IGF 2021

MAG Inclusive Internet Governance Ecosystems and Digital Co-operation

***Working document***

# Highlights

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| Next meeting (prior to *date*): |

**Facilitators**

Sook-Jung Dofel

**Aims**

* Preparatory session (23.September 2021, 13 UTC)
* Main session (December 2021)

Inclusive Internet Governance Ecosystems and Digital Co-operation: Draft proposal for IGF preparatory and engagement phase session

Duration: up to 90 minutes

Format: moderated panel discussion

1. **5 minutes: Introductory remarks** by MAG: “setting the scene”, introduction into topic and of speakers

2. **30 minutes: Statements** of 4 speakers (each speaker has 10 minutes) on:

“Advancing global digital cooperation: Importance and relevance of global digital ccoperation- What opportunities are provided by the current focus on digital cooperation resulting from the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for digital cooperation? Is the Roadmap succeeding in consolidating cooperation and promoting a more holistic approach? Is the global debate on inclusive internet governance becoming more focused, or further fragmented? What role should the IGF play (and how) in advancing global digital cooperation?

3. **30 minutes: Moderated Discussion** on what has been said in the statements and where to put focus at IGF 21 and how IGF can advance discussion

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| **Government:**  Yu Ping  or  Jason  Munyan from the tech envoy's office, Programme Officer UN |  |
| N.N. smart Africa | Sooki to propose a speaker |
| Chrystiane Roy, First Secretary (Digital Business Affairs and Cybersecurity) Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN, Geneva OR Carl Frederik Wettermark, Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs |  |
| Ambassador Asoke Mukerji, Former Permanent Representative of India to the UN in New York |  |

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| **Business:** John Frank (MS UN liaison) jfrank@microsoft.com, |  |
| Vint Cert, Google |  |
| Gonzalo Lopez-Barajas Huder, Telefonica |  |
| Tech: Paul Wilson APC NIC |  |
| Chris Buckridge, RIPE NCC |  |
| Constance, ISOC |  |

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| **Academia:**  Chinmayi  Arun, University of Delhi/Berkman Klein Centre Harvard |  |
| Milton Mueller, Internet Governance Project OR  Jyoti Panday from the Internet Governance Project, both at Georgia Tech University in Atlanta |  |
| Jeanette Hoffmann, Berlin Social Science Centre (WZB) |  |
| Fiona Alexander, American University DC |  |
| Wolfgang Kleinwaechter |  |
| David Souter, Oxford Internet Institute |  |

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| **Civil society:**  Nnenna  Nwakanma, Web Foundation |  |
| Sean O’Siochru, Just Net Coalition |  |
| If we can have a MAG member Maria Paz would be excellent. |  |
| Gbenga Sesan, Paradigm Initiative, Nigeria |  |
| Peter Micek, Access Now |  |
| Paula Martins, APC |  |
| N.N. Sida, GIZ or SDC. | Sooki to propose a speaker from GIZ |

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| **Moderator:** Jovan Kurbalija, Diplo Foundation |  |
| Thomas Schneider, Internet Ambassador Switzerland |  |

## Issue area description

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/inclusive-internet-governance-ecosystems-and-digital-cooperation>

**Description**

The Internet’s contribution to social, cultural and economic growth and opportunity is recognised, but with its increased role and importance to societies, individuals and economies – well illustrated during the global pandemic – come key questions of governance, accountability, misuse and access. When approaching the governance of the Internet, most institutions, including governments, tend to turn to models they understand or are familiar with, rather than thinking about what might work in the future. Coordinating and consolidating collaborative and inclusive Internet governance is increasingly challenging. Recent discussions about the roles and responsibilities of governments and international corporations have raised issues relating to digital sovereignty, data localisation, national security, economic growth, the governance structures of a borderless Internet, cross-border business transactions, and human rights. In consequence, the precise nature, scope, and modalities of digital sovereignty have become pressing topics in a wide range of contexts. Nevertheless, there has not been any organised and fully inclusive global debate about the reasons for and manifold consequences of digital sovereignty initiatives. The [IGF](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/lexicon/8#IGF) could be well placed to foster such a dialogue.

There is also a need for further engagement on the evolution of the IGF itself as a widely distributed and inclusive platform for deliberating on inclusive Internet governance processes and ecosystems. What opportunities are provided by the current focus on digital cooperation resulting from the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for digital cooperation? How to strengthen the capacities of policymakers, business and citizens to stay abreast of the rapid technological developments and adequately engage in Internet governance discussions to respond to the challenges these developments present? What is the future of multistakeholder Internet governance and who will shape it?

Another question to address touches on how the technical governance of the protocols and procedures that underpin an interconnected Internet relate to the ongoing Internet public policy discourses.

**Policy questions**

1. **Digital sovereignty**: What is meant by digital sovereignty? What implications does it have for the global nature of the Internet, for Internet governance itself, and the effectiveness of the multistakeholder approach? From an opposite angle, what are the implications of the Internet and digitalisation for national sovereignty?
2. **Assessing Internet governance approaches and mechanisms and fostering inclusiveness**: What are the main strengths and weaknesses of existing Internet governance approaches and mechanisms? What can be done, and by whom, to foster more inclusive Internet governance at the national, regional and international levels?
3. **Governance and cooperation for an evolving Internet:** How does Internet governance need to change in order to meet the changing nature and role of the Internet? What tools, mechanisms, and capacity building instruments are needed for stakeholders to effectively cooperate, and engage in Internet governance?
4. **Technical Internet governance:** How can the technical governance of the Internet (e.g. the development of standards and protocols, and the management of critical resources) take into account the needs and views of all stakeholders?
5. **Advancing global digital cooperation:** What opportunities are provided by the current focus on digital cooperation resulting from the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for digital cooperation? What role should the IGF play (and how) in advancing global digital cooperation?

**Related issues**

* Digital cooperation, digital sovereignty, multistakeholder cooperation, Internet infrastructure, capacity development, national and regional Internet governance cooperation, Internet Governance Forum, technical Internet governance, inclusive Internet governance

**Based on the discussion during MAG calls and prep meetings**:

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| **Category / Thematic area** | **Messages or policy recommendations from previous IGFs (2019 and 2020)** | **IGF 2021**  Stockholding  New topic emerging  Trends | **Next steps and strategy** |  |
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***IGF2021- Policy Questions:***

Governance and cooperation for an evolving Internet:

* How does Internet governance need to change in order to meet the changing nature and role of the Internet?
* What tools, mechanisms, and capacity building instruments are needed for stakeholders to effectively cooperate, and engage in Internet governance?
* Advancing global digital cooperation: What opportunities are provided by the current focus on digital cooperation resulting from the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for digital cooperation?
* What role should the IGF play (and how) in advancing global digital cooperation?

And put focus on:

* What are the main achievements and setbacks in terms of IG?
* What are the expectations on the IGF 2021 with regard to this topic?
* Where should we look into in order to further advance Internet governance?

We start with introductory remarks: brief overview of where are we now in terms of internet governance, introduction of speakers and then moderated panel discussion.

# Resources

## Accepted workshops

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-workshop-selection-results>

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| Workshop | Description |
| [WS #57 Multistakeholder initiatives in content governance](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-ws-57-multistakeholder-initiatives-in-content-governance) |  |
| [WS #252 Imagining the Future of International Internet Governance](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-ws-252-imagining-the-future-of-international-internet-governance) |  |
| [WS #273 Leveraging Private-Public Partnership for Digital Skills](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-ws-273-leveraging-private-public-partnership-for-digital-skills) |  |
| [WS #106 Open Source Collaboration for Digital Sovereignty](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-ws-106-open-source-collaboration-for-digital-sovereignty) |  |
| [WS #259 Digital Cooperation process - Analysis from Youth lenses](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-ws-259-digital-cooperation-process-analysis-from-youth-lenses) |  |
| [WS #269 Inclusive Governance: Models of Open Source Participation](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-ws-269-inclusive-governance-models-of-open-source-participation) |  |
| [WS #268 Right to safe medicines: Managing competing interests online](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-ws-268-right-to-safe-medicines-managing-competing-interests-online) |  |
| [WS #74 Leveraging sustainable digital transformation](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-ws-74-leveraging-sustainable-digital-transformation) |  |
| [WS #228 Supply Chain Governance and Security for IoT Resilience](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-ws-228-supply-chain-governance-and-security-for-iot-resilience) |  |
| [WS #262 From Civil Society Participation-Washing to Decision-Making](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-ws-262-from-civil-society-participation-washing-to-decision-making) |  |
| [WS #272 Youth in IG policy-making process: Let's talk about the MHLB](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-ws-272-youth-in-ig-policy-making-process-lets-talk-about-the-mhlb) |  |
| [WS #181 All We Need Is YOUth: Connecting Young People and ICT](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-ws-181-all-we-need-is-youth-connecting-young-people-and-ict) |  |