

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

**MR. LI JUNHUA
UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
AFFAIRS**

**Message to the IGF 2024 Second Open Consultations and MAG Meeting
Geneva, 26 June 2024**

Members of the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group,
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to address you today.

As you undertake this second Open Consultations and MAG meeting of the year, I want to thank you for your hard work.

At your first meeting in Riyadh, you developed the overarching theme for IGF 2024, “*Building our Multistakeholder Digital Future*”. I am pleased to see how you are building on this to advance a rich, inclusive agenda for the 19th meeting of the IGF.

The four sub-themes already identified clearly reflect the central role of digital issues in our lives.

Digital transformation holds immense potential to drive sustainable development and socio-economic change, so, we must ensure that it is rights-respecting, inclusive, and responsive to the development aspirations of all countries.

As digital innovation can greatly contribute to economic and societal change, we must leverage these benefits while mitigating the risks arising from this fast-paced transformation and at times, disruption.

Global digital governance is of utmost importance, as the Internet and its applications do not have any borders.

As you know, pivotal events are shaping the future of global digital governance. Member States are currently negotiating the Pact for the Future, expected to be adopted at the Summit of the Future in September. Science, technology and innovation and digital cooperation are among the areas to be covered by the Pact. Consultations are also underway on the Global Digital Compact, also expected for adoption at the Summit.

Therefore, the IGF 2024, taking place in December, will be an important opportunity to discuss the follow-up and implementation of these outcomes the implementation.

The upcoming 20-year review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) in the UN General Assembly in 2025 offers another solid opportunity to deliberate on the future of digital governance, including the Forum's mandate renewal.

UN DESA will continue to provide secretariat support, coordinate inputs, and facilitate the participation of all stakeholders in the WSIS+20 review process, in close collaboration with ITU, UNESCO, UNCTAD, UNDP and other UN entities.

With more than 170 National, Regional and Youth IGF initiatives, alongside expertise from intersessional work activities like Policy Networks, Best Practice Forums and Dynamic Coalitions, as well as the growing IGF Youth Track and Parliamentary Track, the IGF brings a wealth of knowledge to the table.

To all stakeholders present today for the open consultations: the IGF is a space designed with and for you. I recognize your dedication to the Forum and count on your continued engagement to make IGF 2024 exceptional.

To the IGF donor community, I extend my sincere gratitude for your contributions. Without your support, fulfilling the IGF mandate and enhancing capacity building in developing countries would not be possible.

Finally, I wish to reiterate my appreciation for the contributions of all MAG members., I have no doubt that your work will contribute to a successful and impactful IGF 2024 that builds on the progress achieved over past years.

I thank you all and wish you a productive meeting.
