15th Annual Internet Governance Forum
Structure of the High-Level Leaders Track: *Internet Governance in the Age of Uncertainty*
9 – 17 November 2020

The IGF 2020 high-level leaders track will be hosted from 9-17 November (excluding the weekend). It will focus on the overall theme: **Internet Governance in the Age of Uncertainty**.

Overall Structure
The track will be composed of five sessions, each discussing specific aspects of the above-indicated overall theme.

Format
Each session will take the form of an interactive dialogue among high-level discussants from different stakeholder groups, including from governments, private sector, civil society and technical communities from different regions. It will be moderated by a well-experienced moderator.

Outcome
The main reflections and take-aways from each session *(e.g. key issues raised, good practices mentioned, recommendations, etc.)* will be included into a compendium as one of the IGF 2020 output documents.

Further below is the structure of the track's sessions with possible policy questions, subject to speaker's further suggestions.

Session Focus *(title to be defined)*	Date and Time
Opening session: Internet for human resilience and solidarity	9 November, 14:00-15:30 UTC
Health implications of the role of Internet governance in the age of uncertainty	11 November, 08:00-09:30 UTC
Economic implications of the role of Internet governance in the age of uncertainty	12 November, 10:40-12:10 UTC
Security implications of the role of Internet governance in the age of uncertainty	13 November, 18:30-20:00 UTC
Social development implications of the role of Internet governance in the age of uncertainty	16 November, 15:40-17:10 UTC
Environmental implications of the role of Internet governance in the age of uncertainty	17 November, 16:00-17:00 UTC
Closing session: High-Level Wrap-up: Role of Internet governance in the age of uncertainty	17 November, 17:20-18:50 UTC

Opening Session
Internet for human resilience and solidarity
9 November, 14:00-15:30 UTC

The meeting will open with reflections to some of the most emerging challenges that people face worldwide and how digital technologies and policy can help our societies to become more resilient. This dialogue could focus on specificities within the following policy guiding questions:

- *In which areas of people's lives we see the biggest impact of digital transformation?*
- *Role of digital technologies and policy for sustainable development*
- *Are we leaving anyone behind? Concrete actions to bridge digital divide and increase digital literacy*

Session I
Health implications of the role of Internet governance in the age of uncertainty
11 November, 08:00-09:30 UTC

This session aims at discussing the role of the digital public policy in preserving and improving the global public health in emergency situations. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic has shown that the deployment of digital technologies can make our societies more resilient to these global health threats. However, the benefits have come with concerns when ineffective digital policies are in place or there is insufficient digital literacy among citizens. Possible policy areas to be addressed during this session could relate to:

1. *Role of the Internet and digital technologies for improving people's health*
2. *Challenges and future of telemedicine*
3. *Cross-sectional data for global public health*
4. *Online communication for health, role of social media and combating 'infodemic'*
5. *Local and global multistakeholder responses to deployment of digital public policy for public health*

Session II
Economic implications of the role of Internet governance in the age of uncertainty
12 November, 10:40-12:10 UTC

When faced with emergency situations, such as the current COVID-19 pandemic, the economies of countries are usually severely affected. The use of digital technologies can help reduce the harm, for instance through placing more importance on digital trade and remote working.
But, digitization processes in economic areas also come with concerns related to accessibility, inequality and security, to name the few.

Possible policy areas to be addressed during this session could relate to:

- *Role of the Internet in economic recovery during/post emergency situations*
- *Shaping local and global digital economy policies*

- *Supporting small and medium businesses*
- *Digital cooperation for improving trade and jobs*
- *Future of work*

Session III
Security implications of the role of Internet governance in the age of uncertainty
13 November, 18:30-20:00 UTC

Emergency situations affecting people worldwide usually bring significant increase in cyberattacks and cybercrimes. The current COVID-19 pandemic proved that as well, by many organizations reporting attacks on their online infrastructure, fraud, phishing etc.
The world has noticed a surge in the Internet usage during the pandemic. More people are exposed to insecure online environment consequences, making already vulnerable groups even more vulnerable. On a positive side, stakeholders across disciplines are more and more investing efforts in recognizing the cause of harms and recommending or deciding on innovative digital policy ways to advance online security and safety.

Possible policy areas to be addressed during this session could relate to:

1. *Priority concerns for online environment*
2. *Actions taken to combat cybersecurity threats*
3. *Stakeholder cooperation for global cybersecurity policies*
4. *Support to vulnerable and marginalized groups*

Session IV
Social development implications of the role of Internet governance in the age of uncertainty
16 November, 15:40-17:10 UTC

In the emergency situations, such as various natural disasters or the current COVID-19 pandemic, people's lives, cultures and our planet overall, are affected. This can force the traditional forms of education or work to transition to digital. Cultural institutions are also affected to the extent that natural disasters can destroy historic and cultural sites or make them inaccessible. In addition, our overall environment is changing in these unprecedented conditions.

Possible policy areas to be addressed during this session could relate to:

1. *Digital innovations for social development in education, agriculture and industry*
2. *Local and global policies for deployment of digital technologies for people's wellbeing*
3. *Vulnerable and marginalized groups: how can digital technologies help their societal inclusion and welling?*
4. *Digital technologies for our environment: combating climate change and working for 'greener' future*
5. *Role of the Internet and digital policy for developing solidarity-based policies*

Session V
Environmental implications of the role of Internet governance in the age of uncertainity
17 November, 16:00-17:00 UTC

During the United Nations Environmental Assembly in 2019, countries of the world called on the UN to develop and implement a Global Environmental Data Strategy by 2025.[1]

The current vision for the Global Environmental Data Strategy is to improve planetary health and human wellbeing by accelerating the development of a trusted global data ecosystem for people and planet. This would unlock the full potential of key data held by public and private sector actors and citizen scientists for better decisions and decisive action on the environment. The strategy is intended to inspire and set forth a new data-driven culture, where environmental data is seen as a strategic asset and digital public good. Among other uses, it seeks to harness environmental data to drive transformative changes in three key pillars of the economy: financing and investments, supply chain management and consumer behaviours. The aim is to connect data to maximum impact across the entire international environmental governance framework.

Possible policy areas to be addressed during this session could relate to:

1. *Who should own environmental data and how can it be managed as a digital public good?*
2. *What core principles should inform a global environmental data strategy?*
3. *What safeguards are needed for public-private partnership generating environmental data?*
4. *How can environmental data help us navigate a world of uncertainty and contribute to resilience?*

Closing Session
High-Level Wrap-up: Role of Internet governance in the age of uncertainty
17 November, 17:20-18:50 UTC

The high-level leaders' track will be concluded by a high-level wrap-up of the most critical aspects of people's lives when affected by emergency situations and the role of digital technologies and related policies.

Possible policy areas to be addressed during this session could relate to:

1. *Digital technologies for overcoming consequences of emergency situations*
2. *Specific challenges of marginalized groups in these situations and how can digital policy help*
3. *Ways forward: global digital policy for wellbeing of people*

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[1] https://undocs.org/UNEP/EA.4/Res.23