



IGF 2025 PROGRESS REPORT

Project to support the Internet Governance Forum
Reporting period: 1 January – 31 December 2025



IGF Internet
Governance
Forum

Prepared by IGF Secretariat
January 2026

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
The IGF as a Permanent Forum of the United Nations	5
Activities undertaken in 2025.....	7
A. Expected Accomplishment 1	8
<i>Creation of an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue related to the key elements of Internet governance</i>	8
<i>A.1 IGF 2025 Preparatory Process</i>	8
<i>A.2 The 20th Annual IGF Meeting.....</i>	15
<i>A.3 Facilitation of Participation.....</i>	24
B. Expected Accomplishment 2.....	25
Enhanced collaboration among key organizations dealing with different Internet governance issues in support of the Information Society and development goals.....	25
<i>B.1 Participation in the 20th annual IGF meeting</i>	25
<i>B.2 Participation in various Internet governance-related events and processes.....</i>	29
C. Expected Accomplishment 3.....	32
Exchange of information to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet	32
<i>C.1 Accessible and Inclusive Communication and Collaboration.....</i>	32
<i>C.2 Resources, Documents and Media Repositories</i>	35
<i>C.3 IGF 2025 Outputs</i>	36
<i>C.4 Dynamic Coalitions and National, Regional, Sub-regional and Youth IGFs</i>	39
D. Expected Accomplishment 4.....	40
Strengthen capacity of developing country stakeholders to participate effectively in Internet governance arrangements	40
<i>D.1 Participation of Developing Countries in IGF 2025</i>	40
<i>D.2 Capacity Development in Internet Governance</i>	40
<i>D.3 Internships and Fellowships at the IGF Secretariat</i>	43
Conclusion	44

Introduction

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Progress Report is an annual report providing a consolidated overview of key activities undertaken over one full, year-round IGF cycle. The report is structured around the four expected accomplishments set out in the [IGF Project Document](#)¹, which guide the work of the IGF Secretariat. Detailed reporting on activities and outcomes achieved under each of these expected accomplishments is presented in subsequent sections of this report, followed by a concluding assessment.

The 2025 IGF cycle comprised extensive intersessional activities conducted throughout the year, including the 20th annual IGF meeting, held in Lillestrøm, Kingdom of Norway, from 23 to 27 June 2025, under the overarching theme “Building Digital Governance Together”. The 20th annual IGF marked the tenth global gathering of the multistakeholder IGF community since the most recent renewal of the Forum's mandate and was the final year of the IGF's ten-year mandate granted by the United Nations General Assembly under resolution [A/RES/70/125](#)². The year also represented a critical milestone, as it coincided with preparations for the next review of the IGF mandate within the framework of the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) by the United Nations General Assembly, held in December 2025.

Preparations for IGF 2025 began immediately following the conclusion of the 19th IGF in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The planning process was carried out through close cooperation between the Host Country, the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), and the IGF Secretariat, with strong involvement of the Leadership Panel, and was informed by organizational and substantive feedback from the IGF community gathered through established stocktaking and other multistakeholder consultative processes.

The preparatory cycle included two Open Consultations and MAG meetings, complemented by more than twenty online meetings of the MAG and its working groups. The IGF Leadership Panel met regularly throughout the year, both online and in person, including in joint discussions with the MAG and the wider IGF community. In parallel, intersessional workstreams, including Best Practice Forums, Policy Networks, Dynamic Coalitions, and national, regional and youth IGF initiatives, continued to form an integral part of the IGF's year-round ecosystem.

Guided by community priorities and the broader WSIS+20 review process, the IGF's preparatory work focused on strengthening working modalities, enhancing inclusiveness, and ensuring the meaningful participation of stakeholders from developing countries. The process was further informed by the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF, the outcomes of the IGF Retreat convened by UN DESA, the reporting on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, the UN's Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda report, and the implementation of the Global Digital Compact.

¹ United Nations Funds-in-Trust Project Document, grant number M1-32XES-000038
https://www.intgovforum.org/filedepot_download/4099/516

² <https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/70/125>

The 20th IGF provided a platform through which over 9,000 stakeholders worked on advancing critical Internet policy discussions through multiple workstreams and over 260 sessions. Discussions addressed a broad range of pressing digital policy issues, including artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, data governance, cybersecurity, human rights, environmental sustainability, and Internet fragmentation.

The meeting ranked among the best attended in the Forum's history and reflected increased engagement by previously underrepresented groups, including parliamentarians, the judiciary, entertainment industry and young people. It also benefited from strengthened cooperation with a broad range of United Nations entities, including those not traditionally engaged in digital governance. The programme, structured around four main sub-themes, featured a balanced and timely high-level track, with strong participation from all stakeholder groups. The meeting was also output-oriented, with tangible outcomes emerging from the discussions, including thematic key messages - the "Lillestrøm IGF Messages" - drawn from individual session reports. All outputs were consolidated under "IGF 2025 Outputs."

The visibility of the Forum continued to grow, including through addresses by the United Nations Secretary-General, the Prime Minister of Norway, the Minister of Digitalisation and Public Governance of Norway, and other high-level representatives. This high-level engagement underscored the central role of digital technologies in social and economic development and highlighted the IGF's importance as a platform for fostering cooperation and shaping digital policy discussions.

The IGF as a Permanent Forum of the United Nations



The year 2025 also coincided with preparations for the WSIS+20 review, co-facilitated by the Permanent Representatives of Albania and Kenya to the United Nations. The process culminated in the High-Level Review by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 and 17 December 2025. This review proved historic, as Member States decided to make the Internet Governance Forum a permanent forum of the United Nations, as reflected in [resolution A/80/173](#), *"Outcome document of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society."*³

To support the process, several targeted activities were undertaken as part of the IGF 2025 framework, including an exceptional approach to the MAG renewal, the facilitation of WSIS+20-focused discussions, the preparation of reporting on the IGF's twenty-year achievements, and the organization of dedicated side events during the UNGA WSIS+20 High-Level Event, as detailed in this report.

The WSIS+20 multistakeholder review process was also supported by the Informal Multistakeholder Sounding Board (IMSB), a mechanism established by the Co-Facilitators to help ensure that the twenty-year review remained open and responsive to diverse perspectives. Composed of selected non-governmental members of the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG – *the IGF's programme advisory group*) and the Leadership Panel (LP – *responsible for the IGF's strategic visibility, impact and engagement*), the IMSB consolidated stakeholder feedback, synthesized contributions from consultations, and channelled insights from civil society, the technical community, the private sector, academia, youth and other

³ <https://docs.un.org/A/RES/80/173>

actors. Its work contributed to greater transparency, balanced regional and gender representation, and a strengthened collaborative character of the WSIS+20 process.

The UNGA WSIS+20 resolution, adopted by consensus, assessed two decades of implementation of the WSIS outcomes and was informed by this broad and diverse engagement. Inputs were drawn from governments, the private sector, civil society, the technical and academic communities, international organizations and many other contributors. The resolution also built on the 20-year review report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), the outcomes of the 2025 Internet Governance Forum, the WSIS Forum High-Level Event, numerous thematic consultations, and a wide range of regional and international processes, underscoring the depth, maturity and continued relevance of the WSIS ecosystem.

A central element of the outcome document is the strong reaffirmation of the IGF as the United Nations' primary multistakeholder platform for dialogue on Internet governance, including emerging digital issues. Member States welcomed the IGF's evolution over the past two decades, from an annual meeting into a dynamic, year-round ecosystem encompassing intersessional activities, Dynamic Coalitions, Best Practice Forums and Policy Networks, as well as the growth of more than 170 national, regional and youth IGF initiatives worldwide. The General Assembly further welcomed the role of the UN Secretary-General's appointed Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and the IGF Leadership Panel in strengthening the Forum's strategic direction, inclusiveness and visibility. Furthermore, the General Assembly's Resolution includes several specific requests to the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). Member States called for:

- Continue improving IGF working modalities, broadening participation, especially from developing countries and underrepresented groups, strengthening links with other digital discussion forums, and enabling more substantive outcomes, with annual progress reporting to the CSTD.
- Report annual and intersessional IGF outcomes to relevant UN entities and processes, and ensure that these outcomes are taken into account by relevant UN entities, including the UN Group on the Information Society (UNGIS), the WSIS action line facilitators, the CSTD and the WSIS Forum.
- Enhance IGF working modalities to broaden participation from developing countries and underrepresented communities, including through facilitated dialogue among governments with the participation of all stakeholders.
- Reinforce intersessional work, support national and regional IGF initiatives, and apply open, inclusive, transparent and agile collaboration methods, while strengthening engagement of developing countries in discussions on Internet governance and emerging technologies.
- Strengthen the IGF Secretariat to support continued development and intersessional work, and prepare, through the Secretary-General and UN DESA, a proposal to the General Assembly's eightieth session to ensure sustainable funding.

The IGF, together with all its supporting structures, is committed to addressing the requests set out in the Resolution while upholding its core principles of multistakeholder, bottom-up, open, inclusive, transparent and non-commercial conduct. In this regard, the

Forum will continue to be guided by the needs and priorities expressed by its broad and diverse multistakeholder community.

Activities undertaken in 2025

Further below is a consolidated summary of activities undertaken in preparation for the IGF 2025 framework implementation, including the 20th annual IGF meeting and the intersessional work. The summary is structured around the four expected accomplishments listed in the [IGF Project Document](#)⁴:

- 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.*

⁴ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/4099/516

A. Expected Accomplishment 1

Creation of an enabling environment for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue related to the key elements of Internet governance

A.1 IGF 2025 Preparatory Process

Immediately following the conclusion of the [2024 annual meeting](#)⁵ in Saudi Arabia, the 2025 IGF planning cycle commenced, building on the outcomes and lessons learned from the previous year.

The preparatory process began with the renewal of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and was followed by open consultations, MAG meetings, Leadership panel meetings, public surveys, calls for contributions, and targeted engagement activities, as detailed below. The UN Secretary-General's appointed Leadership Panel continued to serve throughout 2025. In line with their respective Terms of Reference, the renewed [MAG](#)⁶ provided programme-related advice and guidance, while the [Leadership Panel](#)⁷ contributed strategic direction and engagement, and support for enhancing the IGF's visibility, relevance and impact.



1.1 Renewal of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG)

To strategically align with the [WSIS+20 review process](#), and in light of the short preparatory timeline, the United Nations Secretary-General took an exceptional step for the 2025 IGF cycle by appointing 40 members to the [Multistakeholder Advisory Group \(MAG\)](#), drawing from a pool of former MAG members and members of the original Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG). This decision was intended to ensure continuity, institutional memory, and strategic foresight in guiding the IGF during this pivotal year of UNGA's WSIS+20 review. The appointment of Ms. Carol Roach of The Bahamas as the Chair of the MAG was re-confirmed for 2025.

⁵ https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/305/28529

⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/mag-terms-of-reference>

⁷ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/terms-of-reference-for-the-igf-leadership-panel>

As in previous years, the process for renewing the MAG was conducted through a bottom-up, open and inclusive community consultation process. For the 2025 MAG selection, additional efforts were undertaken to further elaborate and clarify the exceptional approach applied, with the aim of ensuring a timely and effective renewal. This approach was informed by feedback from various stakeholders, including the IGF 2024 stocktaking process, as well as earlier reflections from the 2016 IGF Retreat and the 2022 IGF Expert Group Meeting. Key measures included:

- The Call for Nominations for the MAG continued to be issued earlier than in past years, allowing for a longer and more comprehensive nomination period.
- The public list of the so far serving MAG and WGIG members was consolidated on the IGF website.
- A detailed guidance note was published together with the Call. It outlined the rationale for the exceptional approach, described the desired composition of the MAG (including gender parity and balanced stakeholder and regional representation), and provided a historical overview of country participation, highlighting areas of under- or non-representation.
- Particular attention was given to ensuring a balanced inclusion of both younger and more senior candidates. Gender parity was achieved.

2.1 Planning Meetings and Overall Process Improvements

During the previous IGF cycle, several objectives aimed at enhancing the overall process for 2025, were successfully achieved. These included improvements to the hybrid meeting format; strengthened working modalities, particularly for intersessional activities and the call for session proposals; enhanced stakeholder engagement; more systematic documentation of the IGF's 20-year achievements; and increased inclusiveness and visibility of the IGF.

The programme planning was carried out through over twenty meetings of the MAG and its working groups. One MAG meeting was hosted as hybrid and the rest online⁸. In addition, more than 100 open online meetings were held to support MAG working groups, IGF intersessional work streams, and national, regional and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs).

To ensure inclusivity, the 20th annual IGF was held as a fully hybrid meeting, with participants joining onsite in Lillestrøm and online. To make participation in the meeting meaningful and inclusive for all attendees, several innovations and specific features were introduced:

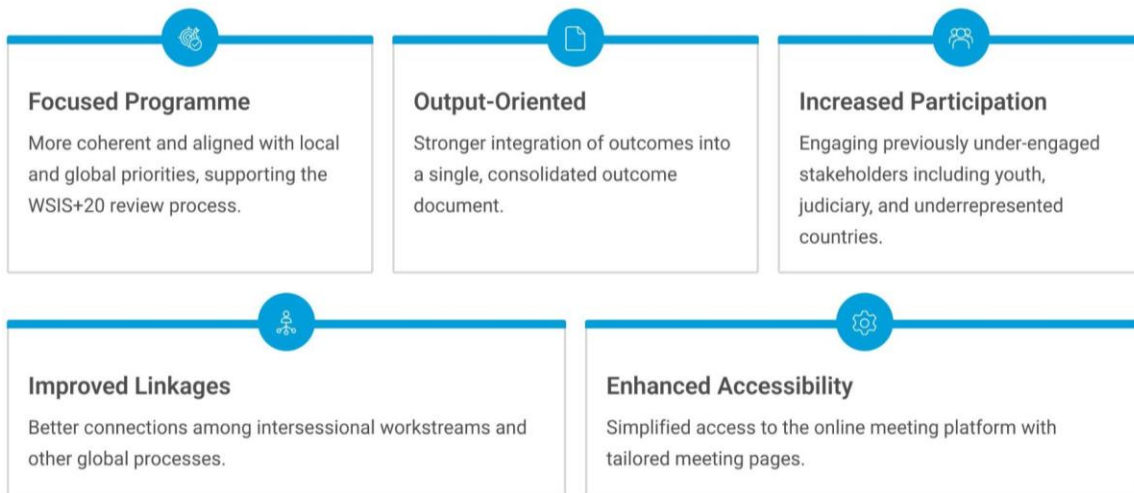
- Community-centred intersessional work carried out in the leadup to the 20th IGF;
- Concise and issue-focused thematic programme design;
- Improved capacity development activities and increased cooperation across sectors;
- Sounder communication and stakeholder engagement framework.

The MAG chartered four **MAG-led working groups**⁹, namely the Working Group on Workshop Process (WG-WSP), the Working Group on IGF Strategy (WG-Strategy), the Working Group on Youth Engagement (WG-Youth), and the Working Group on

⁸ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/mag-meeting-summaries>

⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/mag-working-groups>

Multilingualism (WG-Multilingual). These groups worked throughout the year on their respective focus areas.



2.2 Open Consultations, MAG and LP Meetings

Two rounds of Open Consultations and MAG Meetings, as well as meetings of the IGF Leadership Panel, were held during the 2025 IGF cycle. The first Open Consultations and MAG Meeting took place online from 5 to 7 February 2025, while the second was conducted in a hybrid format from 14 to 16 April 2025, hosted at the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Leadership Panel met at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 26 to 27 August 2025. In addition, both the MAG and the Leadership Panel held multiple online meetings throughout the year.

The Open Consultations and MAG meetings were moderated by the MAG Chair, Ms. Carol Roach, 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. Deniz Susar participated. Also in attendance were representatives of the IGF 2025 Host – the Government of Norway –with Mr. Ole-Martin Martinsen, Policy Director for Digitalization and Emerging Technologies at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, serving as designated IGF 2025 Host Country Co-Chair.

The core objective of these meetings was to plan the IGF process, including its preparations, intersessional work and the 20th annual meeting.

The key points discussed during the Open Consultations and MAG meetings related to:

- More focused and coherent IGF programme, aligned with local and global priorities and supporting the WSIS+20 review process;
- More output-oriented meeting, with stronger integration of the various types of outcomes into a single, consolidated outcome document;
- Strengthened hybrid format, ensuring meaningful opportunities for both onsite and online participation;

- Increased participation of previously under-engaged stakeholders, including identified disciplines, youth, the judiciary, the private sector, parliaments and communities from underrepresented countries;
- Improved linkages among intersessional workstreams and stronger connections with other global processes;
- Implementation of a comprehensive communications and stakeholder-engagement strategy;
- Simplified access to the online meeting platform, including dedicated meeting pages tailored to users' needs.

The consultations also heard updates from UN Agencies and other organizations, amongst which the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), Office of Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD)/Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), Diplo/Geneva Internet Platform, DotAsia, IGF Support Association (IGFSA), Internet Society, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), UN Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), World Economic Forum (WEF) and others. The interventions for the February meeting are listed [here](#), and [here](#) for the June meeting.

The MAG agreed to continue the issue-driven approach for the IGF 2025 programme, with the aim of responding to input from the IGF community, shaping the programme around clearly focused global priorities, and supporting preparations for the WSIS+20 review. This approach served three complementary objectives, to:

- Strengthen and further evolve the IGF, by fostering more targeted and in-depth discussions on specific policy areas and enabling more focused and actionable outcomes;
- Preserve the IGF's open, inclusive and bottom-up character, ensuring space for dialogue on a broad range of issues identified as relevant by stakeholders from all regions and sectors;
- Support the WSIS+20 review process, by providing multistakeholder perspectives and globally informed inputs to the discussions.

The IGF 2025 programme, under the overarching theme "Building Digital Governance Together", was developed around four sub-themes:

- Digital Trust and Resilience
- Sustainable and Responsible Innovation
- Universal Access and Digital Rights
- Digital Cooperation

The sub-themes aligned closely with the community inputs received through a traditional public Call for Thematic Inputs¹⁰, and are associated with corresponding narratives, policy questions and issues, to help orient session organizers when submitting session proposals.

¹⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/igf-2025-proposed-issues>

The IGF 2025 featured a variety of session formats¹¹ tailored to different types of meetings and discussions:

- **High-Level Sessions** organized by the Host Country and the UN;
- **Main Sessions** organized around priority issues related to the IGF 2025 programme sub-themes by members of the MAG;
- **Workshops** as community-organized multistakeholder interactive sessions;
- **Open Forums**, sessions organized by governments, treaty-based international organisations, and global organisations with international scope and presence, with operations across regions, dealing with Internet governance issues;
- **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, book launches and similar;
- **Lightning Talks**, brief, to-the-point, prepared presentation on a specific Internet governance issue;
- **Networking Sessions**, gatherings of stakeholders interested in a same or similar issue; icebreaker sessions; social gatherings; gatherings of people and organisations from a particular region, stakeholder group, or area of activity;
- **DC Sessions**, as collaborative sessions organized by multistakeholder teams of different DCs;
- **NRIs Sessions**, as collaborative sessions organized by multistakeholder teams of NRIs coming from different regions;
- **Intersessional work sessions**, organized by the facilitators of IGF Best Practice Forums and Policy Networks;
- **Pre-events**, sessions hosted on the day before the IGF official programme begins (23 June).

Many of the above-listed sessions focused on addressing the 20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society. An overview of [WSIS+20 sessions at IGF 2025](#) was made available at the IGF website dedicated page.

IGF 2025 continued to strategically foster engagement with business and judiciary through dedicated sessions, resulting in participating stakeholders calling for continuation of these practices. In a multistakeholder setting, participants with a judiciary background explored whether AI could replace the human element in court proceedings; while three business engagement sessions explored digital trust and resilience, Norway's digital innovation journey, and sustainable leadership in the digital age.

A number of social events were organized by the Host Country as well as other participating stakeholders.



¹¹ <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2025-call-for-session-proposals>

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 WSIS+20 review, the implementation of the Global Digital Compact, as well as the implementation of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Secretary-General appointed the [Leadership Panel](#) as a strategic high-level multistakeholder body in 2022. The 15-member Panel continued its work in 2025 through regular online meetings. A number of members met at the occasion of the High-Level Political Forum at the UNHQ in New York. At the 20th IGF in Lillestrøm, the Panel members met with many other initiatives and organizations through bilateral meetings and engaged with the community by having members participate in various sessions.

A dedicated meeting between the Panel and MAG took place, addressing the upcoming strategic improvements of the IGF in the context of the WSIS+20 review. The 20th IGF provided the Panel with an opportunity to further present their vision for the good governance of digital technologies, as outlined in their paper "[The Internet We Want](#)"¹² paper and its accompanying implementation strategy, which highlights key priority areas for ensuring that digital technologies serve humanity.

Following the 20th annual IGF meeting, the Panel continued its work to advance the long-term sustainability of the Forum, including by exploring strategic improvements through partnerships and enhanced approaches to cooperation. In addition to their regular monthly meetings, the panel met in person on 26-27 August at the UNHQ in New York to discuss the so far made achievements, next steps and the final reporting to the UN Secretary-General as well as towards the community. This work culminated in a final [Leadership Panel report](#)¹³ submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General. Taken together, the report outlines how the Panel's work demonstrates the value of a strengthened IGF that can support Member States as digital issues become increasingly complex, interconnected, and central to sustainable development.

3. Intersessional work and collaboration with National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives

In between two annual IGF meetings, the community engages in several substantive activities, which are later discussed at the annual IGF meeting. These activities are collectively called the IGF intersessional work¹⁴ and take the following forms:

- [Best Practice Forums \(BPFs\)](#), which provides 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 and based on broad bottom-up community consultations, aim to assess the current state of

¹² https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/263/26312

¹³ https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/263/30225

¹⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/thematic-intersessional-work>

Internet policy issues and to identify existing policy gaps, capacity, local specificities, good and bad practices, and possible ways forward.

In 2025, the Best Practice Forums (BPFs) and Policy Networks (PNs) were selected on the basis of community priorities expressed through the Call for Issues and other consultative processes, and in line with available resources. While demand for additional intersessional workstreams was high, as reflected during the second Open Consultations and MAG Meeting¹⁵, the resources permitted the implementation of four streams. The MAG, acting by consensus, therefore agreed to prioritise four continuing work areas from the previous year, each refined with a specific thematic focus to reflect the community's identified needs and emerging policy priorities:

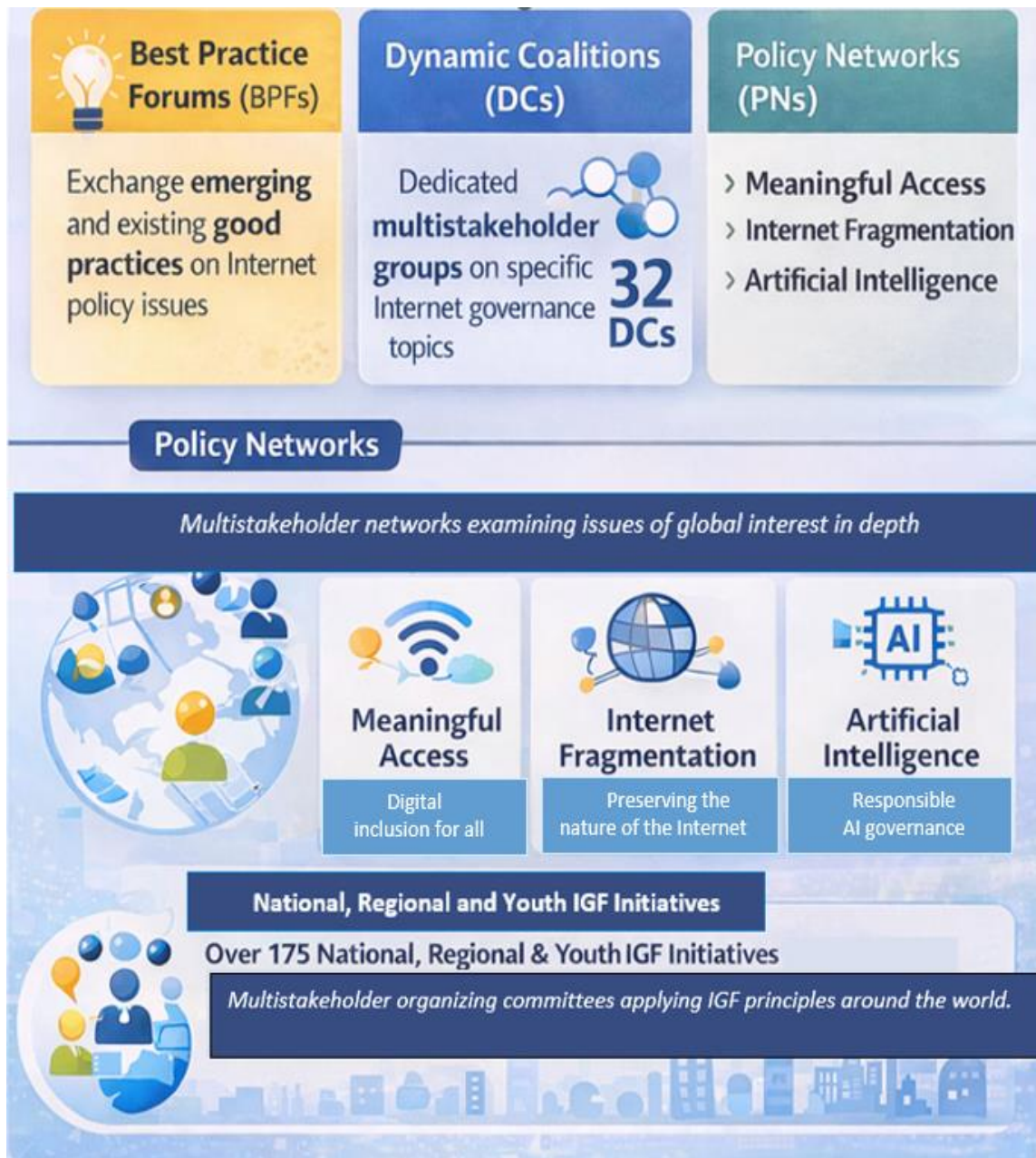
- [Policy Network on Meaningful Access](#) focused on advancing policy solutions addressing meaningful access challenges, while monitoring emerging and ongoing practices and fostering multistakeholder dialogue on connectivity, digital inclusion, and capacity development.
- [Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation](#) explored the policy, technical, legal and regulatory measures that threaten the open, interconnected, and interoperable nature of the Internet.
- [Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence](#) identified ways to maximise its impact and contribution to international processes, while engaging in key global AI initiatives and mapping emerging issues for potential future work aligned with WSIS+20 and GDC implementation.
- [Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity](#) examined stakeholder roles and responsibilities in protecting core Internet resources and ensuring civilian Internet access in contexts of conflict and crisis.
- [32 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 implementation of the GDC. Their DC main session focused on how DCs can contribute to the Internet We Want, aligning with the Leadership Panel vision paper.

More than 175 [national, regional and youth IGF initiatives \(NRIs\)](#)¹⁶ identified through a bottom-up process the thematic focus for a dedicated NRIs session at the 20th IGF. The outcome of this consultation led to the preparation of a main session on the principles for the core of the Internet.

Both DCs and NRIs networks developed their bottom-up agendas related to their work plan and future process improvements, which served as the focus for their traditional coordination sessions hosted shortly after the IGF 2024 annual meeting.

¹⁵ https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/335/28849

¹⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives>



A.2 The 20th Annual IGF Meeting

In 2025, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) held its 20th annual meeting in a hybrid format, in Lillestrøm, Norway, and online. Under the overarching theme [Building digital governance together](#), the meeting featured discussion on some of the most pressing Internet and digital policy issues, from access to the Internet, human rights, to Internet fragmentation, cybersecurity, and Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies.

The Forum brought together representatives from all stakeholder groups, including governments, the technical and academic communities, the private sector, civil society, and intergovernmental organizations, spanning a wide range of disciplines to advance discussions on Internet-related public policy issues. It provided a substantive multistakeholder platform for informed and constructive dialogue, strengthening digital cooperation and examining how the Internet can support the realization of human rights and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, the 2025 annual meeting offered an important opportunity for stakeholders to share perspectives and provide multistakeholder input into the WSIS+20 review process, ensuring that global, community-driven contributions could inform deliberations of the United Nations General Assembly, including its consideration of the IGF mandate review, as well as reflections on the implementation of the Global Digital Compact.

IGF 2025 at a Glance		
	When	23–27 June 2025 Lillestrøm, Norway
	IGF 2025 in Numbers	• 9,435+ stakeholders registered from 85% of UN member states • 3,435 onsite participants from 165 countries • 6,000+ online participants • 262 sessions
	Overarching Theme	“Building Digital Governance Together”
	4 Sub-Themes	• Digital Trust and Resilience • Sustainable and Responsible Innovation • Universal Access and Digital Rights • Digital Cooperation
	IGF Focus Engagement	• IGF multistakeholder community sessions • IGF High-Level Leaders Track • IGF Youth Track • IGF Parliamentary Track • IGF Intersessional Work • IGF Newcomers Orientation • Engaging businesses and judiciary

1.2 About the hybrid format

The 20th IGF was held as a fully hybrid meeting, with participants joining onsite, in Lillestrøm, 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 organized with online participation.
- A dedicated [website landing page](#) and adjusted [mobile app](#) were also made available to support easier navigation of the IGF 2025 content.
- In addition to traditional reporting on all sessions and the overall meeting, [AI-generated reporting](#) was introduced for the first time at the IGF, in collaboration with DiploFoundation.

To provide a high-level overview for decision-makers of the most current thinking on key Internet governance issues, discussions from the 262 sessions held during IGF 2025 have been distilled into [IGF 2025 Outputs](#)¹⁷, and specifically the key takeaways from all sessions fed into the [Lillestrøm IGF Messages](#)¹⁸ structured per issue area.

2.2 IGF 2025 High-Level Leaders Track

Co-organized by the [Host Country](#) and [UN DESA/IGF Secretariat](#), the [IGF 2025 High-Level Leaders' Track](#) engaged experts and leaders from all stakeholder groups into discussions on a series of critical issues, including the integrity of the information space, human rights online, child protection, digital public goods, the WSIS+20 review, artificial intelligence and the future of work.

The High-Level Track saw the participation of one head of state and head of Government, over forty ministers, vice ministers, and digital ambassadors, along with dozens of leaders from industry, business, academia, technical communities, intergovernmental organizations, and other stakeholder groups. In total, more than seventy-five high-level experts took part in the track, with over forty serving in an active speaking or moderating role. The sessions of the High-Level Leaders' Track were held on:

- *Losing the information space? Ensuring human rights and resilient societies in the age of big tech*
- *IGF 2025 Global Youth Summit "Too young to scroll? Age verification and social media regulation" (intergenerational dialogue between youth and high-level stakeholders)*
- *Digital public goods and global digital cooperation*
- *AI & the future of work*
- *Securing child safety in the age of the algorithms*
- *Charting the path forward for the WSIS+20 review and role of the IGF*

These sessions, interpreted into the six official United Nations languages and broadcast live, set the scene for the subsequent high-level programme by addressing the meeting's subthemes in a cross-cutting manner. The purpose of the track was to bring together leaders from across the stakeholder spectrum and engage them in dialogue and knowledge exchange on issues requiring sustained multistakeholder and multidisciplinary collaboration. It also identified areas where digital technologies hold significant potential to advance sustainable development objectives. Key takeaways from the High-Level Leaders Track were integrated into the [Lillestrøm IGF Messages](#), with session [summaries](#) made available on the IGF website.

3.2 Strengthened parliamentary track

Building on prior years, the IGF significantly expanded its [Parliamentary Track in 2025](#), both through active regional engagement and a robust programme at the annual meeting.

The year has been marked by a stronger emphasis on regional parliamentary cooperation and capacity building, with particular focus on preparing lawmakers to respond to evolving

¹⁷ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2025-outputs>

¹⁸ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/334/29818

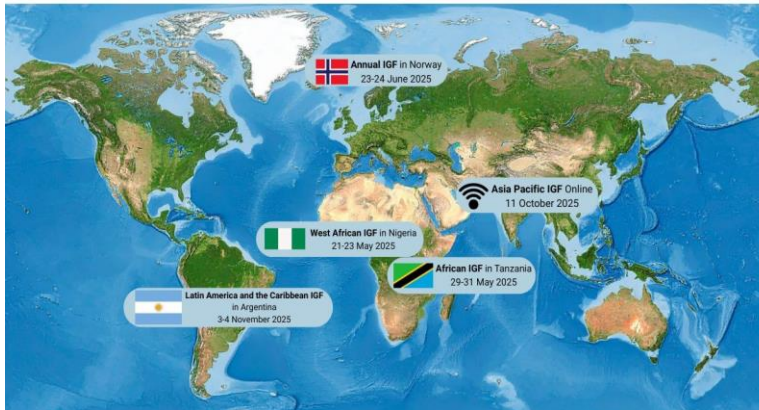
challenges in the digital policy landscape, including information integrity and freedom of expression online, cybersecurity and online harms.



Strengthening the Parliamentary Track at the IGF 2025

The IGF significantly expanded its Parliamentary Track in 2025 through active regional engagement and a robust programme at the annual meeting.

Parliamentary Tracks focused on preparing lawmakers to address evolving digital policy challenges including information integrity, online safety, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies.



ANNUAL IGF 2025 PARLIAMENTARY TRACK



Lillestrøm, Norway
23-24 June

- 120+ parliamentarians
- 30+ countries represented
- Organized with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Norwegian Storting



Particularly, the IGF Secretariat deepened its collaboration with regional and subregional IGF initiatives to organize dedicated Parliamentary Tracks tailored to the policy needs of different regions.

At the [West African IGF in Nigeria](#), parliamentarians gathered under the theme “Digital Governance for a Resilient, Inclusive and Safe Digital Future for West Africa.” In partnership with ECOWAS and the West African Parliamentary Network on Internet Governance (WAPNIG), participants addressed the governance of data and emerging technologies, digital rights, AI regulation, and the implementation of the GDC and WSIS+20 outcomes. The Track culminated in the Parliamentary Declaration on Digital Governance in West Africa, outlining key priorities and legislative proposals for regional action.

At the [African IGF in Tanzania](#), over 20 Members of Parliament engaged in a multi-day programme under the theme “Parliamentarians Empowering Africa’s Digital Future.” The sessions focused on safeguarding democracy in the digital age, balancing cybersecurity and freedom of expression, inclusive AI governance, and intergenerational cooperation on digital policy.

At the [Asia Pacific regional Internet Governance Forum \(APrIGF\)](#), a set of activities with and for parliaments was held on 11 October 2025, focusing on governing digital platforms and strengthening public policy through multistakeholder insights. A dedicated dialogue with youth leaders and exposure to regional data policy frameworks also enriched the exchange. Insights from these sessions contributed to shaping the global IGF Parliamentary Track.

At the [Latin American and Caribbean IGF \(LACIGF\)](#) held in Cordoba, Argentina¹⁹, a regional parliamentary track was organized. The track comprised several workshops was attended by more than fifteen legislators, including the speaker of the Córdoba legislature, as well as representatives from the parliaments of Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Chile, Costa Rica and Panama, and a member of the European Parliament. A summary of the discussions and the resulting policy recommendations on emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, data governance and cybersecurity, is available on the [IGF website](#)²⁰.

Parliamentary networks continued to gain traction, encouraging lawmakers to engage more actively in regional digital governance and align national legislative efforts.

The annual IGF 2025 meeting in Lillestrøm hosted a dedicated Parliamentary Track from 23 to 24 June, convening close to 120 parliamentarians and parliamentary staff from more than 30 countries, as well as representatives from the European and Pan-African Parliaments. Organized in partnership with Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Norwegian Parliament, the Storting, the track facilitated exchange of experiences with stakeholders from civil society, the private sector, the technical community, and youth on urgent issues such as misinformation, online safety, digital rights, and AI regulation. Over six sessions, parliamentarians emphasized the importance of multistakeholder cooperation to support evidence-based, inclusive lawmaking, outlined in the [output document of the IGF 2025 Parliamentary Track](#)²¹, available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

Through the Parliamentary Track, many different stakeholders, legislators included, expressed strong interest in deepening their engagement with the IGF, joining national and regional IGF initiatives, and using the outputs from these fora to inform their legislative work. Key messages and outcomes from the global Parliamentary Track are captured in a public report to support future parliamentary action.

4.2 Involvement of UN agencies

Following a dedicated UN engagement strategy in place since 2021, the Forum saw over 26 entities from the UN System involved in the 20th IGF as organizers or speakers in various sessions, including the High-Level Track. Among those involved were UN Development Programme (UNDP), UN University - CRIS (UNU), UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Labour Organization (ILO), UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), UN Economic Commission for Africa (UN ECA), UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN ESCWA) and others. Agency representatives discussed the tremendous potential of digital technologies to boost sustainable development and called for more cooperation across the system.

¹⁹ <https://lacigf.org/edicion-18-del-lacigf-2025/>

²⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/parliamentary-summit-shaping-digital-futures-in-the-southern-cone-innovation-data-and>

²¹ https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/340/29814

5.2 Focus on youth

To effectively engage youth, a dedicated [IGF 2025 Youth Track](#)²² was designed and implemented throughout the year in a form of an intergenerational cooperation and capacity development.

In cooperation with all Youth IGF coordinators, as well as international youth-focused organizations, the track was designed and delivered through four capacity development workshops hosted in conjunction with [regional IGFs](#) ([EuroDIG](#) in France, [African IGF](#) in Tanzania; [APriIGF](#) hosted online and [Youth LACIGF](#) in Argentina), focusing on implications of the social media regulation, including through age verification. Additionally, the [IGF 2025 Global Youth Summit](#) was hosted at the 20th IGF in Lillestrøm, a traditional IGF session which facilitates dialogue between youth and high-level senior stakeholders.

More details about the IGF 2025 Youth Track and the Summit are available on the [dedicated page](#). All discussions are consolidated in [Messages from Youth](#)²³. The messages emphasize that youth must be directly involved in shaping digital policy, especially around social media regulation and age verification. They call for safety-by-design platforms, global standards for age-appropriate and privacy-preserving verification, stronger digital literacy, and transparent platform governance. Importantly, they highlight that regulation must serve the function of protecting young people without excluding marginalized youth, and stress that a safe digital future requires multistakeholder and intergenerational co-creation, not just consultation.

6.2 Improving visibility and tangible outcomes of the 20th 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 2025 engaged stakeholders from all sectors with interest or expertise in Internet governance. The working groups the MAG chartered for 2025 were open to everyone, allowing for broad stakeholder engagement.

Further, in light of the high level of stakeholder interest and their global political relevance, the IGF strategically emphasized issues related to artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, 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 particularly relevant within the wider context of the WSIS+20 review, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and the Global Digital Compact.

The IGF continued to emphasize the openness and inclusiveness of its processes. Through the call for thematic inputs, the call for session proposals, contributions to intersessional work, and other paths, a large number of stakeholders from around the world to directly shaped IGF 2025 programme.

²² <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2025-youth-track>

²³ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/334/29855

As noted, the 2025 renewal of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) brought together 40 members drawn from the pool of former MAG and WGIG participants, all of whom had substantial prior experience in IGF processes. Representing a wide range of backgrounds and disciplines, this group contributed to strengthening the Forum's visibility and helped raise awareness of the historic significance of the WSIS+20 review process.

Building on the Multistakeholder Advisory Group's (MAG) guidance on programme planning, the IGF Secretariat shared the annual work plan with national, regional and youth Internet Governance Forum initiatives (NRIs), as well as with Dynamic Coalitions (DCs). The Secretariat ensured continuous coordination among these initiatives through regular (bi)monthly online meetings, reviews of adherence to the IGF's core criteria, and substantive engagement in their respective processes. This coordinated approach also informed the thematic orientation of NRI and DC sessions at the annual meeting, developed bottom-up by these networks. In parallel, sustained support from the Secretariat contributed to the qualitative strengthening and maturation of these networks.

The IGF 2025 capacity development framework explained in more detail further in this report, also increased stakeholder engagement in intersessional work.

To document the rich discussions held at the IGF, session organizers are required to submit concise session reports shortly after their sessions. These include key takeaways and calls to action, followed by a more detailed report submitted by a later deadline. All session outputs are consolidated in a dedicated space on the IGF website. The key takeaways and calls to action also feed into the IGF Messages, which are published in draft form at the end of IGF week and widely disseminated. IGF 2025 sessions were captioned in real time and live-streamed via the IGF YouTube channel. For the very first time, the AI-reporting was introduced to complement the session organizer's reporting. In addition, all High-Level Leaders Track sessions and main sessions were interpreted into the six official United Nations languages and broadcast on UN WebTV and the IGF YouTube channel.

All [IGF 2025 outputs](#)²⁴ are collected in one place on the IGF website to give them more visibility, showcasing the diversity in outcomes and making them easier to access.

To support the WSIS+20 review and the assessment of the IGF mandate, the IGF Secretariat developed a dedicated ["IGF Achievements and Impact \(2005–2025\)" paper](#)²⁵, consolidating two decades of progress and contributions. Prepared in close consultation with the wider IGF community, the paper provides an evidence-based overview of the Forum's mandate, structure and evolution; the outcomes of annual global meetings from 2006 to 2025; the development of the IGF's intersessional ecosystem—including Best Practice Forums, Policy Networks, Dynamic Coalitions and more than 170 national, regional and youth IGFs; and concrete case studies demonstrating how the IGF facilitates dialogue, builds consensus, and influences digital policy processes at national, regional and global levels. The document was designed as a key input to the WSIS+20 discussions, highlighting the IGF's impact as a stable, inclusive and trusted multistakeholder platform and underscoring its continuing relevance as digital issues become increasingly complex, interconnected and central to sustainable development.

²⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2025-outputs>

²⁵ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/334/29935

7.2 Technical improvements

In 2025, proven good practices from previous IGF meetings were fully leveraged, including a streamlined room-booking system, automated transcription and report-publication processes, and an integrated scheduling system supported by a multilingual mobile application.

The application displayed registered participants per session, thereby facilitating networking and engagement. The 3D virtual platform continued to provide an accessible environment for online participants, primarily supporting interaction within the IGF Village.

In addition, targeted improvements were introduced to enhance the overall participant experience, including updates to session connectivity and online participation modalities. These enhancements ensured a secure environment while maintaining user-friendly access to content, discussions, and permissions for content and video sharing.

A simplified, single registration process was implemented for all participants, both onsite and online. The technical infrastructure was hosted in a cloud-based environment with elastic capacity and pre-configured, optimized data access, ensuring stable service throughout the meeting.

The commenting platform was also reorganized to enable quicker and more intuitive access to content. Overall, feedback on the technical aspects of IGF 2025 was largely positive.

A dedicated landing [webpage](#)²⁶ for the annual meeting was created to reflect all relevant information in one place. IGF 2025 sessions were captioned in real-time, and live-streamed via [IGF YouTube](#)²⁷ channel. All high-level leaders' track and main sessions were interpreted in six UN languages.

8.2 Advancing outputs

Significant effort was invested in advancing participants' outputs. In the leadup to IGF 2025, several guides were created to inform and orient session organizers, including narrative overviews of the IGF themes. Communication through a regular newsletter, periodic mailing list updates, and the IGF's social media accounts were continuously facilitated throughout the year. UN press releases on the Forum were also published.

The IGF 2025 annual meeting resulted in several tangible [outputs](#)²⁸, with written output reports emerging from all the intersessional activities, as well as the messages produced for the issue areas, the parliamentary roundtable and the youth track. The [Lillestrøm IGF Messages](#)²⁹ were developed based on session reports from the session organizers received within a few hours of their session conclusion. This session rapporteurs' reporting process was complemented, for the first time, by [AI-generated session summaries](#)³⁰ developed in cooperation with DiploFoundation.

²⁶ <https://intgovforum.org/en/dashboard/igf-2025>

²⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/user/igf/featured>

²⁸ <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2025-outputs>

²⁹ https://intgovforum.org/filedepot_download/334/29818

³⁰ <https://dig.watch/event/internet-governance-forum-2025>

A communication strategy was developed to support IGF 2025 and its community outreach activities. One press conference and three Media Hub sessions were held targeting all IGF-accredited journalists; notices of these were distributed to the IGF main press mailing list and media lists at the UN Secretariat through the Department of Global Communications. Media Hub interviews were posted to UN WebTV. 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 almost all [NRIs meetings](#)³¹ online and onsite in Arab IGF, Brazil IGF, EuroDIG, African IGF, Cuba IGF, Caribbean IGF, SEEDIG, and LACIGF. 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), the UN High-Level Political Forum, ICANN policy and community meeting, Forum on Science, Technology and Innovation for the SDGs (STI Forum), the Asia-Europe Foundation Higher Education Innovation Laboratory Conference, Global AI Conference for Parliamentarians, UNESCWA WSIS+20 consultations, 30 years of CGI.br, amongst others.

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

The IGF continued to work on implementing the recommendations of the CSTD Working Group on Improvements to the IGF³². 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.

The IGF 2025 process and its annual meeting in Lillestrøm were significantly shaped by the ongoing WSIS+20 review, particularly in light of the General Assembly's resolution on modalities for the process.

To strategically align with the [WSIS+20 review process](#), and in light of the short preparatory timeline, the United Nations Secretary-General took an exceptional step for the 2025 IGF cycle by appointing 40 members to the [Multistakeholder Advisory Group \(MAG\)](#), drawing from a pool of former MAG members and members of the original Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG). This decision was intended to ensure continuity, institutional memory, and strategic foresight in guiding the IGF during this pivotal year.

The WSIS+20 review was a prominent theme throughout the IGF 2025 meeting in Lillestrøm. Multiple [sessions](#) addressed the review process and its implications, including high-level panels, multistakeholder roundtables, and targeted community discussions. The

³¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/nris-meetings-in-2025>

³² https://unctad.org/system/files/non-official-document/ecn162012_p09_EN.pdf

topic was also integrated into the IGF's High-Level Leaders' Track, and featured in dialogues involving the IGF Leadership Panel, the MAG, and the broader IGF community. A key moment of the IGF 2025 was the presence and active engagement of the WSIS+20 review co-facilitators – the Permanent Representatives of Albania and Kenya to the United Nations.

During the meeting in Lillestrøm, the cofacilitators convened a public consultation with the IGF community to gather diverse views and insights on WSIS implementation and the future of the IGF. Their participation underscored the importance of the IGF as a central platform for inclusive consultations on the future of digital governance.

As a substantive contribution to the review process, the IGF Secretariat published a dedicated 20-year Achievement Paper, reflecting the Forum's evolution since its inception, and key milestones. This document serves as both a retrospective on two decades of IGF impact and a forward-looking contribution to the global digital cooperation agenda.

The year-long IGF 2025 process has thus served not only as a continuation of the Forum's core mission but also as a critical support mechanism for the WSIS+20 review, reinforcing the IGF's role in shaping the future of inclusive, accountable, and multistakeholder digital governance. To highlight the IGF's rich evolution and the global community's achievements within the UN system, a dedicated [session on the past, present, and future of the IGF](#) was held in Lillestrøm just before the official opening.

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 and large number of online participants. The Zoom platform was predominately used for enabling the 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 of direct communication among registered IGF participants.

A dedicated [webpage](#)³³ for the annual meeting was created to reflect all relevant information in one place. The IGF 2025 sessions were live-streamed via UN WebTV, IGF [YouTube](#) and real-time captioned. All main sessions and high-level sessions were interpreted in the six UN languages. These improvements contributed to a record participation of over 9,000 stakeholders at IGF 2025.

³³ <https://intgovforum.org/en/dashboard/igf-2025>

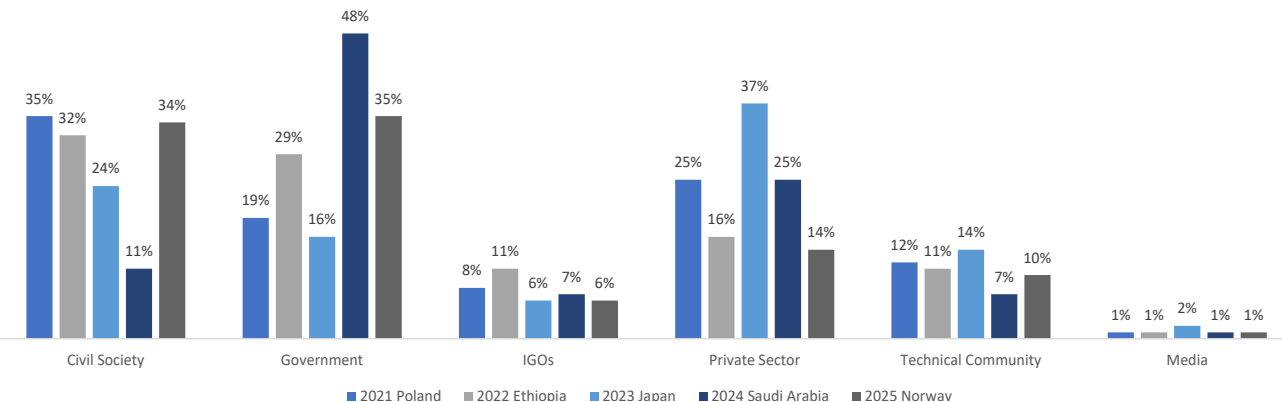
B. Expected Accomplishment 2

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 20th annual IGF meeting

The official [statistics](#)³⁴ regarding IGF 2025 participation were published on the IGF website after the annual meeting ended. The 20th annual IGF meeting received over 11,000 registered participants. At the IGF venue in Lillestrøm, 3,435 participants collected their badges and participated onsite in the meeting. Over 6,000 stakeholders participated online, making the total participation at the 20th annual IGF meeting over 9,435. The majority of onsite participants came from Norway, United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, China, Brazil, Germany, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Belgium, Nigeria, and France. Most of online participants connected from Norway, the United States, Nigeria, India, Germany, Kenya, China, and the United Kingdom.

Looking at the stakeholder groups, most of the participants came from the Government (35%) and civil society (34%), followed by private sector (14%), the technical community (10%), intergovernmental organizations (6%), and press (1%).



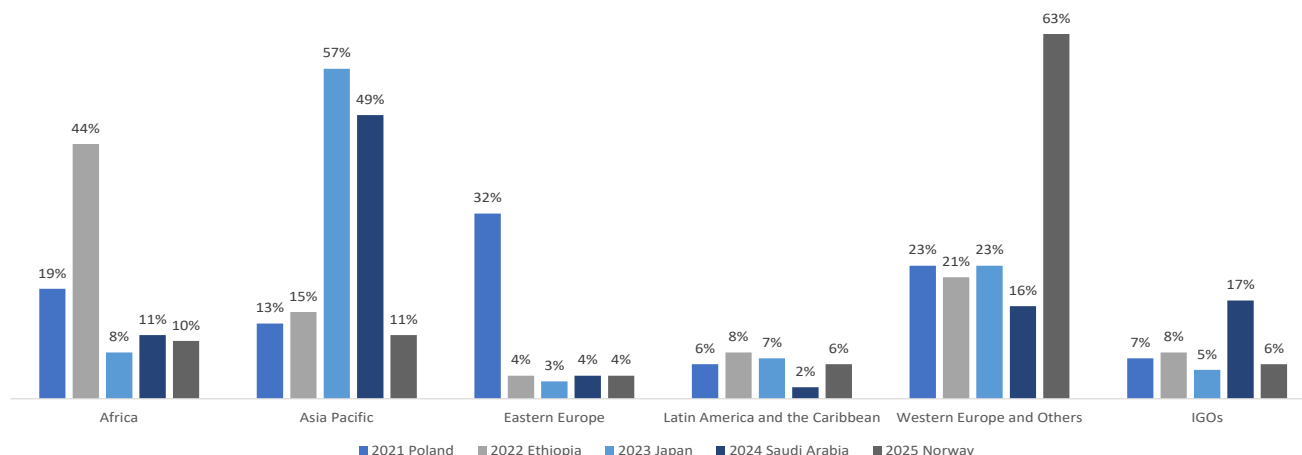
5-year comparison of IGF participation by stakeholder group

The Forum saw the participation of representatives from over 26 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 five IGF cycles³⁵.

³⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2025-participation-and-programme-statistics>

³⁵ 2021 Poland; 2022 Ethiopia; 2023 Japan; 2024 Saudi Arabia, 2025 Norway.

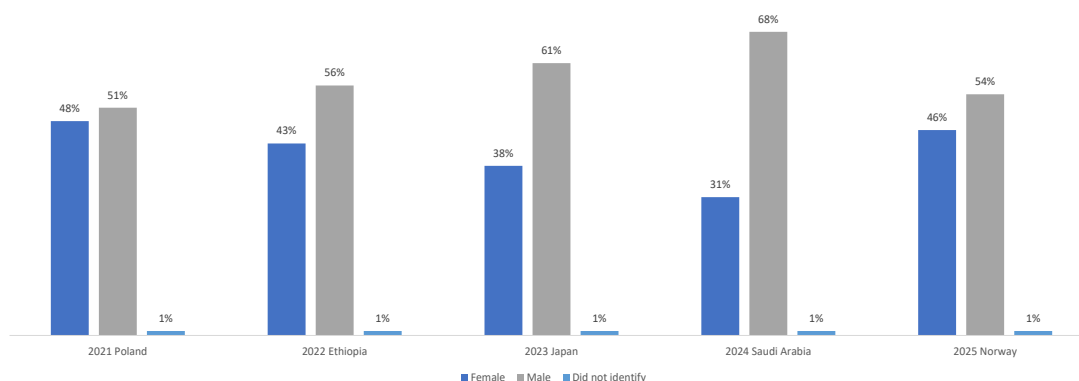
In terms of regional diversity, the majority of the participants came from WEOG (63%), Asia Pacific (11%), Africa (10%), followed by GRULAC (6%), IGOs (6%), and Eastern



5-year comparison of IGF participation by regional group

Europe (4%). This year's IGF saw an increase in civil society participation and the technical community. IGF 2025 also recorded increased representation of stakeholders from Africa and GRULAC compared to 2024. Below is the visual comparison of the regional group participation across the last five IGF cycles.

Gender representation was 54% male, 46% female and less than 1% did not identify. Below is a visual comparison of the last five annual IGF meetings.



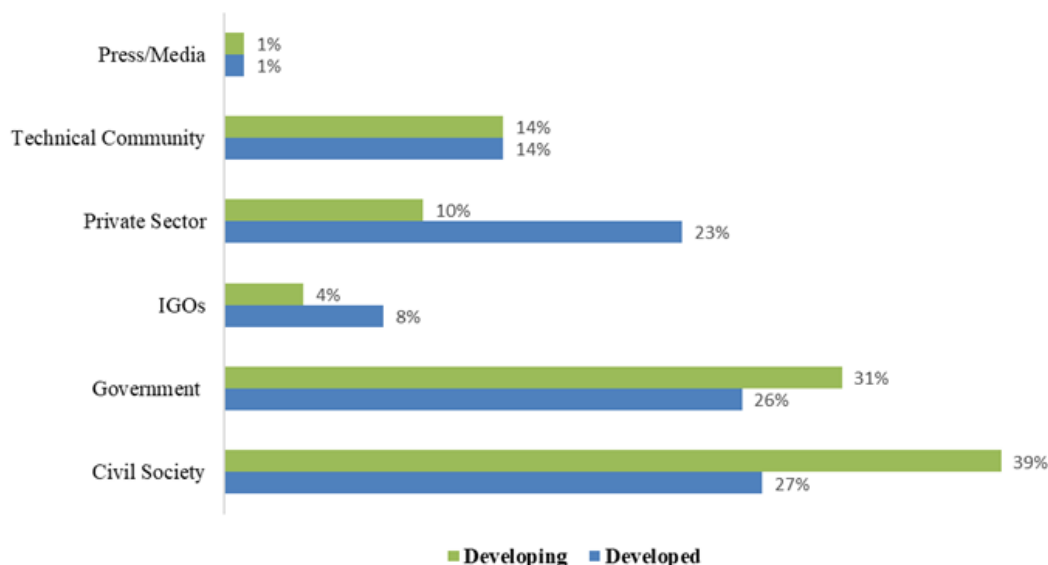
5-year comparison of IGF participation by gender

Over 3% of registered participants indicated to be members of parliament from 39 different countries. 36% of participants indicated to be first-time participants, the majority of them coming from the Host Country and region.

Regarding participation by level of development of the country, based on the latest available [HDI Index](http://hdr.undp.org/en/data)³⁶, over 70% of all participants came from developed countries

³⁶ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/data>

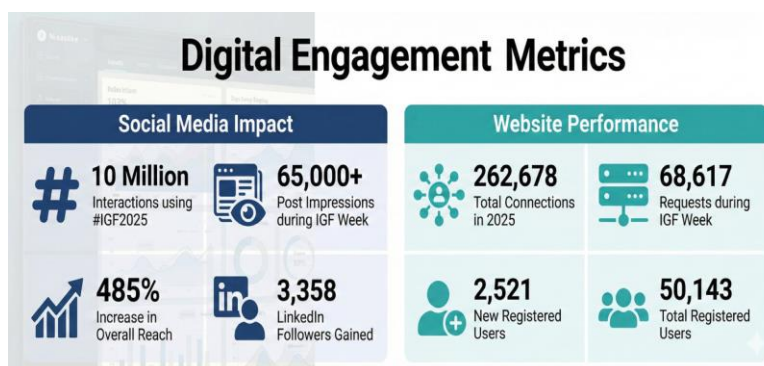
classified as very high³⁷ and 30% from developing countries, not classified as very high. Below is the visual overview of these per stakeholder group.



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

The meeting's livestream service attracted over 22,000 unique views. Close to 70% of viewers were between 18 and 44 years of age. Livestreams were mostly viewed in Norway, followed by India, the United States, China, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

During the IGF 2025 cycle, outreach and communications efforts reached unprecedented levels of engagement across digital platforms. Content shared through the IGF's official social media channels, Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram and Bluesky, generated approximately 10 million interactions using the #IGF2025 hashtag. During IGF week alone, these platforms recorded over 65,000 post impressions, approximately 37,000 page and profile impressions, and nearly 1,000 new followers, reflecting strong growth compared to the previous week.



³⁷ <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/human-development-report-2020-readers-guide>

Total reach increased by 485%, with significant increases in engagement, including shares (+1,200%), reactions (+670%) and impressions (+900%). The combined reach of the IGF and UN DESA Facebook accounts exceeded 110,000 users during the reporting period. In parallel, the IGF website recorded 68,617 requests across 14,292 user sessions during IGF week. The highest number of website visits originated from Norway, the United States, China, India, Germany, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

Media monitoring during IGF week indicated extensive coverage in major Norwegian and international media outlets, across both print and broadcast formats. Coverage included, inter alia, Xinhua, Bloomberg, Al Jazeera, Deutsche Welle, AFP, Television Jamaica, Digi, Teknisk Ukeblad, Altinget, NRK and Aftenposten. To support media engagement, the Secretariat prepared a comprehensive digital press kit hosted via Trello, which included a media advisory, key meeting information, access to photos and videos, and media contact details. Press releases were issued at both the opening and closing of the meeting.

Overall, IGF 2025 demonstrated a continued increase in visibility, engagement and outreach, supported by sustained growth across social media platforms and strategic communications coordinated by the IGF Secretariat, the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), and the Leadership Panel, in close cooperation with a broad range of stakeholders.

As part of these efforts, the IGF cooperated with GIZ to produce a series of outreach videos aimed at enhancing understanding of the IGF's role and visibility ahead of the United Nations General Assembly decision-making processes later in the year. The first video, *"The Internet Is More Than Apps and Social Media – IGF as a True Global Multistakeholder Platform,"* was published on 22 June and disseminated widely through IGF social media channels, GIZ's internal and external communication networks, the MAG mailing list, and IGF supporter lists. The video generated more than 2,100 impressions on the IGF LinkedIn account alone and was shared with GIZ's 25,000 staff worldwide.

Additional outreach videos are under development, focusing on trust and digital inclusion, as well as on the IGF's role as an incubator for digital policy solutions, with particular emphasis on informing policymakers in the context of the WSIS+20 review.

A press kit was prepared via [Trello](https://trello.com/b/7DX71SIP/20th-internet-governance-forum-2025-23-27-june-2025)³⁸ containing a [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.

Also, via Trello communications materials were shared with the IGF's session organisers to enhance the promotion of their sessions. The materials included thematic cards, social media guidance, PowerPoint templates, and high-resolution logos.

All sessions were streamed and transcribed. The high-level and main sessions were interpreted in the six official UN languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

³⁸ <https://trello.com/b/7DX71SIP/20th-internet-governance-forum-2025-23-27-june-2025>

The meeting featured 262 [sessions](#)³⁹, including: 1 Opening Session, 1 Opening Ceremony, 1 Closing Ceremony, 1 IGF Retrospective Session, 1 Open Microphone and Taking-Stock Session, 9 Main Sessions (including IGF intersessional work main sessions), 5 High-Level Leaders Sessions, 3 Business Engagement Sessions, 6 Parliamentary Track Sessions, 1 Judiciary Engagement Session, 1 Newcomers Session, 1 Global Youth Summit, 3 NRI Collaborative Sessions, 4 Dynamic Coalition Collaborative Sessions, 52 Workshops, 54 Open Forums, 35 Lightning Talks, 9 Launches and Awards Sessions, 10 Networking Sessions, and 34 Pre-Events (Day 0 Sessions).

Organizations from five different continents joined the [IGF Village](#)⁴⁰ 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, the private sector, civil society and the technical community.

There were also [33 remote hubs](#)⁴¹ organized around the world from 33 different countries: 76% in Africa; 18% in Asia Pacific; 3% in Latin America and the Caribbean; and 3% in WEOG.

B.2 Participation in various Internet governance-related events and processes



Strategic Outreach

A dedicated communication strategy enhanced IGF's visibility at major gatherings and stakeholder meetings globally.

Host Country Leadership

Norway invested significantly in in-country consultations and broad engagement with diplomatic missions, international organizations, and universities.

Broad Collaboration

Facilitated through intersessional workstreams, NRIs, and active participation in key meetings by the Secretariat, UN DESA, MAG, and Leadership Panel.

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

³⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2024-sessions>

⁴⁰ <https://intgovforum.org/en/igf-village-2025>

⁴¹ <https://intgovforum.org/en/igf-2025-remote-hubs-list>

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 20th IGF process closer to the global community, a dedicated communication and outreach strategy was developed that raised the visibility of the IGF at major gatherings and stakeholder meetings.

The Host Country, the Government of Norway, invested specific efforts in conducting in-country consultations and ensuring the engagement of all sectors of society in the IGF. These efforts included numerous bilateral meetings with Member States represented in Norway through their diplomatic missions, as well as with international organizations based in the country. The Host Country also engaged with universities and pursued broader regional and international outreach initiatives. As part of this effort, several outreach activities were conducted including the side event⁴² hosted at UNHQ in New York at the STI Forum.

Throughout the year, stakeholder engagement and cooperation were facilitated through the intersessional work streams and the NRIs, as well as through the active participation of the IGF Secretariat, UN DESA, the MAG, and the Leadership Panel in key Internet governance meetings.

The Best Practice Forum, three Policy Networks, 32 Dynamic Coalitions, and more than 175 national, regional and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs) convened over one hundred meetings, engaging stakeholders from all regions to contribute perspectives and exchange good practices. Through these intersessional policy and capacity-building activities, as well as through the extensive NRI network, the IGF continued to strengthen cooperation with digitally focused and digital governance-related organizations worldwide. These included dedicated government agencies, regional Internet registries, academic institutions, and related policy processes, such as initiatives supporting the implementation of the NetMundial principles, as well as the European Union, where the IGF regularly participates in the High-Level Group on Internet Governance.

Cooperation within the UN System continued to expand. An increasing number and variety of UN agencies, including OHCHR, UNESCO, UNDP, UNIDIR, UNICRI, UNCTAD, UN regional commissions and many others, contributed to the IGF's intersessional open consultations and the annual meeting. Additionally, the IGF's affiliation to the GDC Core Group, and Cyber Hub, hosted within UNIDIR, further strengthened its network. Through the WSIS and GDC processes, the IGF maintained close ties with the UN system including ITU, UNCTAD, and ODET.

The 2025 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 global multistakeholder input to the implementation on the GDC with the messages emerged from the meeting.

⁴² <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/sti-forum-side-event-the-road-to-wsis20-and-beyond>

In implementing the [youth engagement strategy](#)⁴³, the Secretariat continued to engage with different stakeholders to expand its network of young people gathered around the dedicated mailing list and involved in the planning of the youth track at IGF 2025. It specifically worked with all Youth IGFs and other youth-delegated focal points from national and regional IGFs, as well as with the global youth-focused initiatives such as the Internet Society's Ambassadors Programme, Youth Movement, etc.

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 different regions and over 300 parliamentarians went through several capacity development activities, such as thematic workshops hosted at the regional IGF meetings, and the roundtable sessions hosted at the 20th IGF. The IGF Secretariat also actively participated in the global conference "The Role of Parliament in Shaping the Future of Responsible AI", held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in August 2025 and organized by the Parliament of Malaysia, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association and UNDP. The event brought together more than 200 parliamentarians from over 65 countries. The IGF Secretariat supported UNDP in facilitating a foresight workshop in which parliamentarians mapped the potential impacts of AI on their constituencies, developed positive and negative future scenarios, formulated concrete action plans and presented their findings to the wider group. In addition, the IGF Secretariat contributed to a panel on international cooperation, where four key themes emerged: the increasing risk of fragmentation in global AI governance; the need to strengthen multistakeholder approaches; widening capacity gaps between countries; and the emergence of shared "red lines" for coherent global action. During the session, the IGF underscored the essential role of inclusive, multistakeholder governance in shaping legitimate AI norms, highlighting as a key asset its network of more than 175 national and regional IGFs worldwide. This network enables diverse perspectives to meaningfully inform governance approaches that reflect different contexts, development priorities and regional needs.

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 2025 High-level Leaders track.

Participants in the [High-level track](#)⁴⁴ brought diverse backgrounds to the IGF 2025, ministerial representatives and leaders from the private sector, technical community and civil society, including high-level representatives from ITU, European Commission, Google, TikTok, ICANN, ISOC, Meta and many others. The UN Secretary-General, the Prime Minister, and the Minister of Digitalisation and Public Governance of Norway also addressed the meeting, rounding out participation at the highest political levels.

The IGF Secretariat collaborated with the UN Office of Information and Communications Technology (UNOICT) as part of [UNOICT's #WomenInTech campaign](#), which highlights women contributing to digital transformation across the UN system. Through this engagement, the IGF underscored its shared commitment with UNOICT to supporting gender inclusion in digital

⁴³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-youth-track>

⁴⁴ <https://intgovforum.org/content/igf-2025-high-level-sessions>; <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/igf-2022-high-level-track>

governance and promoting the full participation of women in shaping the future of the digital age.

The IGF Secretariat cooperated with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to produce a [series of awareness-raising video campaigns](#)⁴⁵ illustrating the impact of the IGF and broader WSIS processes. These included testimonials from Ms. Carol Roach, Under Secretary of the Government of The Bahamas, and Mr. Michuki Mwangi of the Internet Society, showcasing concrete examples of how the IGF supports national and regional action on digital inclusion. The campaign also featured Mr. 'Gbenga Sesan of Paradigm Initiative, highlighting community-driven approaches to digital inclusion and the role of IGF processes in amplifying local solutions. Furthermore, a joint interview featuring Mr. Vint Cerf, Chair of the IGF Leadership Panel, and Ms. Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven, Vice Chair and Managing Director of GIZ, explored the importance of protecting an open, interoperable Internet and advancing inclusive and just digital governance frameworks. The discussion reinforced how cooperation between global development actors and IGF leadership supports the wider WSIS+20 objectives and strengthens global digital cooperation. Also, produced was a video with Nobel Peace Laureate and IGF Leadership Panel Vice-Chair, Ms. Maria Ressa, focusing on the critical importance of digital trust and inclusion for sustainable digital development. Complementing this, a video message from Internet pioneer Vint Cerf reflected on the Internet's role as a global public good and emphasized the IGF's contribution in maintaining its openness, safety and accessibility.

On the margins of the WSIS+20 High-Level Meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, the IGF co-hosted a series of [side events](#)⁴⁶ together with Switzerland, France, the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund (UNJSPF), the International Chamber of Commerce and the World Economic Forum. These events highlighted the continued importance of multistakeholder collaboration in shaping inclusive and effective digital governance, showcased the IGF's evolution and intersessional work, and underscored the value of strong national and regional digital ecosystems and intergenerational dialogue in addressing emerging digital policy challenges.

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

The exchange of information among stakeholders engaged in the IGF process remains essential to the Forum's work, reflecting its bottom-up and multistakeholder modalities. The Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) continued to operate through a combination of in-

⁴⁵ <https://www.youtube.com/@igf>

⁴⁶ <https://publicadministration.desa.un.org/wsisis20/UNGAHigh-Level-MeetingSideEvents>

person meetings and regular bimonthly online meetings, while the IGF's intersessional activities relied heavily on sustained online community input and engagement.

The IGF website continued to serve as one of the most important tools for information sharing and coordination across the community. Given the hybrid organization of preparatory processes and the annual meeting, the website remained a central hub for participation and access to information. In 2025, the website recorded 262,678 user connections. This represented a decrease compared to the previous year, largely attributable to the earlier timing of the IGF meeting in June and significantly lower traffic levels between July and October, followed by renewed growth from November onward, with the highest peaks of the year occurring during the IGF and the WSIS+20 process. The countries generating the highest number of website visits were China, the United States, Brazil, Norway, France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, India, Germany and Singapore. Mobile usage accounted for 19% of total website traffic.

The IGF website continued to grow its registered user base. In 2025, registered users increased by 5%, with 2,521 new accounts created during the year, bringing the total number of registered users to 50,143. Among newly registered users, 49% identified as female, 50% as male, and 1% as other. In terms of stakeholder affiliation, new users were primarily from civil society (42%), followed by the private sector (20%), governments (18%), the technical community (12%), and intergovernmental organizations (8%). Regionally, new registrations reflected a diverse composition: Africa (39%), WEOG (19%), Asia-Pacific (22%), GRULAC (10%), Eastern Europe (3%), and IGOs (7%). Countries with more than 100 new registered users in 2025 were India, Nigeria, the United States and Brazil.

To support coordination, preparatory work and focused discussions, the IGF Secretariat continued to manage a wide range of electronic mailing and discussion lists. These included, inter alia, the MAG mailing list, dedicated lists for intersessional Best Practice Forums and Policy Networks, coordination lists for national, regional and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs) and Dynamic Coalitions (DCs), as well as mailing lists supporting various MAG working groups. Mailing list archives remained publicly accessible, contributing to transparency and institutional memory.

The IGF's social media presence continued to expand and mature across platforms in 2025, supporting outreach, engagement, and visibility. A major development during the year was the strategic transition from a personal LinkedIn account to an official IGF LinkedIn Page, aligning the IGF's presence with platform governance best practices and enabling shared administration, institutional visibility and native analytics. Following this transition, the LinkedIn Page grew organically from 22 followers to 3,358 followers, generating 104,348 impressions, 3,222 reactions, 96 comments and 80 reposts, demonstrating strong engagement and audience growth.

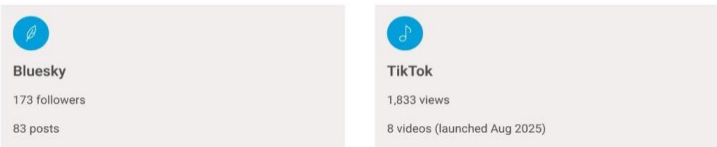
Facebook remained a high-reach platform, recording 4,400 new followers, representing a 71.6 % increase year-on-year. Content on Facebook achieved 275,300 views and 6,100 interactions, with the platform driving 23,600 visits (+4.5 %) and 1,900 link clicks (+42.8 %), highlighting its continued role in traffic generation. Instagram also showed sustained growth, gaining 1,400 new followers and recording 81,100 views. Content interactions reached 5,200 (+100 %), with 16,800 accounts reached (+30 %), alongside increases in profile visits and link

clicks. On X (formerly Twitter), IGF content generated 170,600 impressions, supported by 1,500 likes, 723 reposts and 713 profile visits, reflecting continued visibility within policy and technical communities.

Social Media Performance: Key Metrics



Emerging Platforms: Initial Engagement



In 2025, the IGF established a presence on Bluesky, reaching 173 followers across 83 posts, indicating early uptake despite the absence of native analytics. The IGF also launched its TikTok presence in August 2025, publishing eight videos by year's end and generating 1,833 views, marking an initial step toward engaging younger and more diverse audiences. YouTube continued to perform as a key platform for long-form content, recording 43,300 views (+33%) and 3,600 hours of watch time (+41%). The channel also grew to 501 subscribers, representing a 72% increase year-on-year.

Throughout the cycle, the established network of IGF communications ambassadors—drawn from current and former MAG members and the broader IGF community—continued to play an important role in amplifying IGF messaging. Stakeholders were encouraged to follow a social media hashtag guide to promote the annual meeting and individual sessions, reinforcing coordinated outreach across platforms.

Communications activities were intensified during the IGF 2025 meeting itself, including press briefings and daily media hub sessions conducted by accredited journalists from around the world. Journalists selected through the IGF's programme supporting media professionals from the Global South conducted interviews that were subsequently published on UN Web TV. Media engagement was supported through timely notifications via the press mailing list and a comprehensive digital press kit hosted on Trello, containing a media advisory, key meeting information, access to photos and videos, and contact details for interview requests. Opening and closing press releases were issued.

During the meeting, the communications team served as a focal point for media engagement, supporting journalists, facilitating interviews, and coordinating with session organizers. Several interviews were conducted with senior IGF figures and participants, including the Chair of the Leadership Panel and prominent representatives from the private sector and civil society.

In the months preceding IGF 2025, communications efforts included a coordinated social media campaign involving the IGF Secretariat, UN DESA communications colleagues, and host-country counterparts. A communications kit was shared with all session organizers to support promotion of sessions and the annual meeting. The “Voices of the IGF” campaign continued to showcase the Forum’s impact through short video testimonials, which were published across IGF digital channels.

To streamline information sharing throughout the year, all preparatory and intersessional activities for IGF 2025 were consolidated on a dedicated landing page, complemented by regular updates in the website’s News section and the distribution of a periodic newsletter.

The annual meeting schedule remained a central feature of the IGF website, presenting comprehensive information on sessions and activities throughout IGF week. An interactive scheduling system allowed participants to filter sessions by date, room and session type, create personalized schedules, and build participant profiles visible to others, thereby supporting networking and engagement.

Finally, the IGF Secretariat continued to enhance the accessibility of its digital platforms. Efforts included compliance with W3C-WAI accessibility standards, expanded multilingual content, mobile access, and the implementation of accessibility features within the hybrid 3D virtual environment. The Secretariat continued to rely on the Zoom platform for online meetings and remained committed to further improving accessibility across all services. To ensure visibility of substantive outputs, especially those related to major digital policy issues, meeting outcomes were highlighted in a dedicated section of the IGF website and shared with participants and the wider community in real time once published.

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 2025 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 engagement of experts from all stakeholder groups and geographic regions in IGF sessions and workshops, a [List of Resources Persons](#)⁴⁷ continued to be populated. The list contains profiles with interests and biographies of experts in the field of Internet Governance who volunteer to join the IGF meeting as support persons or speakers for workshops and other sessions. The list is searchable by regional and stakeholder group, and new since this year, also by a youth criteria, to foster youth inclusion in the IGF processes. Additionally, to support youth inclusion in the overall programme, the Secretariat cooperated with the Youth IGFs and made a list of youth leaders and experts willing to contribute to the sessions with indicated interests available to all session organizers.

All documents posted throughout the year, regardless of area of work, continued to be transparently available through the IGF's documents section on the IGF website. The website, including its document repository were migrated to a new container version to improve performance, reliability and security.

C.3 IGF 2025 Outputs

As outlined in paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda, the publication of the [IGF's proceedings](#)⁴⁸ is part of the Forum's mandate. In fulfilling this part of the mandate, the IGF Secretariat compiled and published the IGF 2025 [outputs](#)⁴⁹, 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 20th IGF annual meeting. These reports included those submitted by session organizers, as well as the AI-generated summaries produced through the just-in-time reporting initiative implemented in cooperation with DiploFoundation.

The [IGF 2025 Summary Report](#)⁵⁰ was prepared during the 20th annual meeting. The structure of the summary gives 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 262 sessions held during IGF 2025 were distilled into the [IGF Lillestrøm Messages](#)⁵¹ on the meeting's four themes. The draft Lillestrøm IGF messages were published in the afternoon of the last meeting day. Post-meeting, participants were given time to digest the messages and advise on substantial improvements, before the final version of the messages were formatted

The parliamentary track that focused on digital trust, concluded with an [output document](#)⁵² available in [English](#), [French](#) and [Spanish](#).

⁴⁷ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/resource-persons>

⁴⁸ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-annual-meetings-proceedings>

⁴⁹ <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2025-outputs>

⁵⁰ https://mail.intgovforum.org/IGF_2025_Summary_Report.pdf

⁵¹ https://intgovforum.org/filedepot_download/334/29818

⁵² https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/333/28522

The IGF 2025 Youth Track's Global Youth Summit produced a set of [messages from youth](#)⁵³.

Session organisers were asked to submit key takeaways and call-to-action points by the end of their meeting day. They were made available on the IGF website, reflecting daily discussions and contributing to the IGF messages process. Session reports were made available on the IGF website, as soon as submitted by the session organizers, curated together with session transcripts, videos, and the AI-generated reports, all available through the [outputs page](#)⁵⁴.

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

- [Policy Network on Meaningful Access](#), focused on advancing policy solutions addressing meaningful access challenges, while monitoring emerging and ongoing practices and fostering multistakeholder dialogue on connectivity, digital inclusion, and capacity development. Its work is aligned with the Global Digital Compact, as well as the WSIS+20 and IGF+20 review processes.
- [Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation](#) explored the policy, technical, legal, and regulatory measures that threaten the open, interconnected, and interoperable nature of the Internet.
- [Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence](#) focused on developing implementation mechanisms for its findings on key policy areas, including AI accountability, environmental sustainability in generative AI, effective governance and interoperability, as well as labour issues across the AI lifecycle – all within the context of existing frameworks such as WSIS+20 and the Global Digital Compact implementation.
- [Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity](#) examined stakeholder roles and responsibilities in protecting core Internet resources and ensuring civilian Internet access in contexts of conflict and crisis. The discussions highlighted three priority areas for further work: mechanisms for restoring emergency connectivity, normative dialogue on the interaction between International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law, and a comprehensive multistakeholder approach covering preparedness, prevention, protection and recovery.

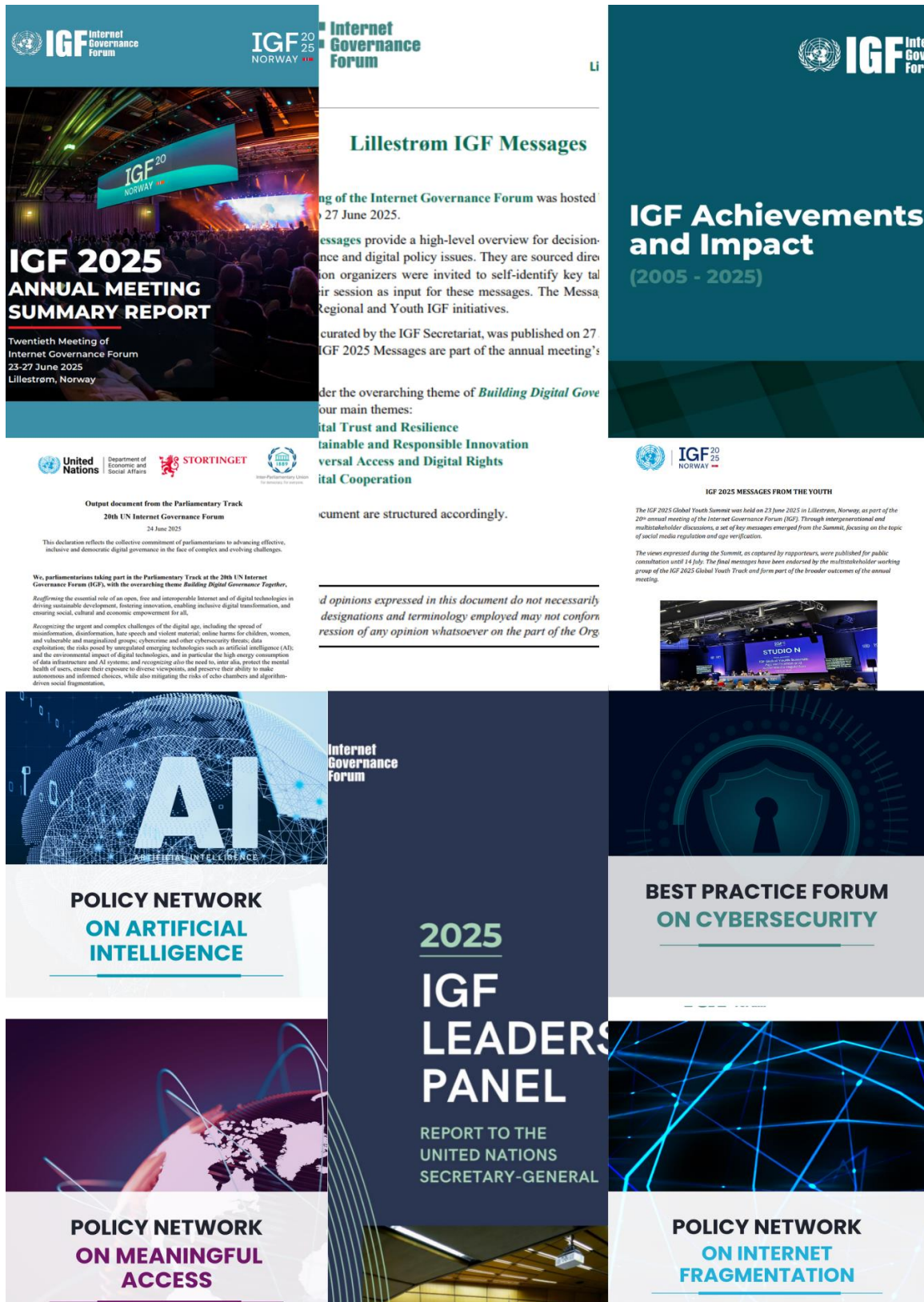
These intersessional workstream outputs were presented to the public during a ceremonial online launch hosted on 2 December 2025. The event offered stakeholders a dedicated space to learn about the findings, ask questions, and explore opportunities for continued collaboration.

The [IGF Achievements and Impact paper \(2005-2025\)](#) outlines the Forum's key achievements and persistent challenges over two decades of its existence.

⁵³ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/334/29855

⁵⁴ <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2025-outputs>

Major IGF 2025 Publications



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.

During the 2025 IGF cycle, [32 dynamic coalitions](#)⁵⁵ were active and worked on topics such as interplanetary Internet, gaming, AI, data and health, blockchain, network neutrality, Internet rights and principles, innovative approaches to connecting the unconnected, Internet of Things, accessibility and disability, child rights online and many others. [The Dynamic Coalition Coordination Group](#) (DCCG)⁵⁶ coordinated collective DC activities with support from the IGF Secretariat.

At IGF 2025, the network of Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) partnered to organize [four thematic joint sessions](#) aimed at exploring meaningful contributions to the IGF 2025 sub-themes. These sessions showcased how DCs' work can help develop an Internet that advances human rights and improves lives for all; what could be the rights-based approach to innovation in AI, the metaverse, Web 4.0, and other emerging technologies; as well as the cybersecurity and safety lessons for the 21st century capacity building. In addition, the DC Main Session, titled "Dynamic Coalitions in Service of Internet Governance: Success Stories from the Past and for the Future of the IGF", offered a platform to reflect on the achievements of the DCs and their evolving role in supporting the IGF's mission.

National, Regional, Sub-regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) are organic and independent multistakeholder networks that are discussing issues pertaining to Internet Governance from the perspective of their respective communities, while acting in accordance with the main principles of the global IGF. At the time of the 2025 IGF, 177 NRIs were recognized by the IGF Secretariat. At the 20th IGF in Lillestrøm, over 100 NRIs co-organized [five sessions](#), including three thematic collaborative sessions, a main session and a coordination session. The main session examined the future of multistakeholder governance beyond 2025, while the coordination session explored ways the NRIs could support the WSIS+20 review processes. The collaborative sessions unpacked local contexts and perspectives concerning cybersecurity, Internet access as a human right, and data governance.



⁵⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/explore-dynamic-coalitions>

⁵⁶ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dc-coordination-activities>

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 2025

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 contributing to building capacity for Internet governance in those countries, drawing fully on local sources of knowledge and expertise.

The IGF 2025 continued to invest in engagement with stakeholders from developing countries. In total, 202 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 2025 in Lillestrøm, as well as in the African IGF, Central Asian IGF and Southeastern European IGF (SEEDIG). 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 2025 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 20th annual meeting. In 2025, over 20 MAG members and 2 members from the Leadership Panel, as per the eligibility criteria, were supported to participate in the open consultations and MAG meetings in Geneva and the 20th annual IGF meeting in Lillestrøm.

Also, 11 grants were given to support developing communities by supporting the 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*⁵⁷, as well as in 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)*⁵⁸, 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*⁵⁹, a capacity development plan continued to be developed

⁵⁷ <https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html>

⁵⁸ Report of the Working Group on Improvements to the IGF, section IV.
https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/a67d65_en.pdf

⁵⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2018-address-to-the-internet-governance-forum-by-un-sg-antonio-guterres>

and implemented⁶⁰.

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 2025, 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 organized as part of the youth and parliamentary tracks.
- Training sessions for IGF 2025 session organizers and participants focused broadly on explaining mechanisms of hybrid participation.
- Newcomers session for orienting first-time IGF participants.
- Grants support to 11 [NRIs](#) and 7 [remote hubs](#) serving communities from developing countries.
- [Travel support](#) for 202 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](#)⁶¹, financial support was provided for 12 NRIs with a participation scope from developing countries, through a [public call for grants to the NRIs](#)⁶². 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 2025 are: Asia Pacific IGF (APrIGF), Argentina IGF, Bangladesh IGF, Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF, Caribbean IGF, Colombia IGF, El Salvador IGF, Latin American and Caribbean IGF (LACIGF), Liberia IGF, North African IGF, Southeastern European IGF (SEEDIG).

Over the years, remote hubs have shown to be good practice for local communities to participate in the annual IGF meeting in an organized, collective, manner. In addition to providing substantial support to the organization of the hubs, the IGF Secretariat specifically provided financial support to six remote hubs in developing countries with small grants of up to 2,500 USD value. The supported hubs were located in Bangladesh, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, South Africa, and Zambia.

Out of 202 participants supported throughout the year for various activities, 130 individuals from developing countries received travel support to participate in-person in the 20th annual IGF meeting in Lillestrøm. The eligibility criteria focused on supporting the unrepresented disciplines and countries at the IGF, as well as on the prioritization of

⁶⁰ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-capacity-development-0>

⁶¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives>

⁶² <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-call-for-nris-grants>

vulnerable groups such as youth, people with disabilities, refugees, indigenous people, women, elderly etc. These stakeholders were also invited to approach the Secretariat if they needed support to better navigate the IGF 2025 and were encouraged to actively participate 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 a long-term engagement between various communities and the IGF, as well as build and strengthen the overall capacity for Internet governance processes at local and global levels, capacity development workshops were organized in close collaboration with the community. Close to thirty workshops were hosted in conjunction with NRI meetings as part of the parliamentary or youth track or as stand-alone issue-focused sessions at the request of the community. The workshops were hosted back-to-back with the African IGF, EuroDIG, Youth LACIGF, LACIGF, and APriIGF. Amongst them, four workshops were part of the [IGF 2025 Youth Track](#) specifically designed to support the engagement of youth in the IGF and cooperation among them, while over ten were hosted as part of the [IGF 2025 Parliamentary track](#), activities involving parliamentarians from around the world.

Capacity Development Impact



201 Participants Supported

Financial support provided to stakeholders from developing countries for meaningful participation



30 Capacity Workshops

Training sessions hosted in conjunction with regional IGFs and global meeting



33 Remote Hubs

Organized across 33 countries to facilitate collective participation

In 2025, the IGF significantly strengthened its cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to support capacity development for stakeholders in developing countries, with a particular focus on Africa, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia given their historic underrepresentation in the IG(F) ecosystem. Through this partnership, targeted resources were directed toward enabling meaningful participation in regional Internet governance processes and enhancing the skills of emerging leaders. Joint efforts focused on supporting travel and participation through an open call conducted in close cooperation with the Central Asian IGF and its School on Internet Governance, held in Uzbekistan in May 2025; the African IGF and the African School on Internet Governance, held in Tanzania in May 2025; and the Southeastern European IGF and its corresponding School on Internet Governance, hosted in Greece in October 2025. In addition, selected participants from Africa received support to attend the 20th global IGF in Norway, enabling them to apply newly acquired knowledge and contribute their perspectives at the global level. These activities enabled participants to build practical knowledge of Internet governance topics and processes, and to apply this learning directly within regional and global policy discussions. In total, 66 participants from across these regions were supported through this joint capacity-building initiative.

Given the high number of first-time participants at the IGF, the Secretariat continued to implement the [newcomers track](#) by organizing the orientation sessions on Day 1 of the IGF meeting in Lillestrøm to help orient the new participants.

Overall, the capacity development workshops had on average around 80 participants each and managed to attract more interest in the IGF intersessional work and the 20th annual IGF meeting.

The Secretariat also continued to support the network of DCs, substantively on individual and collective levels.

Specific trainings were hosted for session organizers, including the rapporteurs and moderators. They focused on how to use the IGF 2025 participation platform and maximize opportunities for themselves and other participants. A [Trello](#) communications kit was 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 last few years, the Secretariat continued to cooperate and support SIGs including by making available its [syllabus](#)⁶³ which can guide stakeholders wishing to organize different forms of SIGs.

D.3 Internships and Fellowships at the IGF Secretariat

The IGF continued 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 2025, two interns, from the Ghana and South Africa, joined the IGF Secretariat. They had the opportunity to work directly on Internet governance issues and benefit from unparalleled, up-close expertise engaging with the IGF community.

⁶³ https://intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/253/21174

Conclusion

The 2025 IGF cycle marked a decisive milestone in the evolution of global Internet governance. Building on the progress of recent years, the IGF continued to expand its reach, strengthen its working modalities, and deepen engagement across all stakeholder groups, while delivering one of the most substantive and inclusive annual cycles to date. The 20th annual IGF meeting in Lillestrøm, held in a hybrid format and drawing more than 9,000 participants, demonstrated the Forum's continued relevance and the growing global demand for an open, inclusive, and evidence-based space for digital policy dialogue.

A defining feature of the 2025 cycle was its alignment with, and contribution to, the World Summit on the Information Society 20-year review (WSIS+20). Throughout the year, the IGF community, the MAG, the Leadership Panel, and the Secretariat worked collectively to provide structured inputs into the WSIS+20 review process, including through intersessional outputs, targeted consultations, high-level engagement, and the development of an IGF Achievements and Impact (2005–2025) report. These contributions ensured that the multistakeholder perspectives central to the IGF were reflected in the global assessment of digital governance progress.

The WSIS+20 High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly resulted in a historic decision in which Member States agreed that the Internet Governance Forum shall be made a permanent forum of the United Nations. Member States recognized the maturity of the IGF ecosystem, including Dynamic Coalitions, Best Practice Forums, Policy Networks, and more than 175 national, regional, and youth IGFs, and emphasized the need for stable and sustainable support for the Forum's long-term functioning. This decision marks a significant achievement for the IGF community and sets a renewed foundation for the Forum's continued contribution to global digital governance.

Throughout the 2025 cycle, the IGF strengthened engagement with underrepresented voices, including parliamentarians, the judiciary, local communities, and especially youth. The parliamentary track expanded across regions; the Youth Track and Global Youth Summit brought young people into policy discussions as co-creators; and cooperation with UN entities and international partners intensified. Capacity development activities, including schools on Internet governance and targeted support through partnerships, enabled stakeholders from developing countries to participate more meaningfully in global processes.

Technical and communication advances also continued. The IGF improved accessibility of its website and hybrid tools, expanded multilingual dissemination, strengthened social media presence across established and emerging platforms, and increased outreach through coordinated campaigns with UN DESA and international partners. These measures enhanced visibility, broadened participation, and supported the dissemination of IGF outputs, including the Lillestrøm IGF Messages and intersessional publications.

Looking ahead, the IGF enters a new chapter as a permanent UN forum. This strengthened position comes with renewed responsibility, and opportunity, to support Member States and all other stakeholders and communities worldwide, in addressing increasingly complex digital challenges. In the coming years, the IGF will continue to implement its mandate and advance its mission, including:

- Supporting inclusive, evidence-based digital policymaking
- Strengthening global cooperation and coherence
- Enhancing participation from developing countries and marginalized communities
- Advancing capacity development and knowledge exchange
- Ensuring the Internet remains open, secure, interoperable, and human rights-respecting.

With the continued dedication of the global multistakeholder community, the MAG, the Leadership Panel and the United Nations, the IGF is well-positioned to continue serving as a central pillar of Internet governance.



IGF Internet Governance Forum

www.intgovforum.org