



IGF 2025 Summary

*Twentieth Meeting of Internet Governance Forum
23-27 June 2025
Lillestrøm, Norway*

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Glossary

BPF Best Practice Forum

CSTD Commission on Science and Technology for Development

DC Dynamic Coalition

DPIDG Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government

GDC Global Digital Compact

IGF Internet Governance Forum

IoT Internet of Things

ITU International Telecommunication Union

MAG Multistakeholder Advisory Group

NRI National, Regional and Youth Initiative

PN Policy Network

PNMA Policy Network on Meaningful Access

PNIF Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation

PNAI Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence

LP Leadership Panel

UN United Nations

UN DESA United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

UNOG United Nations Office at Geneva

WG-Multilingual Working Group on Multilingualism

WG-Youth Working Group on Youth Engagement

WG-WSP Working Group on Workshop Processes

WG-Strategy Working Group on IGF Strategy

WSIS World Summit on the Information Society

Internet Governance Forum

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a global multistakeholder platform that facilitates the discussion of public policy issues pertaining to Internet governance.

The IGF was one of the most important outcomes of the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS). The Tunis Agenda, adopted on 18 November 2005, mandated the UN Secretary-General to convene a new forum for multistakeholder policy dialogue.

The convening of the IGF was announced by the Secretary-General on 18 July 2006, with the inaugural meeting of the Forum held from 30 October to 2 November 2006.

The existing mandate of the IGF, as set out in paragraphs 72 to 78 of the Tunis Agenda, was extended for a further 10 years in a resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly on 16 December 2015 (70/125),

which served as the 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.

Institutionally, the IGF is supported by the IGF Secretariat, which is administered by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA). The programme of the annual IGF meeting is developed by its

Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), whose members are appointed by the UN Secretary-General. An IGF Leadership Panel, with members also appointed by the Secretary-General, has supported IGF strategic improvements since 2022.

So far, twenty annual meetings of the IGF have been held, nineteen hosted by governments and one conducted fully online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The mandate of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is being reviewed as part of the WSIS+20 process, which will conclude with a high-level meeting of the UN General Assembly in December 2025.

Foreword



Mr. Li Junhua

United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs

2025 is a major milestone in global digital cooperation. This year we mark 20 years since the conclusion of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and the creation of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

The Forum has become a cornerstone of multistakeholder dialogue on Internet policy, a fact reflected clearly at the 2025 IGF in Lillestrøm, Norway. This year's Forum brought together over 9,000 onsite and online participants from more than 165 countries – demonstrating the ability of digital technologies to connect people and to drive inclusive growth and sustainable development.

The Forum also served as an important space to acknowledge and address the challenges we face. Participants raised concerns about the growing threat of cyber conflict and the use of digital technologies to cause harm. Discussions underscored the risks to information integrity posed by the spread of mis- and disinformation, as well as the increase in online fraud that endangers people's safety and trust.

The Lillestrøm meeting saw engagement from all sectors and regions. This included a strong network of 177 national, regional, sub-regional, and youth IGFs that shared local perspectives. Parliamentarians and members of the judiciary from around the globe emphasized the importance of multistakeholder input in shaping and interpreting digital policy and law. High-level decision makers from Governments and the private sector, including representatives of big tech companies and civil society, underscored the importance of public private partnerships in Lillestrøm.

Discussions covered a wide range of issues: access and connectivity, digital inclusion, AI and emerging technologies, data governance, human rights online, cybersecurity, and sustainability. The UN General Assembly review of the twenty-year implementation of WSIS (the WSIS+20 process) cut across the Forum, clarifying links with the Global Digital Compact, and reaffirming support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Reflecting on the Lillestrøm discussions, it is clear that “Building Digital Governance Together” is an imperative that demands sustained commitment and collective imagination. Meaningful progress requires more than acknowledging our interconnectedness; it calls for genuine cooperation and transparency, particularly in areas of conflict where digital technologies can both bridge divides and deepen them.

The Forum's deliberations on protecting vulnerable users underlined the shared responsibility of all stakeholders. Equally, the call to invest in Digital Public Goods resonates as a concrete strategy for ensuring that everyone, everywhere, can participate fully and realize their aspirations.

The debates around AI were especially revealing. While there is justified optimism about its potential, participants also voiced concern about the lack of transparency and safeguards in how these systems are governed. This tension reminds us that responsible innovation demands guardrails to protect fundamental rights while pursuing technological advancement.

The urgency of strengthening digital rights protections and of holding both state and nonstate actors accountable for harms such as surveillance and data privacy violation emerged as a unifying priority. Achieving a safe, rights respecting digital environment is inseparable from inclusive, multistakeholder processes and robust domestic legal frameworks.

The IGF's value lies in creating space for such difficult but necessary conversations, a space where solutions emerge not from uniformity, but from the recognition of our shared responsibility to make digital governance work for all.

Through this 20th IGF, the global community has sent a clear message: while real progress has been made, the task ahead remains urgent and unfinished. We must continue to empower all stakeholders, protect and promote their digital agency, and ensure no one is left behind by digital technologies.

The WSIS+20 process has emerged as a critical opportunity to align global ambitions with concrete actions – providing vital momentum to transform this vision into inclusive, accountable, and future-ready digital cooperation. Let us build on the valuable outcomes of the Lillestrøm IGF so that by the end of 2025, when the WSIS+20 review concludes at the UN General Assembly, we can help turn this shared vision into reality.

Foreword



**H.E. Ms. Karianne Tung,
Minister of Digitalisation and Public Governance of Norway**

It has been a profound honour for Norway to host the 20th Annual Meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF). We are proud to have provided the setting for this milestone gathering, where participants of all over the world came together to reflect, collaborate, and shape the digital future we all share.

Two decades ago, the IGF was born from a bold vision: that the internet, a powerful connector of our societies, must be governed not by the few but by all. Today, that vision is more relevant than ever. The discussions I witnessed throughout the week reaffirmed the value and necessity of the multistakeholder approach. In the face of today's complex challenges, the IGF reminds us of the enduring power of dialogue, cooperation, and shared values.

Throughout the Meeting, we have heard from voices across sectors and continents: governments, international organizations, civil society, academia, the private sector, and the technical community. This inclusive model is not only a defining strength of the IGF; it is essential for effective and legitimate digital governance.

This year's theme, "Building Digital Governance Together," came to life through more than 260 sessions, reflecting a truly global and diverse community. Norway was proud to contribute to this dialogue, including through our Day 0 sessions, which explored topics such as the protection of infrastructure, sustainable digital growth, a free and resilient news media, digital inclusion, and the responsible use of AI. We were also honoured to help shape the High-Level sessions, which addressed critical issues such as human rights in the information space, digital public goods and global cooperation, child safety online, AI and the future of work, and the WSIS+20 review and the evolving role of the IGF.

As a nation deeply committed to democracy, transparency, and human rights both offline and online, Norway believes the IGF provides the necessary platform to meet the demands of a more complex and interconnected digital age. As we approach the WSIS+20 milestone, we see an opportunity to strengthen the IGF's impact, expand its reach, and ensure it remains a vital bridge between grassroots insights and global policymaking. The IGF is a cornerstone of a coherent, inclusive, and forward-looking global digital governance architecture.

Beyond the formal sessions, IGF 2025 was also a celebration of community. Participants enjoyed a vibrant series of social events, including a lively networking reception by Oslo's waterfront, a formal gathering at the historic Oslo City Hall, and a spirited and fun Music Night.

These moments of connection and cultural exchange reminded us that collaboration is not only built in meeting rooms but also in shared experiences.

The internet is the foundation of our economies, our democracies, and our daily lives. As transformative technologies like artificial intelligence and quantum computing accelerate, we must ensure that innovation is guided by responsibility and that digital spaces remain open, secure, and accessible to all.

As we mark 20 years of the IGF, this report captures the insights, ideas, and messages that emerged in Norway. May it serve as both a record of progress and a call to action for the next 20 years and beyond.

Thank you to all who contributed to making IGF 2025 a success. I hope to see you back in Norway again sometime soon.

IGF 2025 at a Glance

When	23-27 June 2025 Lillestrøm, Norway and online
IGF 2025 in Numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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”
8 Themes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Trust and Resilience • Sustainable and Responsible Innovation • Universal Access and Digital Rights • Digital Cooperation
IGF Tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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

IGF 2025 Introduction

The [Internet Governance Forum](#) (IGF) is a global multistakeholder platform that brings stakeholders together to discuss public policy issues related to the Internet.

The forum is convened by the United Nations Secretary-General, in line with the mandate set out in paragraph 72 of the [Tunis Agenda for the Information Society](#). The IGF's mandate was renewed in 2015 for 10 years. The Forum's mandate will be subject to a review in 2025.

In 2025, the forum held its 20th annual meeting in a hybrid format, hosted by the Government of Norway in Lillestrøm.

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 [IGF 2025 Multistakeholder Advisory Group](#) (MAG), with members appointed by the UN Secretary-General from all stakeholder groups, supported the planning of the 20th annual IGF meeting. The [IGF Leadership Panel](#) met on a monthly basis to exchange views on approaches to strengthening the Forum and enhancing its visibility.

IGF 2025 Quotes

The meeting opened with addresses by the United Nations Secretary-General and the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway, followed by remarks from experts from different stakeholder groups.

"I am pleased to take part in this Internet Governance Forum – and my thanks to the Kingdom of Norway for hosting. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Forum and its work advancing inclusive collaboration on internet public policy. Through the years, you have shown how dialogue – across sectors, regions and generations – can help shape an internet that is rooted in dignity, opportunity and human rights. You are carrying that forward through this year's focus on "Building Digital Governance Together", which could not be more timely."

Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General



“The Internet is no longer a frontier. It is the foundation of economies, of democracies, and of our daily lives for all generations. And as transformative technologies accelerate, like artificial intelligence and quantum computing, we must ask not only what we can build, but what we need to protect. And here I believe that we must safeguard the Internet not as a possession, but as a public trust, a shared space to remain open, free and accessible to all, a global public good. The next generation should inherit a digital common where perspectives are welcomed, ideas are nurtured, and technology serves mankind to the benefit of all. Our task is not only to protect the infrastructure of the Internet, but to uphold its spirit, which is one of inclusion and powerful innovation.”

H.E. Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, Prime Minister of Norway



“In view of the exponential growth of the Internet and AI and its far reaching implications: economic, technological, political, cultural; this IGF conference, with its overarching theme of Building Digital Governance Together, could not have been more timely. Its multistakeholder approach provides the ideal platform for the sharing of ideas and experiences on the Internet and AI and its future, keeping in mind what best serves the interests of humanity at large. We need signposts of where we are and where we are heading, in order to avoid repeating mistakes of the past where the cost of development can be much higher than its benefits. We must collectively act to avoid a digital divide. High tech must go hand-in-hand with a human touch. I have no doubt that this conference will come up with valuable insights, proposals and recommendations to guide Internet policies and practices for the benefit of all. Mauritius stands in solidarity with all countries advocating for a multistakeholder, people-centric, rights-based Internet Governance model; one that ensures no voice is erased, especially those of the most vulnerable components of our society, our children, people with special needs, and our elderly.”



H.E. Mr. Dharambeer Gokhool, President of the Republic of Mauritius

“Digital transformation is reshaping every aspect of our lives, how we learn, how we work, how we govern, and how we connect. But at the same time, we face big global challenges, digital divides, fragmentation, geopolitical tensions and rapid technological shifts. So, 2025 is very important year. The World Summit on the Information Society plus 20 review to implementation of the Global Digital Compact and AI governance will define the next decade. We must take advantage of this moment to shape an open inclusive and trusted global digital governance. As a contribution to this, we in the European Union have just adopted earlier this month a new international digital strategy implemented with partners all over the world.”



Ms. Henna Virkkunen, Executive Vice President of the European Commission for Technical Sovereignty, Security and Democracy

“I know a lot of you here probably have a lot of good ideas about how to govern AI. I will briefly mention the specific idea ... and that’s the basic principle that your digital self should belong to you, that the data the humans produce our writings, our voices, connections, experiences, our ideas should belong to us. And that any economic value that’s generated from this data should be shared with the humans that produce it. But, see, here’s the case in point. The free market is not going to honour that basic principle. And, in fact, a lot of the biggest AI companies in the industry right now are lobbying hard against it. It’s just one example of how we can’t put all of our eggs in the business incentive basket. And why profit-driven companies need to have guardrails in place to help steer them towards serving the public good. And, look, I will admit, governing new technology looks like an uphill battle from here, said the American standing on a stage in Scandinavia. But I take heart in gatherings like this...Thank you for fighting the good fight.”



Mr. Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Actor, producer, and founder of HITRECORD

“This year marks two decades since the World Summit on the Information Society gave birth to the Internet Governance Forum. The world looked a lot different in 2005. About 1 billion people were online... Today those efforts have helped to turn the Internet into the engine of our global economy. Two thirds of the world’s population is now connected, and yet despite two decades of incredible progress, serious gaps remain. Fixed broadband can cost up to a third of household incomes. And 2.6 billion people are still completely offline. Closing these digital divides means building digital governance together with urgency. It means ensuring global digital infrastructure is secure and resilient from submarine cables discussed at yesterday’s plenary, to satellite networks. It means setting trustworthy technical standards so that innovation, especially in AI, is sustainable and responsible. It means making sure connectivity is not just universal, but meaningful, safe, affordable, and empowering. And it means listening to all communities and all perspectives so that our shared digital future reflects our shared humanity.”



Ms. Doreen Bogdan-Martin, Secretary-General of the International Telecommunications Union

“WSIS+20 gives us an opportunity to see how far we have come in the past two decades and where gaps remain. It’s essential that this process is open, inclusive, and reflects the voice of all stakeholders, especially those from the Global South. As one of the global leaders in digital transformation, the European Union is deeply engaged in shaping the rules of the digital space. We want an Internet that is open, secure, and based on core value with people at the centre. That’s why Europe is introducing laws that protect fundamental rights, strengthen cybersecurity, build user trust, and make online platforms more transparent. But no country or institution can tackle these challenges alone. That’s why we need the IGF more than ever. This forum brings together governments, businesses, civil society, academics, tech experts - and importantly, young people. The IGF is a shared space, and we must protect its mandate.”



H.E. Mr. Krzysztof Gawkowski, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Digital Affairs of Poland

“Later this year we will see the WSIS+20 review, which is a chance to reaffirm what makes the Internet work – and what it takes to keep it working. At the heart of that is one principle: coordination over control. The Internet’s growth, resilience, and reach have been made possible because cooperation – not centralization – has remained the foundation of its governance. At ICANN, our role is technical. We manage the unique identifiers – domain names, IP addresses, and root zone functions – that keep the Internet interoperable. However, the strength of that infrastructure depends on something deeper: a shared commitment to global coordination and the institutions that enable it. That commitment shaped the vision that led to the creation of the Internet Governance Forum – an open space for dialogue, not negotiation. The IGF was built so governments, civil society, the technical community, and the private sector could engage, to form consensus and exchange thoughts. This multistakeholder engagement has proven it is a successful incubator for capacity building, fostering ideas, exploring issues, and supporting decision-making in other forums. It also contributes to the WSIS action lines.”



Mr. Kurtis Lindqvist, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

“We face today new challenges, the amplification of mis- and disinformation, hate speech online and other harmful online content, not mentioning also the harmful side of artificial intelligence... At UNESCO, we believe that the answers lie in respect of human rights, ethical principles and an inclusive multistakeholder cooperation. These are not abstract ideas. These are the foundations for effective, successful digital transformation that truly benefits people. In this context, UNESCO organized and hosted earlier this month a global conference on capacity building on AI and digital transformation with a focus on the public sector, because we believe that besides digital infrastructure, civil servants need to have the skill sets and the competencies to succeed in their digital transformation. We must aim for systems where technology does not just move faster, but moves better towards equity, sustainability, and universal rights. UNESCO stands ready to walk this path with you. Through decades of multistakeholder experience, through WSIS and IGF, we have the frameworks, we have the tools, we have the partnerships. Let’s use them broadly and wisely.”



Mr. Tawfik Jelassi, Assistant Director-General for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

“Aligned with IGF’s pillars, we believe that innovation must be guided by responsibility, especially when it shapes how people engage with content, ideas and each other, online and offline. We design safety and privacy into our products from the start, and we engage experts to inform our policies and tools from content moderation to digital well-being. One example is our adoption of the content credentials through the C2PA standard which allows us to label AI generated and AI edited content adding material - including material outside of TikTok so that our users can better understand the origin and the content of what they are seeing. But responsible innovation is not a compliance exercise. It’s central to building a platform where creativity can thrive safely and meaningfully for everyone. Which brings me to the third pillar, access to opportunity, expression and community, which shouldn’t depend on where you live or what language you speak.”



Ms. Lisa Hayes, Head of Safety, Public Policy, and Senior Counsel at TikTok

“It was noted that to develop a highly innovative system of production and socialization, elite system needs those in the margins, and the more difficult it becomes for those in the margins to capture, digital society does not bother to exclude. It renders a significant part of humankind simply irrelevant. This threat of structural irrelevance orchestrated invisibility of the majority, violates the foundations of human dignity, upending the international human rights based order. A new future of leisure may not be wishful thinking but as things stand, it is still a pie in the sky for those at the bottom of global data value chains and certainly for the unpaid women of the South whose land and labour prop up the global digital economy. The path we choose from here on is, therefore, a no brainer. We must reject the human made dystopia that lessons to consumers and we must build digital governance today. As digital public policy issues expand in scope and scale, let us take a pledge to further transformative change. Let us renew the IGF’s mandate for a hearty dialogue and spirited exchange towards international digital justice.”



Ms. Nandini Chami, Global Digital Justice Forum and Deputy Director for IT for Change

“We cannot separate reflection on technology from reflection on humanity. We need thought, responsibility, and dialogue. The ongoing transformation, driven especially by artificial intelligence, is profound and rapid. It is changing the way we understand, decide, learn, work, and relate to one another. Its impact goes far beyond technical innovation: it concerns the human condition, culture, and the meaning of our existence... We do not consider artificial intelligence to be a subject. It does not think, judge, or feel. It is a product of human ingenuity, and as such it must be accompanied by moral responsibility. Our intelligence is embodied, relational, and moral. It is capable of compassion, truth, and freedom.... We call for every innovation to be inspired not only by criteria of efficiency, but by a “wisdom of the heart”: one that unites knowledge and conscience, freedom and responsibility, justice and solidarity. The Holy See calls for ethical governance. The digital future will truly be human only if it is also just, inclusive, relational, and spiritually meaningful. For this reason, today we renew the call for the Internet and all emerging technologies to be guided by shared values, common rules, and the awareness that the human being is at the center— not just a junction, but its purpose and its heart.”



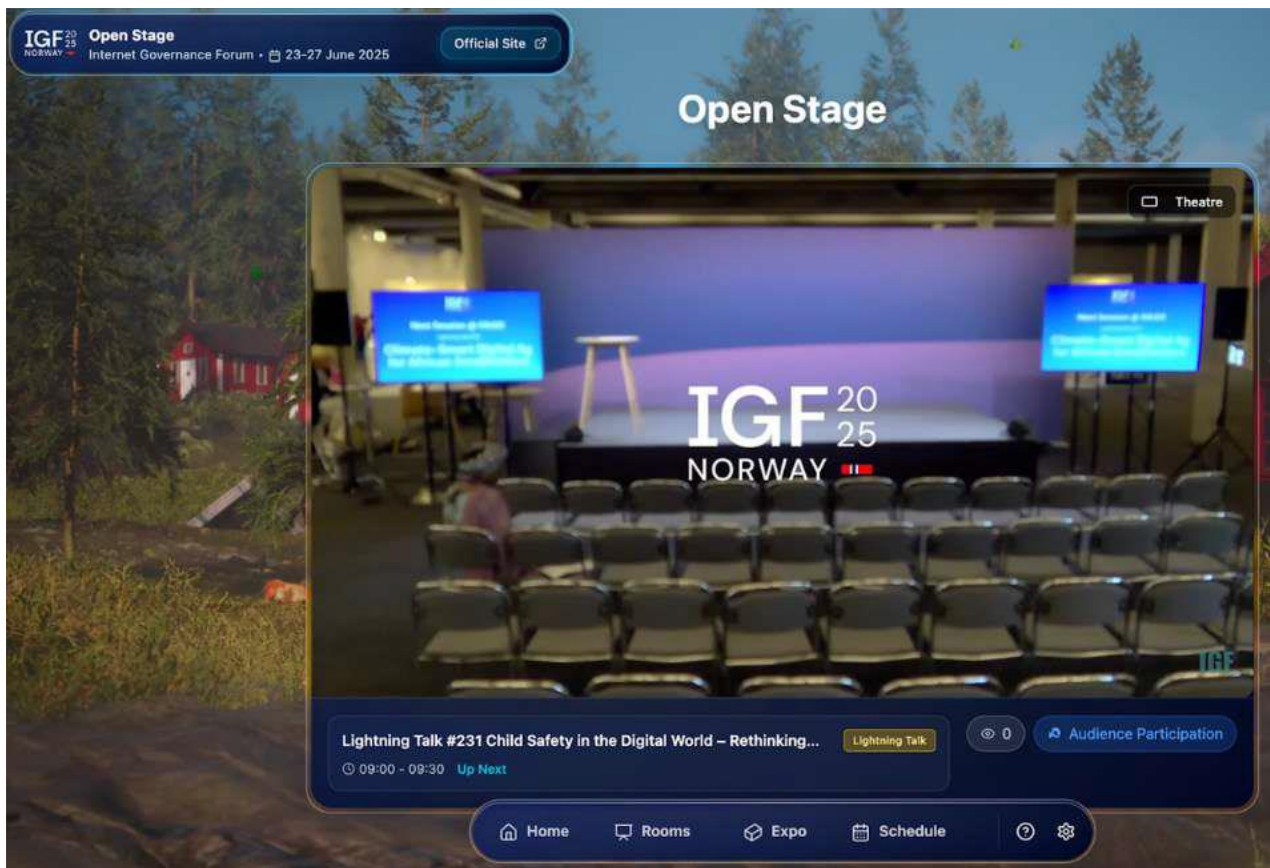
Monsignor Adrian Ruiz, Secretary for the Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See

IGF 2025 Highlights

Hybrid IGF

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.



3D Venue: Open Stage

IGF 2025

- 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.

Involvement of UN Agencies

The Forum saw over 26 entities from the UN system, represented both as organisers and speakers in many sessions.

Focus on Youth

To effectively engage youth, a dedicated [IGF 2025 Youth Track](#) was designed and implemented throughout the year. In cooperation with all Youth IGF coordinators, as well as international youth-focused organisations, the track has been designed and delivered through four capacity development workshops, out of which two already hosted in conjunction with [regional IGFs](#), namely [EuroDIG](#) in France, and [African IGF](#) in Tanzania, as well as a [IGF 2025 Global Youth Summit](#) at the 20th IGF in Lillestrøm, with two more to be hosted at the [APriGF](#) in Nepal and [Youth LACIGF](#) later in the year.

The track has focused on social media regulation, particularly regulation through age verification, unpacking various aspects of AI governance and engaging over thousands of young people.

Thematic Approach

The IGF 2025 themes were aligned closely with the areas the community prioritized through a traditional public call and as such reflective of the community expressed priorities. The programme's structure aimed to encourage focused discussion that delves more deeply into specific issue areas thereby potentially leading to more focused outcomes.

Capacity Development

Since the beginning of 2025, the IGF Secretariat has been engaged in a series of [capacity development activities](#), including organising workshops, providing grants to NRIs, supporting youth engagement and schools of Internet governance, engaging with members of parliaments, providing travel support for IGF 2025 participants and remote hubs. Specifically, capacity development included several activities:

- Workshops organised in conjunction with the NRIs, to foster cooperation and develop capacity. Among these, some specifically were organised as part of the youth and parliamentary tracks.
- Training sessions for IGF 2025 session organisers 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](#) to 130 participants coming from developing countries.



Jacqueline Jijide, Closing Ceremony IGF 2025

IGF Supporting Global South Travel

Participants sharing experience:

“My experience of participating in the Internet Governance Forum in Lillestrøm is special, because I finally had the opportunity to testify in one place and participate in discussions with people who are actually the future of the Internet today. The policies I had the opportunity to hear about, examples of better use of the Internet and initiatives that increase the number of people who have access to the Internet, have personally enriched my life, but also the experiences will be valuable to me in my future work. Really great community, doing great work for 20 years. I am grateful for the opportunity that the UN IGF Secretariat gave me to be part of such a society and I hope that in the coming years I will be able to attend the IGF, as a journalist, but also as an enthusiast, a person for whom the future of the Internet and the well-being of humanity is a great responsibility that we all bear.”



Enes Hodzic, Journalist, Bosnia and Herzegovina

“Attending and covering the Internet Governance Forum held in Lillestrøm, was a transformative experience for me as one of the journalists from the Global South supported by the UN IGF Secretariat. This unique opportunity enabled me to report on key issues such as artificial intelligence, digital inclusion, online trust and accountability, data governance, and the digital economy. Beyond professional growth, it was a deeply personal journey. As a Catholic journalist, I had long dreamed of interviewing a Vatican official on the role of digital technologies and the importance of ethical digital governance. To my great surprise, this dream came true on 25 June 2025, when my colleague Enes Hodzic from Bosnia and Herzegovina and I had the honor of interviewing Monsignor Lucio Adrian Ruiz, Secretary of the Dicastery for Communication of the Holy See. In this powerful exchange, he emphasized the need to place human dignity, family, and education at the heart of digital policies. I am profoundly grateful to the UN IGF Secretariat for making this milestone possible in my journalistic journey.”



Jean de Dieu Ndikumasabo, Journalist, Burundi

Leadership Panel

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 High-Level Political Forum at the UNHQ. At the 20th IGF in Lillestrøm, the Panel members met with many other initiatives and organisations 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](#)" paper and its accompanying implementation strategy, which highlights key priority areas for ensuring that digital technologies serve humanity.

The IGF continues to plan for its contributions to the implementation of the Secretary-General's [Global Digital Compact](#) on norms, principles and values, as well as to the preparations for the [20-year review of the World Summit on the Information Society \(WSIS+20\)](#). The [IGF 2025 Messages](#), reflecting key takeaways from the forum's discussions, are expected to broadly inform the community and various processes - the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, WSIS+20 review, and GDC among them.

The Panel is working toward the long-term sustainability of the Forum. In this regard, upcoming IGF host countries are being explored, as well as new partnerships and approaches to cooperation.

IGF 2025

During the ceremonial part of the 20th annual IGF meeting, the Government of Norway announced it will host the IGF 2025 annual meeting in Lillestrøm.

To support the planning of the 20th annual IGF meeting in 2025, contribute to the WSIS+20 review, and enhance the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) working modalities, the UN Secretary-General took a proactive and exceptional step by appointing 40 members to the MAG for the 2025 cycle. These appointments were made from a pool of former MAG members and members of the Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG), following a public call for nominations. The full list of [MAG 2025 members](#) is available on the IGF website. Ms. Carol Roach was reappointed as Chair of the MAG for 2025.

Media and Public Outreach

An opening press conference was held on Day 1, Monday 24 June, with the USG of DESA and Minister of Digitalisation and Public Governance of Norway, outlining key highlights of the programme and touching on digital issues of global and regional importance. The briefing was attended by Norwegian and international media. The entirety of the IGF's proceedings in the main plenary hall were streamed live on [UN WebTV](#).

Daily live [Media Hub](#) segments were held at a designated staging area at the venue. Once a day, the Hub provided a recap through daily IGF highlights and featured a special IGF guest for an interview. The public interviews were conducted by Global South journalists who successfully applied for travel support to attend the IGF. Interviews included Msgr. Lucio Adrian Ruiz, Secretary of the Dicastery for Communication, Holy See; Ms. Salima Monorma Bah, Minister of Communication, Technology and Innovation in Sierra Leone; and Ms. Maria Ressa, Vice Chair of the IGF Leadership Panel and Nobel Prize Laureate. Media Hub interviews were posted to [UN WebTV](#).

The 20th IGF, supported by the hashtags #IGF2025, was featured across UN social media channels - IGF channels as well as those of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and UN Secretariat.

Over 10 million users interacted with the 20th IGF hashtag #IGF2025 through the IGF social media accounts (FB, X, LinkedIn, Instagram, and Bluesky).

These recorded 65K post impressions, ~37K page and profile impressions, and ~1K new followers during the week of the IGF, with strong gains over the prior week including a 1.2K% increase in shares, 900% rise in impressions and comments, 670% increase in reactions, and 485% boost in reach—reflecting exceptional

growth and engagement across all platforms. The IGF and DESA Facebook accounts had a combined reach of 110K+ users. The IGF website received 68,617 requests during the IGF week across 14,292 sessions. The top countries accessing the site were Norway, the United States, China, India, Germany, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, and Switzerland.

Week-of media monitoring showed that the IGF was covered in several television outlets. A detailed overview will be provided in the final report.

A press kit was prepared via [Trello](#), 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, from thematic cards, to social media guidance, powerpoint templates and high-resolution logos.

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

The IGF continues to demonstrate increased engagement and outreach, supported by strong growth on its social media channels and by strategic work led by the IGF Secretariat, the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), and the Leadership Panel, in close cooperation with diverse stakeholders. As part of these efforts, the IGF cooperates with GIZ, who supports the production of outreach videos aimed at enhancing understanding and visibility of the IGF's role ahead of the UN General Assembly voting at the end of this 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 has already reached audiences via social media, GIZ's internal and external channels, the MAG mailing list, and IGF supporter lists—achieving over 2,100 impressions on IGF LinkedIn alone and being shared with GIZ's 25,000 global employees. Several additional videos will be prepared, focusing on trust and digital inclusion, and on the IGF as an incubator for digital policy solutions, specifically intended for policymakers in the context of the WSIS+20 review.

IGF 2025 Themes

The headline of this year's Forum is "*Building Digital Governance Together*". This theme reflects a shared vision of all stakeholders working collaboratively toward a digital future that is inclusive, sustainable, and benefits everyone.

Community-led sessions, including MAG-organised main sessions, as well as sessions organised by hundreds of other, were built around the IGF 2025 overarching theme "Building digital governance together" and four sub-themes, all selected on the basis of a public call for issues. Stakeholders were invited to submit session proposals under one of the four sub-themes:

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

Over 730 [session proposals](#) were reviewed and evaluated for final adoption into the IGF 2025 programme.

IGF 2025 & WSIS+20

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 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 will soon be publishing a dedicated 20-year Achievement Paper, reflecting on 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.

Lillestrøm IGF Messages

The [Lillestrøm IGF Messages](#) provide a high-level overview for decision-makers of the most current thinking on key Internet governance and digital policy issues.

They are sourced directly from 262 sessions held during IGF 2025. Session organizers were invited to self-identify key takeaways at the end of their session as input for these messages.

A set of draft messages, curated by the IGF Secretariat, are published for community review. The final IGF 2025 Messages are published as part of the annual meeting's outcomes.

The Lillestrøm Messages are compiled for each of the four sub-themes, available on the [IGF website](#) and annexed to this report.

Sessions accommodated in the IGF 2025 Programme

The IGF 2025 Programme, in addition to the previously mentioned tracks accommodated several other types of sessions, including:

- [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](#) is 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.

IGF 2025 High-Level Leaders Track

Co-organised 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.

IGF 2025 Youth Track

The [IGF 2025 Youth Track](#) is composed of four capacity development workshops and a Global Youth Summit, all focused on social media regulation including through age verification. It was designed and co-

organized by the Youth IGF coordinators, IGF Secretariat and several international youth-focused organisations.

Capacity development workshops

Four capacity development workshops were hosted in conjunction with the [regional IGFs](#) ([EuroDIG](#) in France, [African IGF](#) in Tanzania; with the upcoming at the [APriIGF](#) in Nepal and [Youth LACIGF](#)), focusing on implications of the social media regulation, including through age verification.

IGF 2025 Global Youth Summit and Messages from Youth

The two so far held workshops fed into the final activity of the track, the [IGF 2025 Global Youth Summit](#), a traditional IGF session which facilitates dialogue between youth and senior stakeholders.

Youth from all five regions of the world engaged in a dialogue with senior experts from different backgrounds and countries. 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](#):

- Youth must be included in the design of their digital future. Young people demand meaningful inclusion in shaping the rules that govern their digital lives. This means being engaged not only as beneficiaries, but as co-designers, advisors, and decision-makers in tech and regulatory spaces at all levels.
- Design digital platforms with safety and dignity by default. Platforms must embed safety by design, including turning off addictive features like infinite scroll and defaulting teen accounts to the highest privacy settings. Safety must not come at the cost of agency or freedom of expression.
- Create global standards for age-appropriate design. Governments and platforms must collaborate to establish consistent, privacy-preserving, enforceable age verification systems while keeping minors safe, especially from targeted advertising, data exploitation, and harmful content.
- Address digital risks without excluding equity-deserving, vulnerable voices. Any restriction or regulation such as age-based access limits must carefully consider the unintended harm to marginalized youth who rely on social media for mental health support, identity affirmation, education, and community.
- Expand digital literacy for all, especially in underserved regions. Youth call for comprehensive, accessible, and multilingual digital literacy initiatives embedded in school systems and communities, ensuring young people everywhere understand both their rights and responsibilities online.
- Digital platforms must operate transparently and in alignment with the public interest. Current self-regulatory approaches have proven insufficient; therefore, a better governance approach is needed, ensuring transparent content moderation practices, meaningful user rights impact assessments, and mechanisms for public accountability.
- Prioritize multistakeholder and intergenerational collaboration. A safer, fairer digital future depends on joint action among youth, governments, civil society, technical community, industry, and parents. We must move from consultation to co-creation, building trust and shared ownership of the digital ecosystem.

IGF 2025 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.

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

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. 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.

Parliamentary networks continued to gain traction, notably through the Eastern and West African IGFs, encouraging lawmakers to engage more actively in regional digital governance and align national legislative efforts.

Further regional cooperation is planned for the second half of 2025 through parliamentary activities at the Asia Pacific Regional IGF in Kathmandu, and the Latin America and Caribbean IGF.

Parliamentary Track at the 20th IGF and Output Document

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](#).

Many 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.

Below is the output emerged from the track.

We, parliamentarians taking part in the Parliamentary Track at the 20th UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF), with the overarching theme Building Digital Governance Together,

Reaffirming the essential role of an open, free, interoperable Internet and digital technologies in driving sustainable development, fostering innovation, enabling inclusive digital transformation, and social, cultural, and economic empowerment for all,

Recognizing the urgent and complex challenges in the digital age, including the spread of misinformation, disinformation, hate speech, violent material, online harms for children, women and vulnerable groups, cybersecurity, cybercrime, the risks posed by unregulated emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), and data exploitation,

Reaffirming that digital transformations must reinforce, and not undermine, democratic values, human rights, and the integrity of information ecosystems,

Stressing the importance of countering new and evolving digital threats, such as deepfakes, algorithmic bias, information warfare, in a manner that upholds freedom of expression, pluralism, and of reinforcing trust in public institutions and access to information,

Acknowledging the fundamental role of parliaments in establishing legal frameworks that protect civic space and ensure transparency, and in holding governments and digital actors accountable in the face of rapidly changing technological landscapes,

Committed to turning WSIS Action Lines and the Global Digital Compact (GDC) Principles into effective and rights-based action, and to advancing legislative and oversight mechanisms that promote democratic resilience,

Keen to engage in the review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+20) that is being undertaken by the United Nations General Assembly in 2025, Noting with satisfaction the growing engagement of parliaments in global and regional IGFs, and the many initiatives relating to AI and digital currently being undertaken by parliaments around the world,

Therefore:

1. *Call upon* parliaments to lead efforts to counter misinformation, disinformation, hate speech, violent material and digital manipulation by promoting information integrity and preserving human rights, in line with international legal instruments, notably the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights:
 - a. Foster multistakeholder collaboration with the international technical community in identifying issues that are best solved through technical standards, good practices or regulatory mechanisms, as precursors to clear, proportionate, and human rights-compliant legislation.
 - b. Encourage a multi-layered approach to digital platform accountability, which incorporates robust co-regulatory, self-regulatory and voluntary mechanisms alongside public policy, promoting a shared responsibility for platform governance.
 - c. Promote a systemic approach to information integrity, including the transparency of content provenance and contextualization, and the advancement of media and information literacy and digital skills.
 - d. Establish transparency standards for digital platforms and algorithmic accountability.
 - e. Establishing a legal framework that enables the environment for freedom of expression and the right to access to information, including by promoting mechanisms to protect journalists and for media development.
 - f. Identify and mitigate online threats to electoral processes, public debate, and civic participation. Information manipulation, especially during elections, must be addressed with balanced, evidence-informed strategies.
 - g. Establish mechanisms to ensure digital platforms align their design, content moderation and curation processes and systems to international human rights standards.
2. *Call upon* parliaments to shape the policy landscape and exercise robust oversight of digital policy implementation, with a focus on freedom of expression, the rights to access to information, democratic governance, and civic engagement.
 - a. Encourage human rights-based guidelines and data governance frameworks that respect privacy, consent, and non-discrimination, particularly through access to and responsible use of data for sustainable development.
 - b. Explore agile legislative approaches to adapt swiftly to emerging technologies and prepare for the anticipatory governance of evolving risks to democracy and information ecosystems.
 - c. Institutionalize inclusive and multistakeholder engagement, ensuring civil society, academia, the media, technical community experts, intergovernmental organization and the private sector, including tech companies, help shape legislative agendas.
 - d. Champion inclusion by addressing harmful content targeting children and youth, and online gender-based violence, also against women journalists, and by enhancing women's and youth participation in digital governance and decision-making.
 - e. Address specific concerns that include the harassment and intimidation of young candidates and politicians, as well as women politicians and members of Parliament.
 - f. Build institutional capacity, media and information literacy and digital skills among parliamentarians, staff, and oversight bodies. This includes equipping them to scrutinize the implementation of digital policies effectively.
3. *Encourage regional* and subregional parliamentary collaboration to:
 - a. Engage with international communities at more global levels, but also with local and regional stakeholders, including civil society organizations, academia, the media, technical community and private sector.

- b. Support cross-border learning and knowledge sharing among parliaments and develop harmonized legal frameworks that uphold rule of law and human rights.
 - c. Share good and bad practices on balancing digital security measures with the protection of freedom of expression and access to information, especially for women, vulnerable and marginalized groups.
 - d. Develop shared strategies to address cybercrime, while safeguarding online freedoms. Coordination should include tailored interventions across diverse issues such as child protection, violent material, gender-based violence, election integrity, and dis- and misinformation.
 - e. Engage proactively in regional and global dialogues on digital governance, including WSIS+20 review process, the National and Regional IGF initiatives, the AI for Good Global Summit, and AI Impact Summit. Parliaments should contribute practical experiences and policy outcomes.
4. *Call upon* the IGF, the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), UN system organizations and other stakeholders to:
- a. Increase investment in strengthening the ability of parliaments to respond to emerging digital threats while safeguarding democratic values and human rights;
 - b. Map and share existing resources on capacity-building and collaborate with the IGF and other stakeholders to further develop and promote training and tools for parliaments to uphold democracy in the digital era;
 - c. Provide structured access to IGF community expertise on issues relating to cybersecurity, information manipulation, hate speech, violent material and freedom of expression;
 - d. Report transparently on progress toward digital inclusion, integrity, and human rights, and support parliaments in monitoring these efforts;
 - e. Further institutionalize the Parliamentary Track across IGF events;
 - f. Inform parliaments about key digital governance processes and enable their participation in global forums;
 - g. Publish regular progress reports on parliamentary implementation of the 2024 IPU resolution “The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Democracy, Human Rights and the Rule of Law” and the “Guidelines for AI in Parliaments”;
 - h. Present the outcomes of the IGF 2025 Parliamentary Track at the Sixth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament (Geneva, July 2025);



IGF 2025 Intersessional Work

Policy Networks

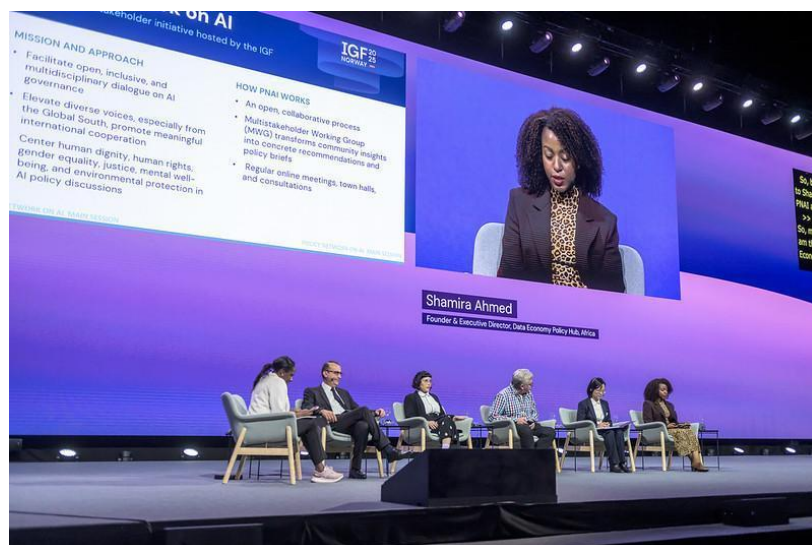
The [Policy Network \(PNs\)](#) are dedicated to identifying status quo and current issues including the policy gaps, existing capacity and conditions, local specificities, good and bad practices and possible ways forward through actionable activities led by identified implementation parties

- [Policy Network on Meaningful Access](#), has continued to advance 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 processes.
- [Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation](#) continues exploring the policy, technical, legal and regulatory measures that threaten the open, interconnected, and interoperable nature of the Internet.
- [Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence](#) has 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 Forums

The [Best Practice Forums \(BPFs\)](#) provide a platform to exchange experiences in addressing Internet policy issues. The objective is to collect existing and emerging good practices from community experience. BPFs are open, bottom-up and collective processes to produce community-driven outputs. BPF outputs intend to contribute to an understanding of global good practice, and to serve as a resource to inform policy discussions, standards development, business decisions, as well as public understanding, awareness, and discourse.

- [Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity](#) focused on fostering cooperation to ensure the efficient and effective use of the limited resources for capacity building



Dynamic Coalitions

[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. Currently there are 32 [active dynamic coalitions](#) focused on various topics such as environment, data and health, interplanetary Internet, gaming, Internet rights and principles, innovative approaches to connecting the unconnected, accessibility and disability, child rights online etc. The activities of the DCs are coordinated by the [Dynamic Coalition Coordination Group](#) (DCCG) with aid 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 and Youth IGF Initiatives

As the global digital governance ecosystem evolves, the network of National, Regional, Sub-Regional, and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) continues to grow in scope and impact. At the 20th annual IGF held in Lillestrøm in 2025, the NRI network reached a milestone of 177 recognized initiatives, an increase of two from the previous year, with the Singapore National IGF and the Pakistan Youth IGF newly established.

The network now comprises 110 National IGFs, 24 Regional and Sub-Regional IGFs, and 43 Youth IGFs. These initiatives represent active and practical mechanisms that enable multistakeholder dialogue on digital policy within communities across the world. Each NRI formulates its annual programme through an open, bottom-up process, typically initiated through public calls for input across diverse stakeholder groups. Thematic priorities are identified and shaped by multistakeholder organizing committees, ensuring that the issues discussed reflect community needs and emerging policy concerns.

The IGF Secretariat monitors trends by analysing the agendas of NRIs' annual meetings. As of mid-2025, approximately one quarter of these meetings have taken place. A fuller picture will be presented towards the end of the year, once all NRIs have convened their 2025 sessions.

NRIs at the 20th IGF: unity amidst uncertainty and opportunity

The annual NRI coordination session at 20th IGF convened against a dynamic backdrop: the ongoing WSIS+20 review, the development of the Global Digital Compact (GDC), and discussions around the IGF mandate renewal.

In this context, NRIs reaffirmed their critical role in ensuring that digital governance remains inclusive, participatory, and grounded in local realities. The participating NRIs representatives addressed common structural challenges, such as compressed timelines, resource constraints, and reliance on volunteerism, while exchanging innovative solutions, such as parliamentary engagement, in-kind partnerships, and cross-regional collaboration. Youth NRIs shared specific challenges related to leadership continuity, legal identity, and volunteer retention.

Despite varied regional and organizational contexts, a strong collective commitment emerged: to continue fostering capacity building, facilitating cross-border learning, and engaging governments with nongovernment stakeholders in constructive dialogue. Looking ahead, NRIs highlighted three key priorities: sustainable

private sector engagement, improved public outreach, and converting IGF deliberations into actionable national and regional policy outcomes.

NRIs grassroots shaping of global dialogue

Reflecting their multistakeholder ethos, NRIs jointly designed and delivered one main session and three collaborative sessions at IGF 2025. These discussions were not ancillary to the Forum but amongst central factors to its success, providing grounded perspectives on critical global issues.

Reflecting their multistakeholder ethos, NRIs jointly designed and delivered one main session and three collaborative sessions at IGF 2025, collectively shaping the Forum's core agenda. The main session examined the future of multistakeholder governance beyond 2025.

Discussions focused on strengthening the IGF ecosystem, overcoming participation barriers, including linguistic and generational gaps, and enhancing the role of youth and marginalized voices. The collaborative session on cybersecurity brought attention to the need for inclusive, coordinated action to build global cyber resilience. Stakeholders discussed the challenges of information-sharing, the pace of regulatory development, and the balance between national security and fundamental rights.

In the session on access and connectivity, participants reaffirmed that internet access is a human right, emphasizing the importance of sustainable, community driven models for connectivity, particularly in underserved and remote areas. The final session on data governance showcased regional approaches to balancing innovation with protection, calling for locally adapted, rights-based frameworks and investment in public digital infrastructure.

Across all sessions, the NRIs delivered a unified message: inclusive, bottom up, and regionally grounded approaches are essential to ensure that global digital governance mechanisms are legitimate, responsive, and sustainable. These sessions not only highlighted regional diversity and practical innovations but also underscored a shared commitment to advancing effective, equitable digital governance frameworks at all levels.

Articulating a vision for the future of Internet governance

Recognizing the convergence of key global digital policy processes in 2025, the NRIs developed a unified position endorsed by 177 initiatives. This document, the result of months of open and consultative deliberation, outlines shared priorities for the future of internet governance. At its core, the network reaffirms the multistakeholder model as the only legitimate and effective framework for governing the internet and digital technologies. The NRIs call for targeted improvements to this model, including clearer definitions of stakeholder roles, stronger safeguards for underrepresented voices, and a deeper commitment to inclusivity across all levels of participation.

A central recommendation is the renewal and strengthening of the IGF's mandate beyond 2025, expanding its role in producing nonbinding but influential recommendations and policy briefs that can inform decision-making at national, regional, and global levels.

The NRIs also advocate for formal recognition of their initiatives as essential policy platforms that translate local realities into global dialogue, helping to bridge grassroots perspectives with international processes. To ensure policy coherence, the position calls for better alignment between the WSIS+20 outcomes, the Global Digital Compact (GDC), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing that these processes must be harmonized to maximize collective impact and avoid duplication.

Structural support is also deemed critical: the NRIs urge increased engagement from governments and academia, as well as the development of sustainable funding models to enable meaningful participation by

civil society actors, particularly from underserved and underrepresented communities. The document further stresses the importance of establishing monitoring and implementation mechanisms to enhance the uptake of IGF outcomes. In this regard, NRIs propose serving as trusted advisory bodies to inform legislative and regulatory developments at early stages.

Local Voices, Global Impact

The 20th IGF demonstrated the maturity, coherence, and policy relevance of the NRI network. Through structured collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and inclusive participation, NRIs continue to advance digital governance that is responsive to local needs and aligned with global goals.

Their unified voice—expressed in programming, coordination, and a collective policy position—reflects not only the operational strength of the network but also its growing legitimacy as a pillar of the global internet governance architecture.

As the world navigates the next phase of digital transformation, the NRIs stand ready to serve as trusted conveners, informed advisors, and practical enablers of inclusive, sustainable governance.

Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity

- Securing Access to the Internet and Protecting Core Internet Resources in Contexts of Conflict and Crises –

The IGF 2025 BPF builds on the outcomes of last year's BPF work and the main session held at the 19th IGF in Riyadh. That session focused on protecting Internet infrastructure and ensuring access during times of crisis and conflict, underscoring the need for coordinated efforts and stakeholder collaboration to safeguard core Internet resources in such contexts.

Based on these outcomes, the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) focused the 2025 BPF on ways of securing access to the Internet and protecting core Internet resources in contexts of conflict and crises.

To guide its work, the BPF released a draft problem statement for community input: "There is a clear and pressing need to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the multistakeholder Internet community - and the institutions within it - in securing core Internet resources and ensuring civilian access to the Internet during conflicts and crises." Stakeholders were invited to comment on the draft statement and share input on relevant challenges and experiences, as well as to identify normative and accountability frameworks that could be applied in situations where Internet access or critical Internet infrastructure is under threat.

The BPF main session at the IGF 2025 annual meeting reviewed initial feedback on the draft statement. A distinguished panel discussed recent cases of Internet access disruptions in conflict situations and examples of crises that may impact the availability and stability of core Internet infrastructure.

The panel examined how relevant normative and legal frameworks, including human rights law, international humanitarian law, and the 'public core of the Internet' concept, offer important tools that can be applied in these situations, though they are not without gaps and constraints.

The panel further discussed how the multistakeholder community's commitment to an open and interoperable Internet holds strong potential for action to support efforts to ensure civilian access and secure core Internet infrastructure in contexts of conflict and crisis, but also faces significant limitations.

The BPF session emphasised the importance of setting a forward-looking agenda to protect the public core of the Internet and ensure internet access in contexts of conflict and crisis. It underscored the need for a holistic approach that encompasses preparing for crisis, prevention and protection under legal frameworks,

while also fostering resilience, mitigating impacts, and supporting recovery and rebuilding. The IGF and its BPF should serve as a platform where different efforts in this sense proactively connect and reinforce one another to more effectively address the challenges.

The BPF continues its activities beyond the 2025 annual IGF meeting, aiming to compile and publish its findings and community-based guidance by November. Its work is intended to inform not only relevant discussions in the context of the WSIS+20 review but also other forums and workstreams that are focussed on critical infrastructure for peace and security. As such, the BPF's outcomes hold relevance for ongoing programmatic discussion at various events, conflict resolution centers and platforms, such as the Munich Security Conference, and WEF Annual Meeting.

Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence

In 2025, the main focus of the Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence (PNAI) is to develop recommendations and prepare a report on how the IGF can strengthen its role as the central platform for inclusive, bottom-up, multistakeholder discussions on AI governance. The PNAI community is exploring questions around AI collaboration within the IGF, including engagement with the broader global community and improving synergies among IGF AI-related activities. It also aims to enhance both the PNAI's role and the IGF's unique position in global AI governance, identifying ways to maximize the IGF's impact on AI-related topics.

In its first two years, the Policy Network developed into a truly global network of AI experts and enthusiasts and held discussions and delivered multistakeholder reports on a wide range of critical AI policy and governance topics. These included, for example, interoperability in international AI governance, AI liability, environmental sustainability, race, gender and labour issues on AI. In its third year in 2025, PNAI builds on this foundation and expands it by crystallising its core ambitions and examining the role the IGF could play in the broader context of the WSIS+20 review and implementation of the Global Digital Compact (GDC) AI-related initiatives, with a forward-looking perspective towards 2026 and beyond.

PNAI's Plenary Session at IGF 2025, 'Global AI Governance: Reimagining IGF's Role & Impact' underlined PNAI's potential and role as a facilitator of bottom-up multistakeholder AI policy innovation, driven by shared principles such as equity, inclusion, environmental justice, and co-governance.

The session invited expert speakers and attendees to reflect on the role of the IGF in AI and how PNAI can collaborate within the IGF and contribute to building bridges between the IGF and key international AI fora. Key takeaway from the discussion at IGF 2025 was that PNAI is uniquely positioned to bridge fragmented global AI governance efforts by fostering inclusive, rights-based, and multistakeholder dialogue across regions and disciplines. The Policy Network's value lies in amplifying underrepresented voices, translating community insights into policy recommendations, and acting as a continuous feedback loop within the IGF ecosystem. Panellists emphasized the urgency of harmonizing international policy processes (UN, GDC, WSIS+20, G7, etc.) while ensuring meaningful Global South participation, localized context, and youth inclusion. From Africa to Latin America, participants raised the alarm on AI exacerbating historical injustices and noted that trust cannot be assumed; it must be earned through accountability and global cooperation.

In addition to the Main Session preparation, the PNAI has hosted an outreach and engagement webinar entitled 'IGF in the Global AI Dialogue: Role and Impact' to gather input and start discussions on the topic. Following the results of a public consultation process through a dedicated survey, the PNAI will analyse the gathered input and start discussions and drafting of the final output report due November 2025.

Long-term, PNAI is working to strengthen its efforts to engage in key AI discussions and international forums. This will be achieved through PNAI key messages and a list of international AI forums where these messages could be shared.

Over the past two years, the Policy Network has developed two extensive reports addressing critical AI policy addressing topics and has actively contributed to international processes and consultations related to

AI. To strengthen these efforts and ensure that both current and future PNAI outcomes and recommendations are heard, the Policy Network formed two project teams in 2025.

These teams have begun working on: i) PNAI key messages that are standardised speaking points that synthesize highlights and findings in PNAI's earlier work and reports, and, ii) a repository of international AI dialogues where the messages can be shared.

Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation

The IGF Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation (PNIF) is in its fourth iteration in 2025. The Policy Network was established in 2022 to facilitate inclusive, multistakeholder dialogue on the issue of Internet fragmentation and raise awareness of actions and policy decisions that may risk fragmenting the Internet.

A key takeaway from the PNIF session at the IGF annual meeting in Riyadh and the broader PNIF work in 2024 was that 'avoiding Internet fragmentation remains a significant concern, requiring a balanced, inclusive and forward-looking approach,' along with 'sustained efforts to foster an inclusive and holistic dialogue on the topic'. This further led to the network developing the [PNIF Framework for Discussing Fragmentation](#), which conceptualises three key dimensions: *Fragmentation of the Internet User experience*, *Fragmentation of Internet Governance and Coordination*, and *Fragmentation of the Internet's Technical Layer*.

The Framework is intended to serve as a guiding tool to support dialogue on Internet fragmentation and on technical, political and commercial developments that may influence it. Since the Framework was first presented, it and its concepts have been used and referred to in discussions on the issue of fragmentation, not only within the IGF context but also beyond.

Meanwhile, in 2024, UN Member States, through the Global Digital Compact, have committed to 'promote international cooperation among all stakeholders, to prevent, identify and address risks of fragmentation of the Internet in a timely manner.' (GDC, Objective 3, Article 29, (c)).

During the PNIF session at the IGF 2025 meeting in Norway, panellists and participants highlighted several challenges and trends that may hinder progress toward fulfilling the GDC commitment. These include an ongoing political normalisation of network control with censorship and internet shutdowns as governance tools, growing tensions between digital sovereignty and the goal of a globally interoperable Internet, regulations may affect the Internet's architecture without adequate technical input, and the impact of geopolitical tensions on digital value chains and technology access.

One of the aims of the session was to gather community input on the future work of the PNIF beyond the IGF annual meeting. Participants suggested that PNIF should focus on specific types of fragmentation risks, rather than attempting to address all issues simultaneously. They emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder coordination and trust-building, as no single group can effectively promote Internet interdependence alone.

There is also a need to better articulate technical-layer fragmentation risks in ways that are understandable to non-technical stakeholders. The PNIF should develop implementation recommendations to support the GDC cooperation commitment on Internet fragmentation, engage with the WSIS+20 review process to ensure these concerns are addressed, map existing initiatives that relate to fragmentation even if not explicitly framed that way, and support local capacity building so communities can understand and respond to the impacts of fragmentation on their everyday digital lives. These suggestions will guide the PNIF's post-IGF activities and will be reported on in the PNIF output document that will be published in November 2025.

Policy Network on Meaningful Access

Since its inception in 2021, the PNMA's expert-led, multistakeholder network has consistently build knowledge and reached across communities to exchange policies and practices that have worked within the area of meaningful access, and most importantly, to highlight what has not worked, why digital divides persist, and which structural issues repeat themselves in different scenarios.

Persistent digital divides related to gender, age, geography, multilingualism, and socioeconomic status; inadequate data to assess and monitor the progress of digital inclusion efforts; and a lack of affordable and reliable infrastructure in remote and rural areas are recurring challenges to achieving meaningful access. The PNMA structures its methodology around questions designed to uncover the policy issues behind these barriers, including how to promote and improve the quality of connectivity to support civic engagement and e-government services; how multistakeholder partnerships can be strengthened; and how to identify and address gaps in networking, implementation, or continuity.

The analysis of stakeholders' experiences with implementation and problem-solving is notably one of the network's main outcomes. This knowledge is collated into the PNMA Repository of Good Practices and the community-endorsed list of Literature on Meaningful Access, both available for updates throughout the year. Advocacy for partnered implementation of these previously identified solutions, the monitoring of ongoing experiences, and the collation of new practices are additional activities taking place within the community, which extends beyond the IGF ecosystem.

Following the 2024 commitment to the multistakeholder public debate on Internet governance and encouraged collaboration to build together the future that will be defined during the ongoing WSIS+20 process, the PNMA 2025 Work Plan underlines the policy network as the appropriate benchmark model for the implementation of meaningful access objectives as established by the Global Digital Compact (GDC). The upcoming output report (to be released by end November) is planned as a public portfolio of knowledge and practices that the PNMA can engage with and contribute to the above-mentioned pivotal milestones, by applying the above methodology and work strategy. A Roadmap towards the WSIS+20 High Level Meeting in December 2025 reflects the network's objectives.

The 2025 PNMA Main Session in Lillestrøm served as the portfolio showroom of selected good practices in connectivity, digital inclusion with multilingualism, and capacity development brought in by the PNMA community members, doers and users alike. The panel reflected a good snapshot of a diverse group: government, NGOs, technical community, academia, private sector, Youth, and NRIs coming from Latin America, North America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. The contributions emphasized dialogue and action towards meaningful access, policy challenges, community networks, Indigenous communities, and the role of digital equity in underserved areas.

Complementing the roadmap, the Policy Network on Meaningful Access will continue with the ongoing updates and expansion of the public Repository for Good Practices and the endorsed Literature List on Meaningful Access, along with strengthening networks and improved cooperation with NRIs, DCs, Youth, and other IGF partners. Moreover, the PNMA looks forward to promoting its agenda with the close assistance of the IGF Secretariat and the Leadership Panel on outreach and engagement activities.

The PNMA's next steps include defining and clearly communicating its unique value within the WSIS+20 process and the Global Digital Compact implementation, using accessible language and practical examples that can serve as models for Meaningful Access policies.

Advocacy efforts will begin in early September to support preparations for the WSIS+20 process. The PNMA will also submit Repository examples to the WSIS+20 co-facilitators to illustrate possible approaches for renewing the WSIS mandate. By the end of November, it will deliver a detailed output report exploring the Policy Network's activities in depth and linking them to IGF 2025's overarching theme of Building Digital Governance Together.

Dynamic Coalitions

In 2025, the network of 32 Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) continues to unpack issues of interest through a bottom-up, open, and inclusive multistakeholder approach. Throughout the year, DCs work collaboratively to explore complex policy questions, contribute expert perspectives to various processes and initiatives, and publish their output documents to inform and guide broader discussions.

The diversity of issues addressed by DCs highlights their unique value within the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) ecosystem. Their work spans topics such as accessibility, cybersecurity, children's rights, gaming, artificial intelligence governance, environmental sustainability, digital health, gender and internet governance, freedom of expression, and community connectivity, etc., reflecting the breadth and depth of expertise they bring to the IGF process.

At the 2025 IGF in Lillestrøm, DCs prepared and delivered a main session in a bottom-up, consultative manner, demonstrating their commitment to inclusive and collaborative policymaking. The session examined the role, impact, and future potential of DCs within the IGF, showcasing their work and addressing both achievements and operational challenges. It demonstrated how DCs serve as “engines of innovation, dialogue, and community-driven research” whilst operating as bottom-up, self-organised groups within the IGF ecosystem.

The discussion featured representatives from over fifteen DCs presenting their work across diverse areas including accessibility, cybersecurity, children's rights, AI governance, digital health, and community connectivity.

This year, DCs adopted a new approach by organising themselves into four thematic clusters to better showcase their diversity and strengthen collaboration. The clustering methodology aimed to move beyond individual presentations to highlight overarching themes and collaborative potential. This approach transformed siloed efforts into systems-thinking and cross-coalition cooperation, which is essential for tackling interconnected challenges in security and safety, such as child protection, IoT, and standards. It was emphasised that DCs function as “living labs of multistakeholder collaboration” that embody the IGF's core principles through open collaboration, long-term commitment, and deep expertise.

Evidence presented in the session demonstrated that DCs produce high-quality research, influence international instruments, and shape national regulations on issues ranging from community connectivity to children's rights. DCs have shown particular strength in their ability to respond early to the challenges and opportunities of emerging technologies by experimenting, reflecting, and fostering cross-sectoral engagement. Most significantly, the session highlighted that DCs exemplify “what the IGF has become”: a global community engaged in sustained, year-round collaboration on internet governance challenges. This evolution—from an annual event to a continuous community of practice—represents a significant development in global governance in the digital age.

The discussion also acknowledged both the successes and limitations of the current model, identifying clear pathways for improvement. The collaborative spirit and constructive approach to addressing challenges provide a strong foundation for future coordination and joint initiatives among DCs.

Their role in multistakeholder governance deserves greater recognition, support, and integration into the IGF's main programming. Although DCs produce real, measurable contributions to meaningful access, much of this work remains under-recognised, limiting its potential for broader impact and sustainability.

DCs expressed their hope that the WSIS+20 review would acknowledge the IGF as more than just an annual meeting but as a yearlong process supported by intersessional activities, including the essential work of DCs.

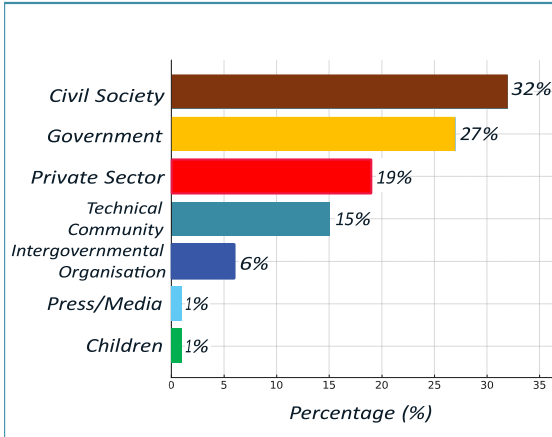
Overall, DCs see the WSIS+20 review as a critical milestone for improving the digital governance landscape and are committed to contributing to it, following the guidance of the WSIS+20 co-facilitators and the overall established framework.

Annex A: IGF 2025 Statistics

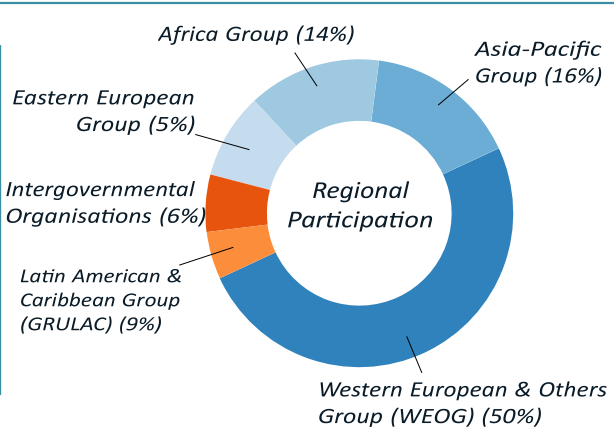
Breakdown of Registrations

The 20th IGF annual meeting gathered 3,435 participants onsite in Lillestrøm coming from 165 different UN member states. Additional 6,000+ participated online, making the overall participation exceed 9,435. Below are the breakdowns by stakeholder and regional groups.

By Stakeholder (Percentage%)

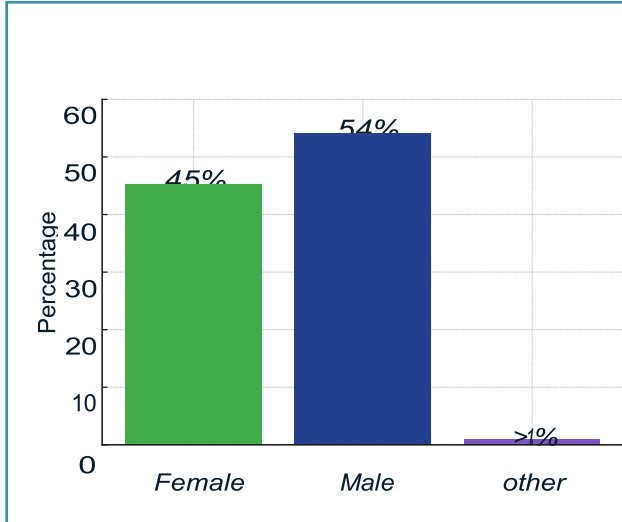


By Region (Percentage%)

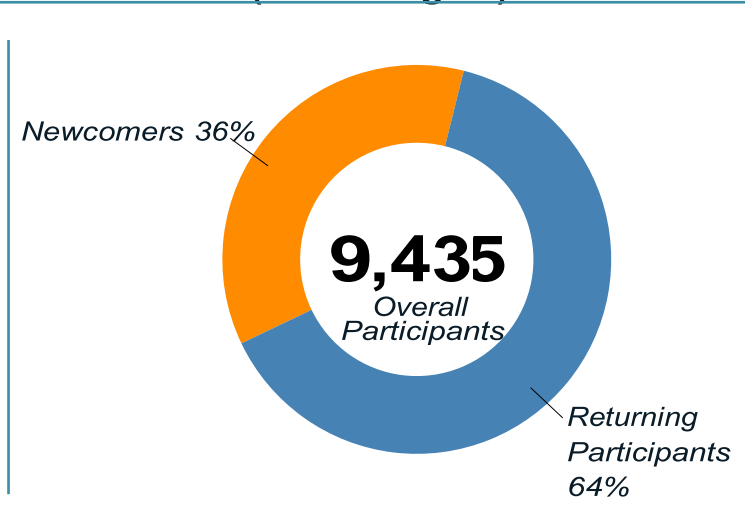


This year’s IGF civil society came back as the largest stakeholder group making up 32% of participants. The technical community saw an increase by +8%, (In 2024 the Government stakeholder group was the largest followed by the private sector.) IGF 2025 also saw increased representation of stakeholders from Africa (+3%) and GRULAC (+7%).

By Gender (Percentage%)

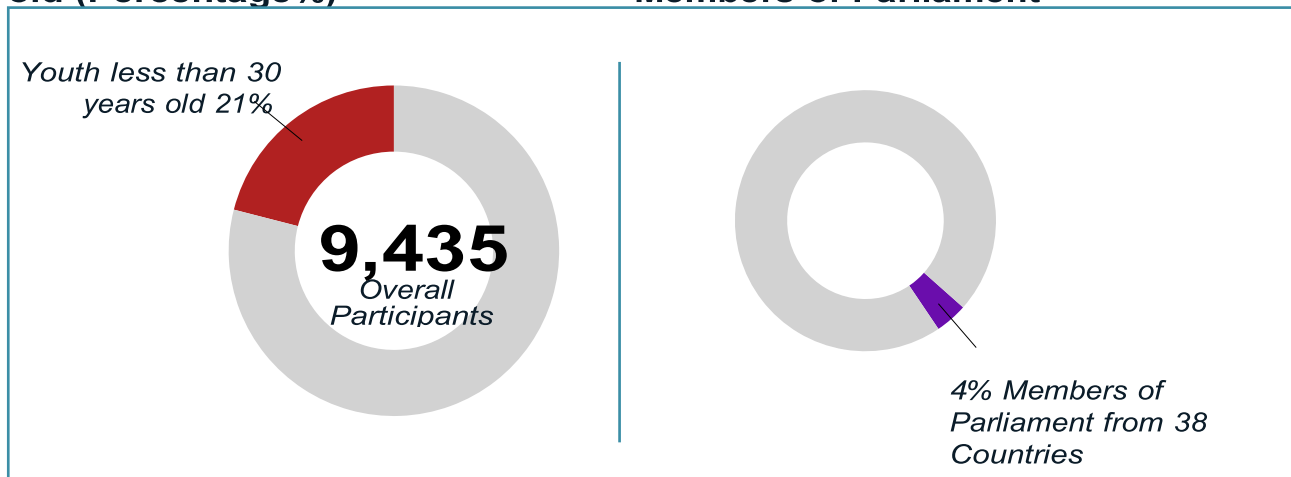


Newcomers (Percentage%)



Youth less than 30 years old (Percentage%)

Members of Parliament



Global South

Remote Hubs

Estimated 1,700 stakeholders benefited **33 supportcountries** represented 4 regions:

- 11 grants to NRIs • 76% from Africa
- 7 grants to Remote Hubs • 18% from Asia
- 130 received Travel Support • 3% from
- 3% from WEOG

remote hubs at IGF 2025 from 21 from

Pacific
Latin America and Caribbean

Sessions

262 sessions at IGF 2025

- 1 Opening Session • 3 Business
- 1 Opening Ceremony • 6 Parliamentary
- 1 Newcomers Sessions • 1 Open
- 1 IGF retrospective Session • 1 Closing
- 9 Main Sessions, including IGF • 52 sessions • 54 Open Forums
- 5 High-Level Leaders Sessions • 9
- 3 NRI Collaborative Sessions • 35
- 4 Collaborative DC Sessions • 10
- 1 Global Youth Summit • 34 Pre-Events
- 1 Judiciary engagement session

engagement sessions
Track sessions
Microphone & taking-stock
Ceremony
Workshops intersessional work main

Launches and Awards
Lightning Talks
Networking Sessions
(Day 0 Sessions)

Media and Outreach

6,000+

Zoom delegates

joined plenary and workshop sessions remotely

Top Zoom participation

Norway

United States

Nigeria

India

Germany, and

Kenya

The livestream services on both the IGF YouTube channel and UN WebTV recorded over **22,000 views**, with more than **68.4%** of viewers aged between 18 and 44. The livestream was most viewed in Norway, followed by India, the United States, China, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

22,000+

Livestream audience

on the IGF YouTube channel and UN WebTV

68%

of viewers were aged between **18-44 years**

Top Livestream countries

Norway, followed by United States, India, China, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

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.

10 million interactions

with #IGF2025 Hashtag

through the IGF social media accounts (**Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram and Bluesky**) These recorded 65K post impressions, ~37K page and profile impressions, and ~1K new followers during the week of the IGF, with strong gains over the prior week and 485% boost in reach—reflecting exceptional growth and engagement across all platforms.

1.2K% ↑
shares

900% ↑
impressions

670% ↑
reactions

485% ↑
reach

The IGF and DESA Facebook accounts had a combined reach of

110K+ users

68,617

website requests during the IGF week across 14,292 sessions.

The top countries accessing the site were

Norway, the United States, China, India, Germany, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, and Switzerland.

Week-of media monitoring showed that the IGF was covered in a very high number of major Norwegian media outlets, in print and broadcast, amongst these Xinhua, Bloomberg, Aljazeera, Deutsche Welle, AFP, Digi, Television Jamaica, Digi, Teknisk Ukeblad, Altinget NRK and Aftenposten.

A press kit was prepared via Trello, 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.

The IGF continues to demonstrate increased engagement and outreach, supported by strong growth on its social media channels and by strategic work led by the IGF Secretariat, the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG), and the Leadership Panel, in close cooperation with diverse stakeholders.

As part of these efforts, the IGF cooperates with GIZ, who supports the production of outreach [videos](#) aimed at enhancing understanding and visibility of the IGF's role ahead of the UN General Assembly voting at the end of this 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 has already reached audiences via social media, GIZ's internal and external channels, the MAG mailing list, and IGF supporter lists—achieving over 2,100 impressions on IGF LinkedIn alone and being shared with GIZ's 25,000 global employees.

Several additional videos will be prepared, focusing on trust and digital inclusion, and on the IGF as an incubator for digital policy solutions, specifically intended for policymakers in the context of the WSIS+20 review.

Preparation

IGF 2025 preparation

- 40 Members of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG)
- 2 Open Consultation and MAG Meetings
- Over 22 Virtual MAG and MAG-WG meetings
- 4 MAG Working Groups and 3 Main Session Preparatory Groups

Annex B: Documentation and Process

IGF 2025 host country website
<https://www.igf2025.no/>
IGF Website
<https://www.intgovforum.org>

IGF 2025 Outputs

IGF 2025 outputs, including IGF 2025 messages, session reports, press releases, and IGF participant statements, can be found at:

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

IGF 2025 Session Reports, Recordings and Transcripts

Reports	https://intgovforum.org/en/igf-2025-reports
Transcripts	https://intgovforum.org/en/igf-2025-transcripts
Recordings	https://www.youtube.com/user/igf/videos
Just-in-time AI Reporting	https://dig.watch/event/internet-governance-forum-2025

IGF 2025 Intersessional Work

The community-led [intersessional activities](#) that occur throughout the year offer the IGF community the opportunity to work on substantive and concrete longer-term projects in the field of Internet governance:

Policy Networks (PNs)

Internet Fragmentation (PNIF)	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/policy-network-on-internet-fragmentation
Meaningful Access (PNMA)	https://www.inhttps://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/policy-network-on-meaningful-access-pnmatgovforum.org/en/content/policy-network-on-meaningful-access-pnma
Artificial Intelligence (AI)	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/policy-network-on-artificial-intelligence-pnai

Best Practice Forums (BPFs)

Cybersecurity	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/bpf-cybersecurity
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Dynamic Coalitions (DCs)

<https://www.intgovforum.org>

The activities of the 32 DCs are coordinated by the [Dynamic Coalition Coordination Group \(DCCG\)](#).

Accessibility and Disability	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-accessibility-and-disability-1
Blockchain Technologies	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-blockchain-technologies-0
Children's Rights in the Digital Environment	https://www.intgovforum.org/content/dynamic-coalition-on-childrens-rights-in-the-digital-environment
Community Connectivity	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-community-connectivity-0
Core Internet Values	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-community-connectivity-0
Data and Trust	https://www.intgovforum.org/content/dynamic-coalition-on-data-and-trust-dc-dt
Data Driven Health Technologies	https://www.intgovforum.org/content/dynamic-coalition-on-data-driven-health-technologies-dc-ddht
Digital Health	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-digital-health
DNS Issues	https://www.intgovforum.org/content/dynamic-coalition-on-dns-issues-dc-dnsi
Environment	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-environment-dce
Gender and Internet Governance	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-gender-and-internet-governance
Innovative Approaches to Connecting the Unconnected	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-innovative-approaches-to-connecting-the-unconnected-0
Internet and Jobs	https://www.intgovforum.org/content/dynamic-coalition-on-internet-jobs-dc-jobs
Internet of Things	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-the-internet-of-things-0
Internet Rights & Principles	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-internet-rights-and-principles-1
Internet Standards, Security and Safety	https://www.intgovforum.org/content/dynamic-coalition-on-internet-standards-security-and-safety-dc-iss
Internet Universality Indicators	https://www.intgovforum.org/content/dc-on-internet-universality-indicators-dc-iui
Network Neutrality	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-network-neutrality-1
Platform Responsibility	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-platform-responsibility
Public Access in Libraries	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-public-access-in-libraries-1
Schools of Internet Governance	https://www.intgovforum.org/content/dynamic-coalition-on-schools-of-internet-governance

Small Island Developing States in the Internet Economy	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-small-island-developing-states-in-the-internet-economy-dc-sids
Sustainability of Journalism and News Media	https://www.intgovforum.org/content/dynamic-coalition-on-the-sustainability-of-journalism-and-news-media-dc-sustainability
Youth Coalition on Internet Governance	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/youth-coalition-on-internet-governance-1
Dynamic Teen Coalition	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-teens
Dynamic Coalition on Blockchain Assurance and Standardization	https://intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-blockchain-assurance-and-standardization-dc-bas
Dynamic Coalition on Data and Artificial Intelligence Governance	https://intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-data-and-artificial-intelligence-governance-dc-daig
Dynamic Coalition on Open Educational Resources	https://intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-open-educational-resources-dc-oer
Dynamic Coalition on Measuring Digital Inclusion	https://intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-measuring-digital-inclusion
Dynamic Coalition on Gaming for Purpose	https://intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-gaming-for-purpose-dc-g4p
Dynamic Coalition on Interplanetary Internet	https://intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-the-interplanetary-internet-dc-interplanetary
Dynamic Coalition on Emerging Technologies	https://intgovforum.org/en/content/dynamic-coalition-on-emerging-technologies-dc-emerging-tech

National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs)

National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) are organic and independent formations 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.

The status of NRIs in 2025:

- 177 NRIs recognised in total
- 100+ NRIs represented at IGF 2025
- 2 more countries/regions have established IGF processes since IGF 2024

Below are the sources to find more information about the NRIs and their work:

About the NRIs	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/national-and-regional-igf-initiatives
National IGFs	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/national-igf-initiatives
Regional IGFs	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/regional-igf-initiatives
Youth IGFs	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/youth-initiatives
Preparatory work of the NRIs	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/nris-collaborative-work

IGF 2025 Preparatory Process

The IGF meeting programme is prepared by the MAG and the IGF Secretariat over the course of the year. Key decisions on the programme are taken in the face-to-face meetings as well as regular virtual meetings of the MAG leading into the IGF.

Following a traditional approach, the process was triggered by a public call for inputs which helped identification of the main themes. These were developed by the MAG based on input and contributions submitted by the community. The programme for IGF 2025 was then built around the four main sub-themes which were prioritised through the public call:

Key elements of the preparatory processes included:

- A call to [Take Stock of IGF 2024 and Suggest Improvements for IGF 2025](#) was open until 12 January 2025. The contributions were summarised in a [synthesis output document](#).
- A [call for thematic inputs](#) was open until 12 January 2025. The [list of received inputs](#) and an analysis are available.
- The MAG identified main themes during its first MAG meeting and open consultations.
- A [call for session proposals](#) was open until 16 March 2025, inviting all stakeholders to consider applying for the type(s) of session that best fit their interests.

In addition to the overall collective work, the MAG worked on particular segments of the Forum's preparations to advance the overall process through its working groups:

Working Group on IGF Strategy (WG-Strategy)	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/working-group-on-igf-strengthening-and-strategy-wg-ss
Working Group on Workshop Process (WG-WSP)	https://www.intgovforum.org/content/working-group-on-workshop-review-and-evaluation-process-wg-wrep
Working Group on Youth Engagement (WG-Youth)	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/working-group-on-youth-engagement
Working Group on Multilingualism (WG-Multilingual)	https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/working-group-on-multilingualism-wg-multilingual

Annex C: IGF 2025 Donors

The IGF project and its Secretariat is funded through donations from various stakeholder groups. While host countries bear the majority of the costs associated with holding the annual IGF meeting, the IGF Secretariat's activities are funded through extra-budgetary contributions paid into a multidonor Trust Fund administered by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

IGF 2025 was primarily funded by the IGF Host Country – the Government of Norway, as well as the Trust Fund and in-kind support.

By *30 June 2025*, the following donors supported the IGF:



Full list of IGF donors is available at the IGF website at <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/donate>.

Lillestrøm IGF Messages

Disclaimer: the views and opinions expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Secretariat. The designations and terminology employed may not conform to United Nations practice and do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Organization.

The [20th annual meeting of the Internet Governance Forum](#) was hosted by the Kingdom of Norway in Lillestrøm from 23 to 27 June 2025.

The [Lillestrøm IGF Messages](#) provide a high-level overview for decision-makers of current thinking on key Internet governance and digital policy issues. They are sourced directly from 262 sessions held during IGF 2025. Session organizers were invited to self-identify key takeaways and call-to-action points at the end of their session as input for these messages. The Messages were also informed by reports from National, Regional and Youth IGF initiatives.

A set of draft messages, curated by the IGF Secretariat, was published on 27 June for community review until 14 July. The final IGF 2025 Messages are part of the annual meeting's outcomes.

The Forum was held under the overarching theme of *Building Digital Governance Together*.

Sessions were organised within four main themes:

- [\[Building\] Digital Trust and Resilience](#)
- [\[Building\] Sustainable and Responsible Innovation](#)
- [\[Building\] Universal Access and Digital Rights](#)
- [\[Building\] Digital Cooperation](#)

The messages in this document are structured accordingly.

[Building] Digital Trust and Resilience

The theme

GDC [GDC 3, 4, 5](#) - [WSIS C5, C9, C10](#) - [SDGs 9, 16, 12, 17](#); and Trust, Data Governance, Artificial intelligence, Media and Content, Rights and Freedoms [Capacity Building] A resilient, interoperable and trustworthy Internet is critical to ensuring that communication infrastructure, services and data exchange remain stable and secure in the face of growing cyberthreats and disruptions to digital infrastructures. Misinformation, disinformation, hacked data, hate speech, misuse of private information, biased AI responses, and other confusing and imprecise elements of information are commonplace challenges to the Internet we use and enjoy.

IGF Lillestrøm messages

Digital infrastructure

- As reliance on digital services increases, tolerance for disruptions has declined. Peering and transit are essential for robust interconnection, enabling faster and more reliable Internet. Strong cooperation between governments and private infrastructure owners is critical to ensure resilience and strengthen and expand digital infrastructure.

- It is necessary to map the different crisis response models and mechanisms within the United Nations system and beyond, and to analyse how they can be extrapolated to respond to situations where communications are disrupted, and critical internet infrastructure is attacked in conflict and crisis zones. The establishment of a multi-stakeholder mechanism to ensure funding, political commitment, and other factors should allow to respond effectively, in a timely manner, and within the frameworks of international law on human rights protection and humanitarian assistance.

- The multistakeholder community's commitment to an open and interoperable Internet holds strong potential for action to ensure civilian access and secure core Internet infrastructure in contexts of conflict and crisis. However, it also faces significant limitations. Likewise, normative and regulatory frameworks, including international humanitarian and human rights law, offer important tools but are not without their own constraints. The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and its Best Practice Forum should serve as a space where they connect, interact, and reinforce one another to address these critical challenges.
- The resilience of the global subsea cable network depends on proactive planning, builtin redundancy, and the capacity for rapid incident response. As threats to undersea cable infrastructure transcend national borders, regional and international collaboration is essential along with support for countries with limited resources.
- States should take practical steps to implement the UN framework of Responsible State Behaviour, which should become an actionable framework. Coordination and translation with all relevant stakeholders should happen at national, regional and global levels. Support for capacity building (including simulation exercises, strengthening CERT-to-CERT cooperation), sharing best practices, and discussion about how to improve the protection of critical infrastructure are an essential part of the implementation.
- A more resilient, diverse, and sovereign cloud infrastructure may reduce dependency on few dominant global providers. It could support local innovation, ensure regulatory clarity, and enhance trust. It would empower countries and communities to shape digital infrastructure on their own terms.
- Promoting responsible practices in Internet infrastructure requires the establishment of a trusted, multi-stakeholder process to foster collaboration on challenges such as harmful activity and censorship. This process should prioritize open communication over rigid standard setting, and emphasize transparency over restricted access. It must support mutual accountability and interoperability to build trust and enable effective cooperation.
- Comprehensive policy and legal analysis is needed to identify and clarify regulatory ambiguities, examine conflicts between legal frameworks, assess commercial influence and address jurisdictional inconsistencies that obstruct responsible Internet governance. A coordinated advocacy strategy should be developed to promote harmonized, transparent, and enforceable guidelines across relevant jurisdictions.
- Trust in the Internet's infrastructure, including in its domain name system (DNS), is essential. Collisions with blockchain identifiers must be avoided. Multistakeholder discussions on the responsible integration of blockchain identifiers are an opportunity for the Internet community to keep advancing the collective goal of building a safe, reliable and trusted Internet.
- Discussions on autonomous weapons systems (AWS) and their technological, legal, ethical, security, and developmental impacts should be inclusive and transparent, and not confined to closed, specialised forums. There is an urgent need for international cooperation, as underscored by the UN Secretary-General and the ICRC, who have called for the negotiation of a legally binding instrument on AWS by 2026. Holistic solutions demand the active engagement of governments, civil society, academia, the technical community, and industry. The Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (GGE on LAWS), Austrian-led UN General Assembly resolutions, the Dutch and Korean Global Commission on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain (GC REAIM) initiative, and multistakeholder platforms such as the IGF play a vital role in advancing collective action and raising public awareness.

Online safety / information integrity / child safety

- The Global Digital Compact's vision of an inclusive, open, safe and secure digital space is not just an aspiration, but a practical framework that should guide our daily work. Whether we are coordinating election integrity efforts, developing child protection guidelines, or building multi-stakeholder partnerships, we're actively contributing to this global vision.

- Initiatives that engage governments, scientists, media, advertisers, influencers, and other relevant professionals provide more effective and sustainable responses to information integrity threats. Rather than focusing on isolated actors, they should address the entire information ecosystem, redirecting it toward reliable, science-based content that supports public awareness and informed policymaking.
- Trust transcends technology. It is fundamentally human and social. Effective cybersecurity depends on embedding transparency, inclusive community engagement, and civic digital literacy to foster public confidence and counteract practices like privacy-washing. This requires implementing security-by-design mandates through appropriate policy tools, launching human-centred trust building and digital literacy initiatives, and establishing regional and international interoperability frameworks.
- Effectively combating online abuse, including fraud and DNS abuse, requires coordination, cross-sector collaboration, and data-driven action. No single actor or sector can address these challenges alone. The Internet community should engage with other industries, such as the payments sector, hosting and cloud providers for targeted responses. Building an ecosystem that enables robust information sharing, through initiatives like the Global Signal Exchange and Net Beacon, is essential. This effort must be both cross-sector and multistakeholder.
- The encryption debate often becomes entrenched and adversarial, with polarised positions hindering meaningful progress. To move forward, stakeholders should focus on specific areas where compromise is both possible and urgently needed, rather than allowing ideological stand-offs that stall action. The IGF community should play a key role in facilitating focused discussions to explore and pilot technical and policy solutions that uphold both strong encryption and lawful access, particularly in contexts like child protection.
- Countries across regions and contexts are grappling with the challenge of delivering safe and empowering digital environments for children. Building a child rights-respecting and inclusive digital future goes beyond traditional tech companies and online platforms. Other industry players from brands to investors have a pivotal role to play, including using their leverage on other actors of the ecosystem.
- Platforms should adopt a child rights-based approach that upholds the dignity, privacy, and best interests of children. The absence of strong, standardised, and globally applied mechanisms to protect children in the digital environment remains a critical gap. A child-centered and transparent approach is essential to building a safe online space. Protecting children online must go beyond transparency reports and statistics, and demands sustained, meaningful commitment. Accessible, child-friendly reporting mechanisms are vital to empower children to speak up. They must know how and where to report harm, and feel safe, supported, and confident when they do.
- Problems with deepfakes and sexual deepfakes are escalating globally, driven by genderbased violence and the rapidly evolving dynamics of online platforms. Legal, educational, and technical systems are struggling to keep pace. Addressing this issue requires coordinated, multi-stakeholder collaboration, yet current efforts remain fragmented and insufficient. To strengthen prevention and accountability, targeted investment is needed in localized detection datasets and immutable image technologies. At the same time, comprehensive digital literacy programmes are needed to educate both young people and decision makers about the risks, harms, and responsibilities associated with the use and misuse of such technologies.
- Cybercrimes causing personal harm or emotional impact are just as critical to address as those driven by financial motives. Gender-sensitive responses should be embedded in efforts to combat cybercrime and online harms, which disproportionately affect women and girls. Robust legal frameworks and legislative instruments are essential, but they must be paired with comprehensive training for the entire criminal justice system, from law enforcement to prosecutors and judges, on how to support victims effectively.

[Building] Sustainable and Responsible Innovation

The theme

[GDC 1, 2, 4, 5 - WSIS C1, C6, C7, C10, C11 - SDG 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17](#); Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change, Economic Issues and Development, Emerging Technologies and Innovation, Artificial intelligence, Technical and Operational Topics, Advances in artificial intelligence, quantum computing, blockchain, the Internet of Things, and other areas have the potential to improve efficiency, decentralization, and accessibility, driving economic growth, digital inclusion and societal development. However, their development and adoption entail risks including negative environmental outcomes and widespread socio-economic impacts. Ethical oversight and inclusive governance are increasingly important as the role of these technologies grows within society. A balance needs to be achieved between innovation, responsibility, and sustainability in digital platforms and emerging technologies.

IGF Lillestrøm messages

Digital Public Goods

- Digital Public Goods (DPGs) are essential for creating an inclusive society where everybody can participate and meet their aspirations. DPGs are essential for attaining the Sustainable Development Goals.
- No single country can lead technological transformation alone. We need to use our resources more effectively, cooperate and share technology through global partnerships, knowledge sharing, and collaborative development. AI, Work and Skills
- AI is entering every sector. The AI revolution extends beyond job displacement and fundamentally alters how value is created and who reaps the benefits. Those who know how to work with AI will be in high demand, while those without access to training or tools risk being left behind.
- We can set the course for the future of work through our policies and choices; technology itself does not determine it. We need to ensure workers are empowered, not marginalized to avoid widening the digital divide. It is vital to invest in digital literacy especially for women, young people and those who work in the informal economy, and to promote transparency, accountability and fairness in the workplace.
- Investment in citizens' digital skills is needed for competitiveness but also for people to have the chance to benefit from digital technologies and services. Education systems should help people to know when to question AI systems, and empower people to use their own data.
- National strategies should prioritize inclusive education and AI literacy to empower societies for climate-conscious digital futures and integrate environmental literacy and green AI principles into AI curricula.

Misinformation, Content moderation & AI and Media/Journalism

- Large language models (LLM) have emerged as a new tool for content moderation but they pose risks of reinforcing systemic discrimination, censorship, and surveillance. Most platforms fine-tune a small number of foundational models rather than developing their own, which leads to concentration of power in content moderation as decisions made at LLM training stage cascade down across platforms.
- AI content moderation lacks sufficient transparency around implementation and risk mitigation, as the AI hype often overshadows documented human rights harms. We need to invest in tools for AI content transparency and foster multi-stakeholder product co-design where policy experts, users, civil society, and underrepresented groups are included in early product ideation and testing.

- More cross-sectoral engagement and coalition building between media actors (including digital rights and media for development organisations) is needed to understand the impact of AI and to mainstream responsible and ethical AI use in media. Voices of independent and public interest media from the Global South need to be actively engaged.
- Declarations on ethical AI are important, but we also need to monitor their translation into practice and assess their impact to ensure ethical AI use in everyday media work.

Infrastructure

- Building next-generation infrastructure is imperative for digital inclusion globally. Data agency is central to a fair and inclusive digital future, and this should be reflected in international funding mechanisms, capacity building, and standards development should reflect that. Empowering users in the Global South through data agency supports local innovation, enables competitive participation in digital markets, and reduces dependency on centralized platforms.
- Bridging technical innovation and public policy is essential. Builders, investors, policymakers, and civil society actors must collaborate more closely to ensure next-generation infrastructure reflects both market realities and public values. Multilateral and national digital development strategies should prioritize infrastructure that empowers users by design.
- Public interest, equality, interoperability and inclusion are crucial to digital public infrastructure (DPI). Ensuring DPI is developed and used in an inclusive and secure manner is an essential foundation for global digital cooperation. There is a critical need for government capacity building, open-source policies where feasible, and comprehensive digital governance frameworks for building trust and ensuring safe DPI adoption.
- Digital public infrastructure (DPI) comes with natural monopoly characteristics that, particularly in foundational identity, payments, and health platforms, create the risk that public-private partnerships may grant excessive operational control to incumbent firms, enabling them to monetise public data with minimal societal return.
- We need to design contractual arrangements that maintain Digital public infrastructure (DPI) as shared public infrastructure while enabling innovation through private sector partnerships. We should establish regulatory sandboxes for participatory data governance approaches, invest in capacity-building of public sector officials, data protection authorities, civil society organizations, and community leaders to ensure policy decisions are informed by local knowledge with the aim of preventing market concentration and ensuring competitive data use.

Connectivity

- Around 2.6 billion people around the world remain unconnected to the Internet. Accelerating international collaboration is essential to bridge the digital divides. Accessibility and connectivity to the Internet are a right. Stakeholders must collaborate on inclusive policies and connectivity models that support openness and affordability.
- We need to empower internet users in rural areas by equipping them with the digital skills needed for a sustainable future of community networks.

Environment and health

- Scalable, energy-efficient models are already operational and enable low-cost, low-power AI deployment in climate-vulnerable and low-resource settings. Open-source AI can significantly reduce duplication, costs, and energy use while fostering global collaboration.
- Embedding transparency across the AI lifecycle to ensure energy and resource use is measured, disclosed, and minimized, is a key component of equitable AI governance. Governments and industry should prioritize and incentivize energy-efficient AI innovation and require developers and deployers to measure and report energy, emissions, and water impacts of AI systems through sustainability standards, audit frameworks, and lifecycle disclosure requirements.
- The quality and granularity of digital data remain critical for credible modelling of environmental and health risks. To tackle concerns about accessibility, standardisation, and interoperability, we need to invest in digital literacy and capacity-building for public health, especially in the Global South.
- Digital solutions should be grounded in value-driven design and governed through inclusive frameworks. We need to shift from engagement-driven to purpose-driven digital ecosystems, particularly for underserved communities.

AI equity gap, AI ethics & small AI players

- The global AI equity gap is widening, putting the Global South at increasing risk of exclusion. Locally driven, inclusive, and human-centered AI approaches are critical to delivering meaningful impact. There is a need to build local capacities by intentionally investing in training, infrastructure, and linguistic inclusion.
- Policymakers should design AI regulation that both protects public values and enables innovation. Ethical considerations cannot be added as an afterthought to emerging technologies. Ethics must be a core competency for all stakeholders, and developers should balance technical success with ethical and sustainability perspective at every stage.
- Smaller states and start-ups can remain competitive in AI by leveraging open-source tools, domain expertise and strategic partnerships, especially in areas where agility, deep domain expertise, and contextual trust matter more than scale. They should not wait to be invited but position themselves as co-creators of the digital future.
- Large technology companies should commit to genuine collaboration with small actors by investing in open ecosystems, supporting lightweight AI development, and co-developing tools that reflect diverse contexts and constraints.

[Building] Universal Access and Digital Rights

The theme

[GDC 1, 2, 3, 4](#) - [WSIS C2, C3, C4, C7, C8, C10](#) - [SDG 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 16](#); Rights and Freedoms, Universal Access and Meaningful Connectivity, Economic Issues and Development, Gaps and inequality in meaningful digital access pose profound challenges for communities across the world. Such digital divides cannot be addressed without recognising the essential link between universal access and human rights: an inclusive, open, sustainable, fair, safe, and secure digital future can only be realised when human rights are respected both offline and online.

IGF Lillestrøm messages

Human Rights and Digital Harms

- There is a need for stronger digital rights protections and accountability for digital harm, including all forms of state and non-state digital surveillance and data privacy violations. Accountability requires multistakeholder action and stronger domestic laws to curb spyware misuse and protect civil society.
- Stakeholders should advocate for political commitment to enforce a progressive interpretation of international law that protects individuals and communities from human rights abuses in the digital space. Legal scholars and practitioners should pool their expertise to reconcile human rights and international law principles to ensure that both are upheld in digital and cyber activities.
- Transparency and reform of national surveillance laws is required, including judicial oversight, public reporting and bans on unchecked state intrusion. There is a need for support for victims and civil society through legal aid, device forensic testing, and cross-border solidarity to challenge spyware abuses and secure reparations. Digital rights provisions should be equal for all.
- Successful digital policies include diverse voices in their formulation. Technology companies, governments and regulators should invest in adequate safeguards and accountability mechanisms that consider the growing digital inequality in Global Majority communities. Global South voices need to be amplified in global frameworks to ensure policies address regional realities, not just Northern priorities.
- Violations of human rights may occur through actions or through failing to act and prevent wrongful acts. Both states and companies have responsibilities, but boundaries between state and corporate accountability are currently blurred. Efforts to address this issue are underway but require further development.
- The UN Guiding Principles clearly define human rights due diligence responsibilities, but corporate accountability should become platform accountability by building an application method that reflects what human rights due diligence means in the digital context.
- Digital threats impact everyone. However, some groups are far more vulnerable as real-lifepatterns of inequality and oppression are reproduced and deepened in digital spaces. Women and girls are amongst the most affected, with higher records of online intimidation or threats of violence, in particular after engaging in activism or human rights advocacy.
- It is important to centre the perspectives of people and communities most at risk of digital harm and exclusion in digital governance processes to ensure these remain rights-based, multistakeholder, transparent and democratic. Digital technologies should serve human rights and social good, not prioritise profit for a few over the wellbeing of all.

Ethical AI

- The implementation of AI ethical guidelines is paramount. Multifaceted domains should be taken into account in their formulation, including privacy and confidentiality; informed consent; bias and fairness; integration of human oversight; continuous improvement; coding with ethical guardrails; and support for community driven/local solutions.
- Without ethical guidelines, the development, implementation and deployment of AI models can result in technology that spreads misinformation and harmful stereotypes, lacks real-time fact-checking, violates ethical and privacy concerns, performs with a limited understanding of complex human emotions, and perpetuates bias and discrimination.

- There is a need to integrate mental health and suicide awareness into policy conversations, guidelines and standards for the development of the Internet and AI. Stakeholders should cooperate to facilitate community-centered frameworks that prioritize user control over personal mental health data and information.

Meaningful Access

- Digital connectivity is not just about access to the Internet; it is foundational for inclusion. Gaps are caused by a mix of infrastructural, economic, policy and socio-cultural barriers. Deep digital disparities exist in the developing regions, with new technologies often exacerbating offline divides. While economies rush to respond to new and emerging technologies, persistent challenges with respect to connectivity and meaningful access remain.
- Digital inclusion requires a rights-based, whole-of-society approach, including flexible construction of digital systems tailored to national or regional needs. No single entity can bridge the digital divide alone: governments, private sector, NGOs, and communities must work together towards long-term impact, reachable with inclusive policymaking and public-private partnerships. Efforts made by multistakeholder partners to assist, incentivize, promote and measure meaningful access should be permanent.
- With 98% of unconnected people living in areas with mobile coverage, digital inequality is no longer primarily about infrastructure coverage. Instead, the main barriers are affordability (particularly device costs), digital literacy, and meaningful usage skills. Addressing these needs requires a holistic approach that includes infrastructure investment, affordability, digital literacy, and local engagement.
- We need to ensure that people have access to useful and meaningful services in their own languages. The Internet and the technology around can be powerful tools for the preservation and usage of endangered Indigenous languages. Open source codes can be downloaded by educators, researchers and industry experts aiming to promote and multiply the impact towards the revitalization of these languages. Collaboration with the private sector and use of local languages will enhance the impact of digital literacy programmes.
- Stakeholders should design and support scalable solutions, such as community networks and public Wi-Fi initiatives, tailored to the unique needs of underserved regions. It is also necessary to subsidize digital devices and connectivity for marginalized groups, along with local capacity building in local languages. The IGF has developed tools through intersessional activities to encourage successful meaningful projects' replication, scaling and localisation.
- A diverse ecosystem of providers is essential for last-mile access. The traditional model of relying solely on large mobile operators is insufficient for reaching marginalised communities. This includes community networks, local libraries, post offices, and other intermediaries that can provide culturally relevant, affordable solutions. Regulatory frameworks need to encourage this diversity rather than creating barriers that favour only large conventional operators.

Digital Public Infrastructure

- All regions seek digital public infrastructure (DPI) that is inclusive, resilient, and people-centered. A commons-based approach to DPI governance can unite these efforts without homogenizing them, respecting local ownership and enabling global alignment. Moreover, governance can be “built into the code.” DPI systems must be structured to reflect principles such as accountability, privacy and equity from the outset.
- Policies should aim to promote equitable and safe access to digital technologies. They should ensure that the rights and needs of traditionally marginalised and oppressed groups are prioritised. To support the development and deployment of inclusive digital solutions, it is essential to engage diverse financing modalities and shape the actions of funders and financiers.

[Building] Digital Cooperation

The theme

[GDC 3, 4, 5](#) - [WSIS C1, C2, C3, C4, C6, C10, C11](#) - [SDG 9, 10, 11, 16](#); Digital Cooperation, Emerging technologies and Innovation, Artificial intelligence, Sustainable Multistakeholder Governance

2025 is a pivotal year in the ongoing, multistakeholder effort to refine and evolve the governance and coordination of our digital world. The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) serves as a key platform in this effort, interfacing with a wide range of stakeholders and processes, including the WSIS+20 review, the recently agreed Global Digital Compact and ongoing global dialogues on AI governance, to address a large and growing array of challenges.

IGF Lillestrøm messages

- There is a growing risk of digital inequality, particularly in developing countries, as emerging technologies such as AI advance rapidly. High deployment costs and limited digital skills prevent many communities, especially in the Global South, from fully benefiting from digital progress.
- It is essential to increase the participation of the Global South and civil society in global digital dialogues. It is important to strengthen articulation around common objectives but also understanding of local needs and realities.
- The Internet is not ownerless, and the growing concentration of power and increasing dependence on big tech raises serious concerns about the resilience of societies in maintaining healthy information spaces, freedom of expression, and access to information. To ensure that information technologies serve democratic and ethical values, and to support the sustainability of open information societies, a shift away from deregulation, non-intervention, and corporate consolidation may be necessary, towards responsible, collective governance and regulation, with transparency and accountability at the forefront.
- Sustainable business models to ensure broad access need to be explored. International legal or institutional mechanisms should be strengthened or established to prevent private satellite broadband providers from exercising disproportionate or unregulated influence over Internet access and connectivity in foreign jurisdictions.
- It is important to strengthen multilateral and multi-stakeholder cooperation to help ensure that the benefits of digital transformation are shared broadly and no one is left behind.
- Technical standards can have significant real-world human rights implications, affecting access to critical services and increasing the risk of surveillance or exclusion. Therefore, inclusivity in technical standard-setting is essential. This calls for support mechanisms and capacitybuilding efforts to enable meaningful participation from diverse communities, including civil society and non-engineers, and for the integration of international human rights frameworks at all stages of standards development to ensure ethical and inclusive outcomes.
- The IGF should be used as a confidence- and capacity-building space for further discussions on Internet fragmentation, especially given the current lack of coordination among various stakeholder groups in addressing fragmentation questions. Inclusive input from all stakeholder groups is essential as the global digital environment faces increasing territorialisation, the growing use of sovereignty-based approaches, and the normalisation of network control.
- The development of inclusive and innovative digital governance models that address the structural barriers contributing to digital inequality should be promoted. It is important to prioritize investment in digital capacity

building, especially in underserved and developing regions, to ensure equitable access to emerging technologies.

IGF, Global Digital Compact and WSIS

- The international community should avoid overlap or fragmentation of mandates within the UN system. It is important to make use of existing platforms and spaces, such as the IGF, and improve collaboration capacities, and put further effort into including diverse actors to strengthen multi sectoral dialogue.
- Within the IGF, efforts should further strengthen the inclusion of the underserved communities and stakeholders from all generations, amongst others, by reinforcing connections between and with the National and Regional IGF Initiatives.
- To further digital cooperation, it is necessary to strengthen commitments and existing mechanisms with special attention to the Global South, and marginalized populations.
- WSIS should reform its multistakeholder framework to address contemporary challenges of digital sovereignty, platform consolidation, and emerging technologies. This requires strengthening institutional accountability mechanisms, expanding Global South participation, increasing regional coordination and empowering the IGF.
- There is a shared understanding that the WSIS Action Lines were elaborated in a broad and technology-neutral way, so that they can be adapted and applied to the constant technological innovations. The main gap within the WSIS Framework and between its different parts (such as the IGF and the WSIS Forum) is the lack of coordination, both regarding the procedural aspects or the subjects that are discussed in each of these fora.
- Some aspects that need to be worked on to strengthen the IGF include (i) the need for coordination with other digital governance spaces; (ii) rethinking procedural aspects, including the MAG operation (in order to create solid and permanent institutional knowledge, for instance); (iii) obtaining a more robust funding; (iv) establishing a longer or permanent mandate, to allow for continuous improvements; (v) improving the mechanisms for sharing IGF outcomes, so that more people and audiences are reached, including decision-makers; (vi) increasing coordination between global governance and local and regional governance, such as greater interaction with the NRIs.
- Integration and coordination mechanisms should be established between the WSIS Forum and the IGF, which would help to achieve greater alignment between the WSIS Action Lines and SDGs.
- Multistakeholder platforms like the IGF should be preserved and strengthened. All stakeholders, including governments, businesses, technical community and civil society, should actively support the IGF as a global public good - both politically and operationally.
- The IGF serves as a valuable global platform for cross-border, cross-sector collaboration. It helps to empower both small and large nations to influence the shape of the digital future across generations, industries, and interests.
- The upcoming WSIS+20 review offers a crucial opportunity to reassess global governance structures and better integrate legal and technical approaches. It invites reflection on how far multistakeholder processes have come and where alignment with international law could be strengthened.

- The “broad” definition of Internet governance formulated by the WGIG and adopted at Tunis still holds up despite the technological changes and new issues that have arisen in the past twenty years. The WGIG demonstrated the value and viability of real multistakeholder decision-making in the UN context. Its model could be used to address other issue areas on which governments are uncertain or deadlocked and a new approach is needed e.g. data and AI governance.
- The WSIS Review should facilitate real multistakeholder engagement (including between stakeholders and governments) and establish stronger multistakeholder arrangements for future follow-up and implementation efforts.
- The IGF needs to be preserved as a venue for effective conversations on the governance of the technical layer of the Internet while also creating the space for multi-stakeholder engagement on emerging digital governance challenges.

Global AI cooperation

- Multistakeholder and cross-sector collaboration is vital to ensure AI contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). AI must be governed with human rights at the core. AI systems should support sustainable development, promote gender equality, and reflect cultural diversity.
- Inclusive, multistakeholder approaches to AI governance should involve civil society, independent experts, and underrepresented communities to ensure governance models are not dominated by authoritarian or purely commercial interests.
- Local AI ecosystems will be instrumental in empowering diverse communities to shape the future of technology. Global efforts must prioritize the development of local language AI and culturally relevant datasets to empower underrepresented communities in shaping international AI governance frameworks.
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships should be strengthened to enhance digital skills and develop trustworthy AI systems, thereby fostering inclusive adoption across diverse global contexts.