 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

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

for Digital Cooperation⁷ and Our Common Agenda Report⁸ also featured prominently the overall planning process.

The 18th annual IGF meeting was hosted under the overarching theme, "The Internet We Want – Empowering All People". It provided a platform for advancing critical Internet policy discussions through several annual workstreams and 355 different sessions, focused on eight main sub-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, such as generative Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The 2023 IGF was record-setting in terms of its participation numbers: at more than 6000 onsite participants, it was the largest physically attended annual meeting in the IGF's history. In total, it saw upward of 9,000 participants. The meeting and its preparatory process also stood out for the diversity of participation and discussions, especially with and among parliamentarians and young people; growing and effective cooperation with a wide swath of UN agencies, including those not traditionally engaged in digital governance; and an engaging, balanced and topically timely high-level track with strong buy-in from governments and the private sector. Particularly, important was the introductory session of the Leadership Panel (LP) vision paper "The internet We Want". Overall visibility grew as well, including through addresses from the UN Secretary-General, Prime Minister of Japan 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 eight main sub-themes, but also dedicated tracks for high-level leaders, parliamentarians and youth. The 2023 IGF was also output-oriented, with tangible outcomes emerging from the meeting, including as thematic key messages ("Kyoto IGF Messages⁹"). All outputs, consolidated under "[IGF 2023 Outputs](#)"¹⁰, 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](#)¹¹ adopted on 23 July 2019 and [Resolution E/RES/2022/15](#)¹² adopted on 21 July 2022, 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 2019¹³ and [A/RES/78/132](#) of 19 December 2023¹⁴ that recognized *the importance of the*

⁷ <https://undocs.org/A/74/821>

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

⁹ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/300/26576

¹⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-outputs>

¹¹ https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ecosoc_res_2019d24_en.pdf

¹² <https://undocs.org/en/E/RES/2022/15>

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

¹⁴ <https://undocs.org/A/78/132>

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 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 2023

Below is a consolidated summary of activities undertaken in preparation for the 18th annual IGF meeting is available below. Its structure is developed around the four expected accomplishments listed in the [IGF Project Document](#)¹⁵:

- 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 2023 Preparatory Process

Immediately after the 2022 annual meeting in Ethiopia concluded, the 2023 IGF planning cycle started, building on the 2023 outcomes. The meeting was hosted in a hybrid format allowing for inclusion of all stakeholders, regardless of participating online or onsite in Kyoto. 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.

¹⁵ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/4099/516

1.1 Renewal of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG)

The 2023 MAG was announced¹⁶ on 2 December 2022, on the last day of the 17th annual IGF meeting. Within a total of 40 members, 11 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](#)¹⁷ 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 re-appointed Mr. Paul Mitchell of the United States as the Chair of the MAG for 2023.

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 2023:

- 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](#)¹⁸ 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 2023 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 over thirty meetings of the MAG and its working groups, two of which were hosted as hybrid and the rest online¹⁹. 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 18th annual IGF was held as a fully hybrid meeting, with participants joining onsite, in Kyoto, and online. With the objective of making participation in

¹⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/mag-2023-members>

¹⁷ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-terms-of-reference%20>

¹⁸ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-mag-renewal-2023-general-guidance>

¹⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/mag-meeting-summaries>

the 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 18th 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 two [MAG-led working groups](#)²⁰, namely the 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, MAG and LP Meetings

Two Open Consultations and MAG Meetings, as well as Leadership Panel Meetings were hosted during the 2023 IGF cycle: the first hosted hybrid on 6 to 10 March 2023 in Vienna, Austria, and the second one hosted hybrid from the United Nations Office at Geneva on 10 to 14 July 2023. The Open Consultations and MAG meetings were moderated by the MAG Chair, Mr. Paul Mitchell, while the Leadership Panel Meetings were moderated by the Panel's Chair, Mr. Vint Cerf supported by the Vice Chair, Ms. Maria Ressa. 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 2023 Host Country – Government of Japan's representatives, H.E. Mr. Hiroshi Yoshida, Vice Minister for Policy Coordination, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, and Mr. Yoichi Iida, Deputy Director for G7 and G20 Relations, Global Strategy Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

The core objective of these meetings was to plan the IGF process, including its preparations, intersessional work and the 18th 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 heard updates from a number of organizations, among which the UN Institute for Disarmament Research, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Council of Europe, UNESCO, Association for Progressive Communications (APC), APNIC,

²⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-working-groups>

DiploFoundation and Geneva Internet Platform, DotAsia, ICC Basis, AfriNIC, ITU, CGI.br, the Internet Society (ISOC), European Commission and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). The contributions of UN agencies to IGF open consultations can be accessed [here](#).

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 2023 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 2023 themes were aligned closely with the 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](#)²¹:

- [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 before²² the IGF official programme begins.
- [NRIs](#) and [DC sessions](#), as interactive formats organized by multistakeholder networks of NRIs and DCs.
- [High-level sessions](#), gathers high-level speakers across the stakeholder spectrum as belief that this type of exchange among decisionmakers can broaden understanding, strengthen partnerships and lead to optimal policy outcomes.

²¹ <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf%C2%A02023-call-for-session-proposals>

²² 8 October

- [Main sessions](#), sessions through which high profile experts unpack the IGF's main sub-themes.
- [Workshops](#), issue-focused multistakeholder sessions organized by the community.

A number of [side events](#) were hosted as well on the margins of the Kyoto IGF.

2.3 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](#)²³, as a strategic high-level multistakeholder body. In addition to continuous online meetings, the 15-member Panel met in person twice in Vienna and Geneva, as well as at IGF 2023 in Kyoto.

The IGF continues to plan its contribution modality to the Secretary-General's proposed Global Digital Compact on norms, principles and values. The IGF 2023 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.

The Leadership Panel published and presented its [vision paper](#)²⁴ "The Internet We Want" at IGF 2023. Together with the MAG, the Panel also submitted a [joint letter](#)²⁵ to GDC Co-Facilitators titled "The United Nations' Internet Governance Forum stands ready to accept the responsibilities arising from the Global Digital Compact periodic multistakeholder review and follow-up".

3. 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 forms²⁶:

- [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 2023, the following BPF and PNs were implemented:

²³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-leadership-panel-members>

²⁴ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/263/26312

²⁵ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/24/26649

²⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/thematic-intersessional-work>

- **BPF on Cybersecurity**, explored cyber incidents, norms, and the impacts at the human-level with the aim to connect and present the voices of those most affected to those developing policies and norms.
- **PN on Meaningful Access**, created a space for a multistakeholder public discussion on urgent matters related to connectivity, digital inclusion and digital capacity development to influence policy change towards achieving meaningful and universal Internet access, aligned with the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and Sustainable Development Goals.
- **PN on Internet Fragmentation**, *focused on furthering the discussion on technical, policy, legal and regulatory actions that may pose a risk to the open, interconnected and interoperable Internet and start a dialogue on how to avoid and address different dimensions of internet fragmentation.*
- **PN on Artificial Intelligence**, *explored ways to strengthen the multistakeholder approach to global AI governance, and protect the environment and human rights in the era of generative AI.*
- **28 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. Their DC main session focused on how DCs can contribute to the Internet We Want, aligning with the Leadership Panel vision paper, which was published and presented at the beginning of the IGF 2023 in Kyoto.

More than a hundred and sixty-five (165) [national, regional and youth IGF initiatives \(NRIs\)](#)²⁷ 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 18th 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 2022 annual meeting.

A.2 The 18th Annual IGF Meeting

In 2023, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) held its 18th annual meeting in a hybrid format, in Kyoto, Japan, and online. Under the overarching theme *The Internet We Want – Empowering All People*, 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

²⁷ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives>

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 18th IGF was held as a fully hybrid meeting, with participants joining onsite, in Kyoto, and online. With the overall objective of making participation in the meeting meaningful and inclusive for all attendees, the hybrid format included several features:

- Through the [IGF website](#) serving as a primary entry point, all online participants, including those with active roles of speakers/moderators/rapporteurs were able to participate and contribute as those participating onsite.
- A [3D Venue](#) was created as an equivalent to the onsite venue. As onsite participants, the online participants also had the opportunity to enter the meeting rooms and connect to the participating platform.
- The [IGF Village](#) booths, hosted by over 80 organisations at the venue, had their online equivalents.
- [Remote hubs](#) facilitated the participation of those unable to travel.
- [Bilateral meetings](#) could also be organised with online participation.
- A dedicated [website landing page](#) and adjusted [mobile app](#) were also made available to support easier navigation of the IGF 2023 content.

To provide a high-level overview for decision-makers of the most current thinking on key Internet governance issues, discussions from over 350 sessions held during IGF 2023 have been distilled into [IGF 2023 Outputs](#)²⁸, and specifically the key takeaways from all sessions fed into the [Kyoto IGF Messages](#)²⁹ structured per issue area.

2.2 IGF 2023 High-Level Leaders Track

Co-organised by the [Host Country](#) and [UN DESA/IGF Secretariat](#), the [IGF 2023 High-Level Leaders' Track](#) engaged experts and leaders from all stakeholder groups into discussions on a series of important digital policy issues. The track saw participation of eighteen ministers and vice-ministers. Overall, eighty-seven high level experts took part in the track, with more than thirty in an active role.

The track were held on:

- Understanding “Data Free Flow with Trust” (DFFT)
- Evolving Trends in Mis- and Dis-information Looking ahead to WSIS+20: Accelerating the Multistakeholder Process
- Access & Innovation for Revitalising the SDGs
- Artificial Intelligence

²⁸ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-outputs>

²⁹ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/300/26576

These sessions, interpreted into six official UN languages and broadcasted live, set the foundation for the subsequent main high-level sessions, treating the meeting's subthemes in a cross-cutting way. The purpose of the track was to gather leaders from across the stakeholder spectrum, including governments, in dialogue and knowledge exchange on issues that require critical multistakeholder and multidisciplinary effort to resolve. The track also identified areas of greater potential for digital technologies to support sustainable development objectives. The track in 2023 was particularly engaged with related policy processes, namely, initiatives by the G7 and G20, WSIS+20 and the 2030 Agenda. The main takeaways from the high-level leaders track are integrated in the Kyoto IGF Messages and its [summaries](#) are available online.

3.2 Strengthened parliamentary track

Building on the past years' experience, the IGF focused on further strengthening its [Parliamentary Track](#)³⁰, in particular through expanding a set of intersessional activities dedicated to fostering interparliamentary dialogue and cooperation on key digital policy issues. With the IGF 2023 meeting scheduled to be held in Japan, the focus was placed on engagement with parliaments and parliamentarians on the Asian continent. Below is an overview of activities undertaken in 2023.

Parliamentary track at regional IGFs

To foster meaningful engagement with members of parliaments from different regions, the IGF Secretariat cooperated with regional IGFs. The track expanded its global activities, with sessions held at the [European Dialogue on Internet Governance](#) hosted in Finland in June 2023 and at the [African IGF](#) hosted in Nigeria in September 2023. With the annual IGF meeting taking place in Japan, the first regional [Parliamentary Track alongside the Asia Pacific regional IGF](#) was held in August 2023 in Brisbane, Australia. Parliamentarians from respective regions gathered to discuss digital issues of interest such as data protection and privacy, cybersecurity, regulation of AI, disinformation and others.

Parliamentary Track at IGF 2023

During the IGF meeting in, over 70 parliamentarians from more than 35 countries, as well as the European Parliament, got together - on site and online - to exchange experiences and interact with other stakeholders on [issues related to trusted Internet](#). Over four very rich and engaging sessions, parliamentarians highlighted the importance of multistakeholder cooperation for empowering legislators to make informed decisions.

A firm interest was expressed by many 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 fora as resources to inform their parliamentary discussions and activities.

These and other messages are reflected in an [output document](#) which is intended to inform parliamentary action in the years to come.

4.2 Involvement of UN agencies

Following a dedicated UN engagement strategy in place since 2021, the Forum saw [40](#)

³⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-parliamentary-track>

entities from the UN System involved in the 18th IGF as organizers or speakers in sessions, including the High Level Track. Among those involved were UNESCAP, UNECA, UN University, ITU, DESA, the Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology, UNCTED, UNDP, UNDP, UNJSPF, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank. 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 2023 Youth Track](#)³¹ 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 2023 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 2023 Global Youth Summit and Messages from Youth

The four workshops feed into the final activity of the track which is the [IGF 2023 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 2023 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 18th 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 2023 engaged stakeholders from all sectors with interest or expertise in Internet governance. The working groups the MAG chartered for 2023 were open to everyone, allowing for broad stakeholder engagement.

Further, in light of high interest from stakeholders and their global political relevance, the IGF strategically emphasized issues of artificial intelligence, access and inclusion, and Internet fragmentation. This enabled the IGF to expand its community of traditional participants to a new set of experts and policy actors. The inclusion of these issues as year-long intersessional activities 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

³¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-youth-track>

work, bringing together a large number of stakeholders from around the world to directly shape IGF 2023 programming.

The 2023 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 Kyrgyzstan and Saudi Arabia,) as well as from underrepresented disciplines (such as youth engagement, legislation, AI-experts).

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 2023 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 a safe digital space. 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

In 2023 all good functioning taken from previous IGFs was fully used and exploited, including a clean system for room booking, and automated system for transcript and report publication, quick and massive, as well as organized, integrated schedule system with the multilingual mobile app and registered participants per session, allowing networking.

The 3D Virtual platform continued its accessible system for online participants to mainly interact with the IGF Village

Specific improvements were added in the way to connect to the sessions and the participation online, with no security flaws using the permissions online to share content and video, while keeping the user friendliness and easiness to access the conversations, with a simple single general registration for all participants onsite and online.

The server was set in the cloud with elastic capability and prearranged optimized data access, producing zero downtime. The commenting platform was also reorganized for quick finding of content. The feedback was generally well positive on all IGF technical aspects for IGF 2023.

A dedicated landing [webpage](#)³² for the annual meeting was created to reflect all relevant information in one place. IGF 2023 sessions were captioned in real time, and live streamed via [IGF YouTube](#)³³ 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 2023, several guides for the meeting orientation were produced, including the narrative overviews of each of the eight 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 2023 annual meeting resulted in a number of tangible [outputs](#)³⁴, 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 [Kyoto IGF Messages](#)³⁵ 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 2023 and its community outreach activities. One press briefing was held and five daily [media wrap-ups](#) were also produced and distributed to IGF-accredited journalists, the IGF main press mailing list and media lists at the UN Secretariat through the Department of Global Communications. Also, to support stakeholder engagement between local and global processes, the IGF Secretariat and/or the MAG Chair or Leadership Panel Chair or Vice Chair, participated in several NRIs meetings, such as 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, SEEDIG 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.

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 and Leadership Panel in major Internet governance meetings.

³² <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/dashboard/igf-2023>

³³ <https://www.youtube.com/user/igf/featured>

³⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-outputs>

³⁵ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/300/26576

The Best Practice Forum, three Policy Networks, 28 Dynamic Coalitions and 165 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 seven new IGFs emerging.

The 2023 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 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 2023 established cooperation partnerships for IGF 2023 and beyond.

In implementing the [youth engagement strategy](#)³⁶, 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 2023. 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 renewed their partnership with the Inter-parliamentary Union (IPU) to co-organize the parliamentary track. The parliamentary track gained much prominence this year within the Asia Pacific region and over 70 parliamentarians went through several capacity development activities, such as thematic workshops, and the roundtable hosted at the 18th 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 2023 High-level Leaders track.

Participants in the [High-level track](#)³⁷, 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, Meta, Caribbean Telecommunications Union, ETNO, Rakuten, and many others listed on the IGF website, included government officials from Brazil, Cuba, the European Commission, Germany, Indonesia, the Maldives, New Zealand, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and United States, among several others. Alongside them were leaders in the private sector, technical community and civil society, from entities as diverse as Google, Meta, Microsoft, Rakuten, Council of Europe, OECD, ITU, UNECA, World Bank, ICANN, Caribbean Telecommunications Union, and many others listed on the IGF website.

³⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-youth-track>

³⁷ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/igf-2023-high-level-track>

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

Ongoing implementation of the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)³⁸

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](#)³⁹ for the annual meeting was created to reflect all relevant information in one place. The IGF 2023 sessions were live streamed via the IGF YouTube and real-time captioned. All main sessions and high-level sessions were interpreted in six UN languages, as well as Japanese. As a result, the IGF 2023 saw a record participation of over 9,000 stakeholders, as illustrated further below in the statistics part.

³⁸ https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162012_p09_EN.pdf

³⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/dashboard/igf-2023>

B. Expected Accomplishment 2

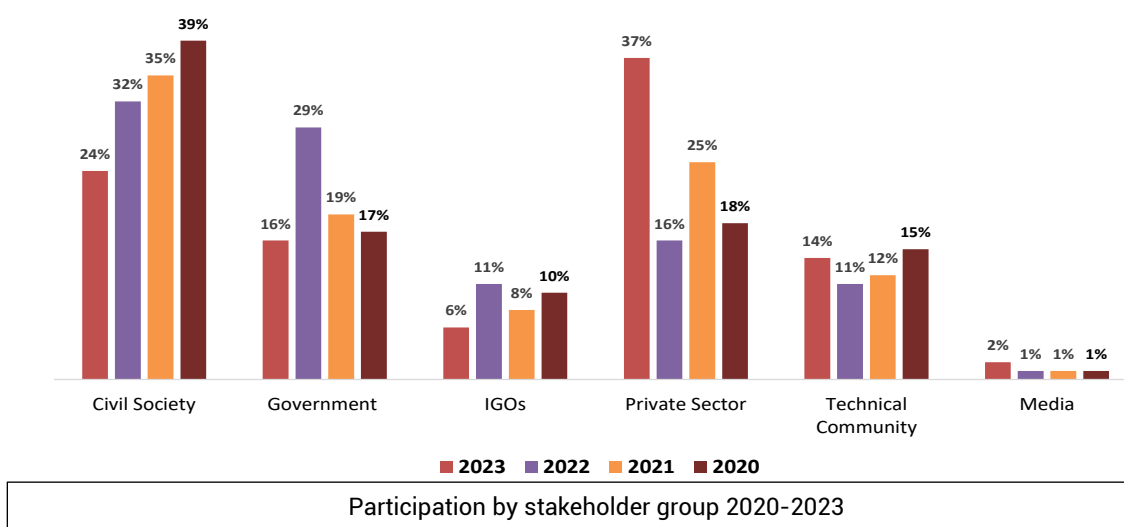
Enhanced collaboration among key organizations dealing with different Internet governance issues in support of the Information Society and development goals

B.1 Participation in the 18th annual IGF meeting

The official [statistics](#) regarding IGF 2023 participation were published on the IGF website after the annual meeting ended⁴⁰. The 18th annual IGF meeting received a record number of 11,145 registered participants. At the IGF venue in Kyoto, 6,279 participants collected their badges and participated onsite in the meeting. Over 3,000 stakeholders participated online, making the total participation at the 18th annual IGF meeting being over 9,279. The majority of onsite participants came from Japan, China, United States of America, Nepal, Brazil, Sri Lanka, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, India Kenya, Cambodia and Australia. Most of online participants connected from Japan, United States of America, India, Nigeria, China, Philippines, Australia, Germany, France and Ghana.

Looking at the stakeholder groups, most of the participants came from the private sector (37%) and civil society (24%), followed by the Governments (16%), technical community (14%), intergovernmental organizations (6%) and press (2%).

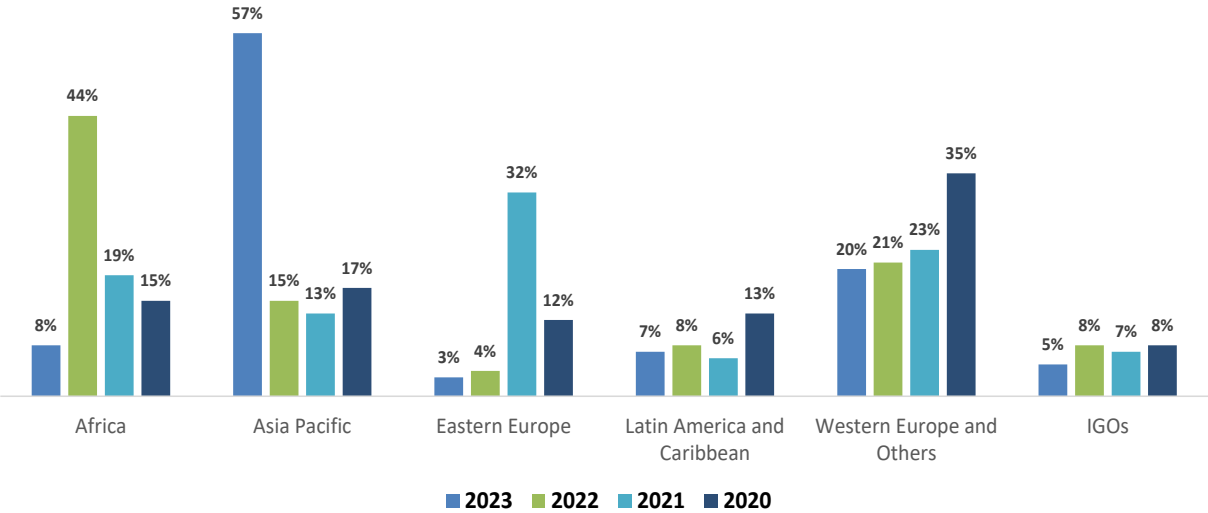
The Forum saw participation of representatives from approximately 40 different UN agencies, in addition to a number of other intergovernmental organizations. Below is the visual comparison of the stakeholder groups participation across the last four IGF cycles⁴¹.



⁴⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-participation-and-programme-statistics>

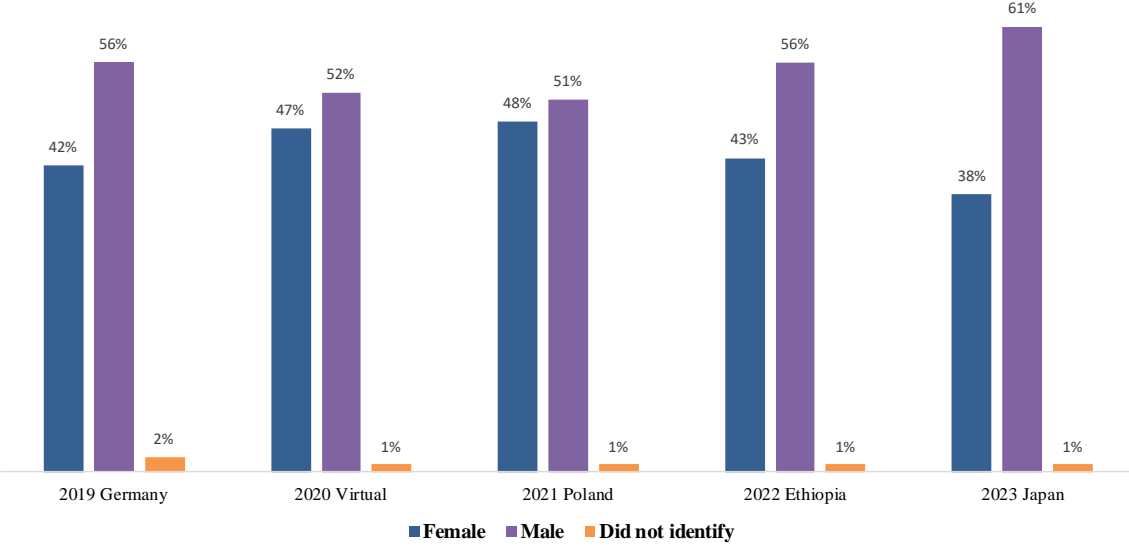
⁴¹ 2020 Virtual; 2021 Poland; 2022 Ethiopia; 2023 Japan.

In terms of regional diversity, the majority of the participants came from Asia Pacific (57%), followed by WEOG (20%), Africa (8%), GRULAC (7%), Eastern Europe (3%) while 5% indicated to be members of the intergovernmental organizations. Compared to IGF 2022, this year's IGF saw an increase in representation of the participants coming from the private sector (+11%); and in representation of stakeholders from the Asia Pacific region (+32%). The number of stakeholders from Africa was significantly lower than in 2022 (-36%), when the IGF was held in that region. Below is the visual comparison of the regional group participation across the last three IGF cycles.



Participation by regional group 2020-2023

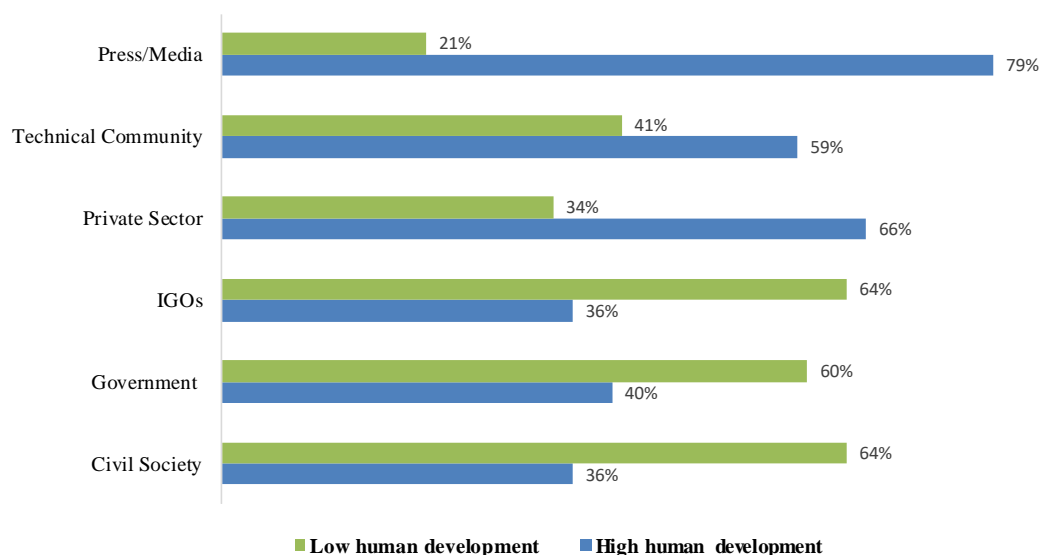
Gender representation was 61 % male, 38% female and less than 1% self-identified as other. Below is the visual comparison with the last three annual IGF meetings.



Participation by gender 2020-2023

Over 2% of registered participants indicated to be members of parliaments from 38 different countries. 67% participants indicated to be the first-time comers. Out of these, the majority are from the Host Country and the region.

Regarding participation by level of development of the country, based on the latest available [HDI Index](#)⁴², about 53% of all participants came from developed countries classified as very high⁴³ and 47% from developing countries, not classified as very high. Below is the visual overview of these per stakeholder group.



As illustrated on the graph, the majority of developing country participants associate with Civil Society while the biggest number of participants from developed countries came from the media/press and private sector.

The meeting's live stream service attracted close to 10,000+ views. Over 70% of viewers were between 18 and 44 years of age. Livestream was mostly viewed in Japan (+53%), followed by Indonesia, India, United States and Saudi Arabia.

One press briefing was held and five daily [media wrap-ups](#) were also produced and distributed to IGF-accredited journalists, the IGF main press mailing list and media lists at the UN Secretariat through the Department of Global Communications.

Thousands of stakeholders interacted with the 18th IGF hashtags #IGF2023 and #InternetWeWant.

Media monitoring showed that the IGF was covered in a very high number of major Japanese media outlets, including NHK, Nikkei, Yomiuri Shimbun, Asahi Shimbun, Mainichi and Kyoto, in print and broadcast. It appeared in international outlets such as Politico, Deutsche

⁴² <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>

⁴³ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-report-2020-readers-guide>

Welle, La Stampa, RaiUno and EU Reporter. Services in Indonesia, Georgia, Nigeria, Hungary and other countries also picked up IGF-related stories.

A press kit was prepared via [Trello](#), containing [fact sheets on IGF](#), a main [media advisory](#), essential details about the meeting, access to [photos](#) and [videos](#) and contact information in case of interest in interviews. [Opening](#) and [closing press releases](#) were issued.

The meeting featured [355 sessions](#). Breakdowns per session type were: 1 Opening Session, 1 Opening Ceremony, 6 Main Sessions, 78 Workshops, 58 Open Forums, 20 Town Halls, 21 Launches and Awards, 44 Lightning Talks, 23 Networking Sessions, 24 DC Sessions, 3 NRI Collaborative Sessions, 45 Pre-Events (Day 0 Sessions), 5 High-level Leaders Track, 4 Parliamentary Track sessions, 1 Global Youth Summit, 1 BPF Sessions, 3 PN Sessions, 3 other sessions, 1 Open Mic and 1 Closing Ceremony.

Organizations from five different continents joined the [IGF Village](#)⁴⁴ with 80 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](#)⁴⁵ organized around the world from 24 different countries: 60% in Africa; 23% in Asia Pacific; 11% in Latin America and Caribbean; and 6% in WEOG.

[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 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 18th IGF process closer to global community, a dedicated 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,

⁴⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/igf-village-2023>

⁴⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-remote-hubs>

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 or Leadership Panel Chair or Vice 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.

The IGF Secretariat played an especially prominent role in the G7 Digital and Tech Ministers' Track, attending both preparatory meetings for the track's negotiated outcome as well as the meeting itself in Takasaki, Japan, in April 2023. The IGF and its role were highlighted in Paras 23 and 29 of the resulting [Ministerial Declaration](#).

The IGF 2023 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 Japan 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 Japan as well as in-country represented international organizations, engagement with universities 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 2023, 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 2023 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 2023 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 2023, 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 2023 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 #IGF2023 and #ResilientInternet. The livestream over IGF YouTube was also vibrant recording close to 10,000 views.

Communications activities were ramped up during the 2023 meeting, with regular monthly newsletter, press briefing and five 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 was prepared via [Trello](#), containing [fact sheets on IGF](#), a main [media advisory](#), essential details about the meeting, access to [photos](#) and [videos](#) and contact information in case of interest in interviews. [Opening](#) and [closing press releases](#) were issued.

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. Several such interviews were conducted, notably with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Leadership Panel, Mr. Vint Cerf and Ms. Maria Ressa, as well as with the President of the Signal Foundation, ms. Meredith Whittaker.

In the months immediately leading up to IGF 2023, communications activities included an extensive social media campaign shared among the Secretariat, DESA communications colleagues and hosting counterparts at the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan. A communications [kit](#) was also disseminated to all IGF 2023 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 2023 preparatory and intersessional work were consolidated in a dedicated [landing page](#)⁴⁶, 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](#)⁴⁷ 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](#)⁴⁸. 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

⁴⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/dashboard/igf-2023>

⁴⁷ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/schedule>

⁴⁸ Ibid.

save them in their personal schedules. Users also had the ability to create profiles displaying their Internet governance related interests and expertise.

The IGF Secretariat continued its work on improving accessibility of the website and its features. A number of improvements were made in 2023 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](#)⁴⁹ on the IGF website. Outputs once published were also shared in real time to IGF 2023 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 2023 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](#)⁵⁰ continued to be populated, to put at the community's disposal to create profiles with interests and biographies. In addition to the [list](#) 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.

⁴⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-outputs>

⁵⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/resource-persons>

C.3 IGF 2023 Outputs

As outlined in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, the publication of the [IGF's proceedings](#)⁵¹ is part of the Forum's mandate. In fulfilling this part of the mandate, the IGF Secretariat produced and published the [IGF 2023 outputs](#)⁵², 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 18th IGF annual meeting.

The [IGF 2023 Summary Report](#)⁵³ was prepared during the 18th 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 350 sessions held during IGF 2023 were distilled into the [Kyoto IGF Messages](#)⁵⁴ on the meeting's five themes. The parliamentary track, focused around the theme of digital trust concluded with [output document](#)⁵⁵ translated into [English](#)⁵⁶, [French](#)⁵⁷ and [Spanish](#)⁵⁸. The Global Youth Summit produced a set of [messages from youth](#)⁵⁹ shortly after the session ended. The high-level track also resulted in summary documents outlining decisionmakers' conclusions on a set of of-the-moment issues. 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 355 sessions, was done on the basis of input session reports⁶⁰ received from 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](#)⁶¹ and [videos](#)⁶² 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 and videos.

A year-long preparatory process of the best practice forum and policy networks resulted in tangible output documents.

⁵¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-annual-meetings-proceedings>

⁵² <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-outputs>

⁵³ https://mail.intgovforum.org/IGF2023_summaryreport_final.pdf

⁵⁴ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/249/24066

⁵⁵ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/295/26580

⁵⁶ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/295/26580

⁵⁷ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/295/26650

⁵⁸ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/295/26651

⁵⁹ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/285/26597

⁶⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/igf-2023-reports>

- The [BPF on Cybersecurity](#)⁶³ explored cyber incidents, norms, and the impacts at the human-level with the aim to connect and present the voices of those most affected to those developing policies and norms.
- The [Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation \(PNIF\)](#)⁶⁴ focused on furthering the discussion on technical, policy, legal and regulatory actions that may pose a risk to the open, interconnected and interoperable Internet and start a dialogue on how to avoid and address different dimensions of internet fragmentation.
- The multistakeholder working group of the [Policy Network on Meaningful Access \(PNMA\)](#)⁶⁵ created a space for a multistakeholder public discussion on urgent matters related to connectivity, digital inclusion and digital capacity development to influence policy change towards achieving meaningful and universal Internet access, aligned with the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and Sustainable Development Goals.
- The [Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#) explored ways to strengthen the multistakeholder approach to global AI governance, and protect the environment and human rights in the era of generative AI.

All the IGF 2023 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 [28 active dynamic coalitions](#)⁶⁶ 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)⁶⁷ with support from the IGF Secretariat.

At IGF 2023, 24 DCs held [individual sessions](#)⁶⁸ to discuss Internet policy issues within their focus and present their work. A [DC main session](#) on the theme *The Internet we want – Human Rights in the digital space to accelerate the SDGs* showcased how coalitions can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and the development of the Internet that is conducive to human rights.

National, Regional, Sub-regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) are organic and independent multistakeholder networks that are discussing issues pertaining to Internet

⁶³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/bpf-cybersecurity>

⁶⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/policy-network-on-internet-fragmentation>

⁶⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-policy-network-on-meaningful-access>

⁶⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/explore-dynamic-coalitions>

⁶⁷ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dc-coordination-activities>

⁶⁸ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-dc-sessions>

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 18th IGF in Japan, over 100 NRIs co-organized [five sessions](#)⁶⁹, including three thematic collaborative sessions, a main session and a coordination session. The main session focused on data governance for the Internet we want, while the coordination session emphasized the need for better engagement of governments in the NRIs processes, more active involvement of the NRIs in the GDC and WSIS+20 review processes; and called for more sustainability of the NRIs processes. The collaborative sessions unpacked local contexts and perspectives concerning digital inclusion, cybersecurity and AI challenges.

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 2023

The IGF sees the participation of developing countries as critical for the 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 those countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise.

The IGF 2023 continued to invest in engagement with stakeholders from developing countries. 125 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 2023 in Kyoto. 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 2023 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 18th annual meeting. In 2023, over 15 MAG members and 2 members from the Leadership Panel, as per the eligibility criteria, were supported to participate in the second open consultations and MAG meetings in Vienna and Geneva and the 18th annual IGF meeting in Kyoto.

⁶⁹ <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-nris-collaborative-sessions>

Also, 20 grants were given to support developing communities by supporting hosting of national or regional IGFs or organizing remote hubs.

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*⁷⁰, 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)*⁷¹, 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 voices" into the IGFs work*⁷², a capacity development plan continued to be developed and implemented⁷³.

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 2023, tailored to the needs of the community and the IGF, the capacity development effort focused on several activities:

- Workshops organised in conjunction with the NRIs, to foster cooperation and develop capacity. Among these, some specifically were organised as part of the youth and parliamentary tracks.
- Training sessions for IGF 2023 session organisers and participants, focused broadly on explaining mechanisms of hybrid participation.
- [Newcomers session](#) for orienting first time IGF participants.
- Grants support to 15 [NRIs](#) and 5 [remote hubs](#) serving communities from developing countries.
- [Travel support](#) to 125 participants coming from developing countries.

In addition to providing substantive support to the national, regional and youth IGFs, resulting in an annual increase of the [recognised NRIs](#)⁷⁴, financial support was provided for 16 NRIs with a participation scope from developing countries, through a [public call for grants to](#)

⁷⁰ <https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html>

⁷¹ Report of the Working Group on Improvements to the IGF, section IV.

https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/a67d65_en.pdf

⁷² <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2018-address-to-the-internet-governance-forum-by-un-sg-ant%C3%B3nio-guterres>

⁷³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-capacity-development-0>

⁷⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives>

[the NRIs](#)⁷⁵. 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 2023 are: *African IGF, Asia Pacific regional IGF, Bangladesh IGF, Barbados IGF, Benin IGF, Caribbean IGF, Chad IGF, East African IGF, Ecuador IGF, El Salvador IGF, Namibia IGF, SEEDIG, Sierra Leone IGF, South Sudan 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 five remote hubs in developing countries with small grants of up to 2,500 USD value. The supported hubs were located in Ghana, Benin, Bangladesh, Vanuatu, and Dominican Republic.

As mentioned above, 125 individuals from developing countries received travel support to participate in-person in the 18th annual IGF meeting in Kyoto. The eligibility criteria called for supporting the unrepresented disciplines and countries at the IGF, as well as for 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 2023 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.

To build long-term engagement between various communities and the IGF, as well as build and strengthen the overall capacity on Internet governance processes at local global levels, capacity development workshops were organized in close collaboration with the community. Close to thirty workshops were hosted in conjunction with the NRIs meetings as part of the parliamentary or youth track, or stand-alone issue-focused as the request of the community. The workshops were hosted back-to-back with the African IGF, WSIS Forum, EuroDIG, Youth LACIGF, LACIGF, Youth African IGF, APriIGF, and Youth LACIGF. Among them, four workshops were part of the [IGF 2023 Youth Track](#) specifically designed to support engagement of youth in the IGF and cooperation among them; and sixteen were part of the [IGF 2023 Parliamentary track](#), specifically designed to support inclusion of legislators in the IGF and develop cooperation among them. Given the high number of first-time participants at the IGF, the Secretariat continued to implement the [newcomers track](#) by delivering the orientation session at the 18th IGF's Day 1 in Kyoto 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 18th 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 2023 participation platform and maximize opportunities for themselves and other

⁷⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2023-call-for-nris-grants>

participants. A [communications kit](#) was also provided to session organizers to support the holding of their sessions.

As schools on Internet governance (SIG) have been emerging for years and more rapidly in the few last years, the Secretariat continued to cooperate and support SIGs including by making available its [syllabus](#)⁷⁶ which can guide stakeholders wishing to organize different forms of SIGs.

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 wishing to learn about Internet governance.

During 2023, an intern from Kyrgyzstan joined the IGF Secretariat. She had the opportunity to work directly on Internet governance issues and benefit from unparalleled, up-close expertise engaging with the IGF community.

Conclusion

The 2023 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. Both the 18th annual meeting in Kyoto, with its more than 6000 onsite participants – the highest-ever participation rate at an IGF – and the inputs process leading into the meeting, which saw more than twice the typical number of submissions at nearly 1000 received, highlight the success of the IGF's outreach efforts in recent years as well as the strong demand for a public digital policy forum with the IGF's unique attributes.

The 18th 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

⁷⁶ https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/253/21174

least developed countries, while a renewed MAG welcomed new membership from countries underrepresented in the body.

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 the Secretary-General's report on the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, [Our Common Agenda](#), published in 2021.

In 2023, the Secretary-General-appointed [Leadership Panel](#), a high-level multistakeholder body with responsibilities to provide strategic inputs and advice to the IGF, promoted the Forum and its outputs, supported high-level engagement and fundraising, and exchanged IGF outputs with other stakeholders and relevant fora. The 15-member Panel met in person in Vienna, Geneva and Kyoto.

The IGF continues to plan its contribution to the proposed [Global Digital Compact](#). The IGF 2023 Messages, reflecting key takeaways from the Forum's discussions, are expected to represent its input into the GDC development process.

The 2023 IGF also broke ground in terms of opening new policy fronts through its intersessional work: a new policy network focused on Artificial Intelligence was launched alongside those on Internet fragmentation and meaningful access and a best practice forum on cybersecurity.

Technical improvements over the year made 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 2023 meeting. The [3D-rendered meeting venue](#) served as an additional and visually compelling platform, particularly for online participants. In parallel, communications activities were ramped up in the months immediately preceding and during the 18th IGF, all resulting in record mainstream news media coverage for an IGF.

The 19th annual IGF meeting will be hosted by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh in December 2024. 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 continue to align and connect its work to the UN Secretary-General's vision for a Global Digital Compact.