



Draft IGF 2020 Summary¹

*Fifteenth Meeting of Internet Governance Forum
2-17 November 2020*

Draft issued 17 November 2020

IGF 2020 at a Glance

When	Phase 1: 2-6 November 2020 Phase 2: 9-17 November 2020
Overarching theme	Internet for human resilience and solidarity
4 interlinked main themes informing work programme	Data Environment Inclusion Trust
New to this year's IGF	Youth Summit Environment as a main theme Overarching policy questions to guide thematic tracks
IGF 2020 in numbers	6136 participants from 173 countries 275 sessions

¹ This draft IGF 2020 Summary has been produced by the IGF Secretariat

2 Introduction to IGF 2020

In 2020, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is midway through its second 10-year mandate, granted by the UN General Assembly in 2015 as part of the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS).

This year, the fifteenth IGF brought together representatives from governments, the technical and academic communities, business, civil society and intergovernmental organisations to discuss advancing a range of Internet-related policy issues. IGF 2020, the fifteenth time the IGF was convened since its establishment in 2005, is the first entirely online IGF, as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the overarching theme, “Internet for human resilience and solidarity”, the IGF 2020 provided a substantive multistakeholder platform for engaged and informed discussions about policy issues pertaining to the Internet, amplifying digital cooperation and how the Internet can support and fulfil the nexus of respecting human rights and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The discussions took place under four thematic tracks:

- Data
- Environment
- Inclusion
- Trust

In addition, in light of the United Nations Secretary-General’s Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, the topic of global digital cooperation featured prominently throughout the meeting.

For information on IGF 2020, see:

<https://www.intgovforum.org/vlGF>

3 IGF 2020 by the Numbers

12 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Phase 1: 2-6 November 2020▪ Phase 2: 9-17 November 2020▪ Open Mic and feedback session: 25 November 2020▪ In total: 355 hours 30 minutes of online meetings and webinars
6136 registrations from 173 countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Government: 16.5%▪ Legislators: 1.2%▪ Intergovernmental Organisation: 9%▪ Civil Society: 39.8%▪ Technical Community: 15.2%▪ Private Sector: 18.1%▪ Press/Media: 0.2%

275 sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 84 workshops ▪ 8 High-level/ceremonial sessions ▪ 7 Main sessions ▪ 80 Pre-events ▪ 7 National, Regional and Youth IGF initiative (NRI) collaborative sessions ▪ 27 Open Forums ▪ 4 Best Practice Forum (BPF) sessions ▪ 18 Dynamic Coalition (DC) sessions ▪ 7 Youth sessions (summit + flash talks) ▪ 28 Networking sessions ▪ 71 IGF virtual village booths ▪ 1 Introduction and orientation session ▪ 1 Open mic and feedback session
Preparation processes for IGF 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 49 Members of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) ▪ 1 Face-to-face Open Consultation and MAG Meeting ▪ 1 Virtual Open Consultation and MAG Meeting ▪ 21 Virtual MAG meetings ▪ 4 MAG Working Groups

4 What Made IGF 2020 Unique

4.1 In brief

- The first ever entirely online IGF.
- Discussions about the Internet have a unique importance in this year of the COVID-19 pandemic, when so much of our lives and economies have moved online.
- IGF 2020 has taken place in the year when the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation has been released. In the roadmap, the Secretary-General recommends the strengthening of IGF via the "IGF plus" model.
- The first ever Youth Summit was held in Phase 1, and youth have been integrated into the IGF programme via youth flash sessions and were represented in the high-level leaders track in Phase 2.
- Environmental issues were a main theme for the first time at an IGF – a topic of particular importance if the world is to achieve the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- The first ever call for voluntary commitments from IGF participants to further the goals of the IGF was issued.
- New documentation and processes to aid participant and stakeholder understanding before, during and after the IGF 2020.

4.2 In detail

4.2.1 The first ever entirely online IGF.

Like many events in this year of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IGF had to change plans and move online. This decision was made in June 2020. For IGF, this was a natural

progression, given the Internet is the reason for the IGF's creation. IGF 2020 also had a motto reflecting this all online meeting: "Virtually together".

4.2.2 Discussions about the Internet have a unique importance in this year of the COVID-19 pandemic, when so much of our lives and economies have moved online.

The Internet Governance Forum has always developed the content of its annual meetings around the most pressing issues of the day. However, in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened the world's reliance on the Internet and shone a brighter light on the reality that issues of Internet governance are not just about the Internet, but are now intimately linked to people's everyday lives and to the full breadth of other governance issues not traditionally viewed as having an Internet-dimension.

4.2.3 IGF 2020 has taken place in the year when the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation has been released. In the roadmap, the Secretary-General recommends the strengthening of IGF via the "IGF plus" model.

The UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation has supported strengthening of the IGF as a way to contribute to building a more effective architecture for global digital cooperation. As part of this year's Phase 2 programme of discussions, there was a main session dedicated to the topic of digital cooperation, and many sessions throughout the programme also touched on the relationship between the wider concept of digital cooperation and the specific global cooperation mechanisms that the IGF supports. For more information on the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, see:

<https://www.un.org/en/content/digital-cooperation-roadmap/>

4.2.4 The first ever Youth Summit was held in Phase 1, and youth have been integrated into the IGF programme via youth flash sessions and were represented in the high-level leaders track in Phase 2.

Through the Summit, young people from different parts of the world, discussed ways for connecting the next generation of the Internet users and called for advancing traditional education systems through digital innovation.

4.2.5 Environmental issues are a main theme for the first time at an IGF – a topic of particular importance if the world is to achieve the goals of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Several workshops have addressed environmental concerns at previous IGFs, but they have not been prominent at the IGF in the past. Where environment-linked issues have been raised, they have mostly been discussed in the wider context of the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. 2020 was the first year that environmental issues have been given priority and had a main session and high-level leaders session dedicated to the issue.

4.2.6 The first ever call for voluntary commitments from IGF participants to further the goals of the IGF was issued.

All stakeholders - governments, the private sector, the technical community, IGOs, civil society organisations and individual actors - were invited to make a voluntary commitment of an action to be carried out during the 2021 cycle (through to IGF 2021) or beyond, that are supportive of achieving or implementing IGF objectives or action areas related to the Secretary-General's Roadmap.

4.2.7 New documentation and processes to aid participant and stakeholder understanding before, during and after the IGF 2020.

In the leadup to IGF 2020, the IGF Secretariat produced, for the first time, a Guide to IGF 2020 Issues and Themes. The guide contains overviews of each of the thematic tracks, as well as overarching policy questions to help guide the discussion on the themes throughout the many and varied, more specific topics under discussion in individual sessions.

To strengthen communication of session outcomes directly from session organisers, participants and rapporteurs, Key Takeaways documented in session reports were directly distributed to Internet governance stakeholders via social media.

New social media channels have also debuted during IGF 2020.

Four thematic track Twitter accounts aimed at making it easier to follow sessions within each track, including Key Takeaways from those sessions, and to create more targeted and ongoing engagement with Internet governance stakeholders on the issues under discussion.

https://twitter.com/igf_data
https://twitter.com/igf_environment
https://twitter.com/igf_inclusion
https://twitter.com/igf_trust

A new Instagram account. The Instagram account is an additional way to attract and engage youth participation in IGF.

<https://www.instagram.com/intgovforum/>

5 Phase 1

IGF 2020 was split into two phases when it moved from being a physical meeting to a virtual meeting. Phase 1 contained just under 150 sessions that can loosely be considered “like-minded communities of interest”. Unlike the workshops and main sessions taking place in Phase 2, Phase 1 sessions included sessions organised by specific entities or communities that have coalesced around specific issues:

- **Pre-events.** These are organised by entities or processes that choose to co-locate their events at the same time as IGF. In physical meetings, these are known as “Day Zero” events, but were spread over the five days of Phase 1, so were renamed “pre-events”.

- **Dynamic Coalitions.** Dynamic Coalitions, which date back to the very first IGF in 2006, are year-round community bottom-up intersessional activities. Many Dynamic Coalitions choose to hold their main meeting of the year during the IGF.
- **Open Forums.** These sessions are held by governments, treaty-based international organisations, and global organisations with international scope and presence, with operations across regions, dealing with Internet governance-related issues. Open Forums are an opportunity to discuss their work on Internet governance-related matters.
- **NRI Collaborative Sessions.** These are an opportunity for National, Regional, Sub-regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) to discuss Internet issues of common interest and compare experiences.
- **Youth Summit.** The Summit offers youth from around the world a platform to discuss ideas and concerns related to the use, evolution and governance of the Internet.
- **Networking sessions.** The Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and the Secretariat organised sessions to enable participants to interact informally with representatives of intersessional processes and the MAG, and included coffee/tea breaks where participants could communicate with one another in languages other than English. Participants were also able to book networking time slots online.

The four Best Practice Forums (BPFs) for 2020 announced their draft outputs on the first day of Phase 1.

6 Phase 2

The sessions held in Phase 2 fell into the following categories:

- **High-Level Leaders' Track.** High-level leaders from all stakeholder groups discussed the role the Internet and digital technologies can play in mitigating the impact of emergencies, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, on a range of issues, including the economy, health and security. The High-Level Leaders' Track was, in particular, used to increase engagement with other United Nations processes.
- **Parliamentary Roundtable.** Building on the success of the IGF 2019 parliamentary roundtable, this year's roundtable focused on "Building trust in a time of COVID-19 response and post-COVID-19 recovery".
- **Main Sessions.** The main sessions focused on the four main themes of this year's IGF, as well as digital cooperation. Two other main sessions showcased the intersessional work of the NRIs focused on the role of the Internet in emergencies and DCs focused on the post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.
- **Workshops.** Workshops are the core set of multistakeholder-organised sessions at the IGF. Workshops must include a wide range of stakeholder group and geographic representation, as well as gender balanced panels.
- **Best Practice Forum (BPF) Sessions.** The four BPFs held sessions to make progress on the draft outcomes from their intersessional work in 2020.
- **Networking sessions.** These continued from Phase 1.

7 Strengthening Links with United Nations Processes

IGF deliberations have long contributed to the discussions taking place every year at the United Nations General Assembly in New York at the United Nations Headquarters. IGF has existing relationships with the Second and Third Committees:

- IGF is regularly referred to in the resolutions of the Second Committee (Economic & Financial), such as resolutions on Information and Communications Technologies for Sustainable Development.
- Discussions in IGF sessions on cyber threats, including cybercrime, inform the discussions at the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues).
- IGF began engaging with the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee) in 2019, via input from the BPF on Cybersecurity to the Open-Ended Working Group.

In 2020, following on from engagement in 2019 with the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, the IGF has been engaged with the United Nations Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation via:

- The direct engagement of the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, in conjunction with the Secretariat
- The MAG Working Group on Strengthening and Strategy
- A series of online discussions held as part of an initiative by the MAG Chair, in conjunction with the MAG Working Group on Strengthening and Strategy
- A "fifth track" at IGF 2020 on the theme of digital cooperation

8 Overarching theme of 15th IGF: Internet for human resilience and solidarity

IGF 2020 has been held in the year of a global pandemic, when, given the need for physical distancing to contain the spread of COVID-19 as much as possible, large portions of the world have turned to the Internet for work, for social and cultural activities, for collecting and sharing data about the virus, and for education. If the state of Internet connectivity and services had not been as advanced as it currently is, the impact of the virus would have been much worse for people's lives, for economies, and for tracking and tracing potential contacts with the virus. However, much of the world remains unconnected, or poorly connected, and many billions of the world's people were not able to move their lives online during the pandemic. The overarching theme of IGF 2020 developed by the MAG, therefore, has an immediacy of impact that no previous IGF overarching theme has had and has been the common thread through the vast majority of sessions during Phases 1 and 2 of the meeting.

9 IGF 2020 Messages

As has become the custom at the last few IGF meetings, for the IGF Secretariat to provide a high-level overview for decision-makers of the most current thinking on key Internet governance issues, discussions from 200 sessions held during IGF 2020 have been distilled into IGF 2020 Messages on the four main themes. The IGF 2020 Messages are available at:

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-messages>

In addition, this summary highlights key messages that came out of the High-Level Leaders Track and the main sessions on the core themes of this year's IGF.

9.1 High-Level Leaders Track Messages

The High-Level Leaders Track brought together some of the world's most prominent experts and leaders from all stakeholder groups to discuss the role of Internet governance in the age of uncertainty. The sessions included in this track discussed how Internet and digital policy can support COVID-19 recovery efforts in the areas of health, security, economy, social development and environment.

Opening High-Level Session

- The devastating impact of COVID-19 has laid bare the importance of the Internet and digital technologies for our daily livelihoods and has accelerated digitalisation processes worldwide. It is essential that these processes continue, through the engagement of all stakeholders.
- The COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted profound digital inequalities. To fulfil the role of the Internet as a global public good serving to achieve inclusive and sustainable development, universal access is essential. The key challenge is to determine the frameworks for how this should be done, and how it should be financed.
- There is a need for adequate investment in infrastructure, but also for affordable access and connectivity. Some approaches to achieve this include community connectivity models and shifting some of the investments from roads and bridges to Internet connectivity.
- The need to invest in human capital is equally important. Investing in digital literacy and capacity development for all – and in particular for vulnerable communities – is key to ensuring meaningful access.
- Focused efforts are needed to ensure that national and global digital governance processes keep up with the pace of accelerating technological change. Effective digital governance cannot exist without truly inclusive, participatory and multistakeholder approaches.
- Global digital cooperation mechanisms need to be strengthened. The international community can jointly collaborate on an equal footing, with different roles, responsibilities and areas of expertise. Going beyond geopolitical debates to enable more effective public-private partnerships is also important.

Health

- The digitalisation of healthcare systems must be a priority around the world, to ensure that more people have access to better and more efficient services. Actions to be taken include sustained investments, the development and implementation of adequate policy frameworks, enhanced public-private partnerships, and cooperation mechanisms that include decision makers, experts, care-givers and care-receivers.
- Stakeholders need to continue their actions aimed at fighting health-related disinformation and misinformation. More awareness-raising among citizens and the accelerated distribution of accurate and reliable information are key.
- Trust is essential for the success of digital health systems. This can be achieved through policy frameworks and standards that balance the use of open and big data with respecting everyone's rights and freedoms, as well as through transparency in the operation of systems and applications, and in the development and implementation of policies.
- Each country needs to have its national digital health strategy, carefully tailored to their people's needs, existing conditions, capacity and desired goals. This would help facilitate guided, structured action toward improving the health system.
- Only by meaningfully connecting people, digital health services and tools can be equally available to all. This calls for firm investment in infrastructure and digital literacy and skills among people.

Economy

- The benefits of digital technologies need to be brought to all sectors in an efficient and resilient way. At the same time, solutions to manage risks associated with digitalisation processes have to be incorporated from the onset. For instance, while the free flow of data is considered beneficial worldwide, ensuring a balance between the rights of people and the interests of businesses should be carefully considered.
- There is a need for a clear policy framework on taxation of digital goods and services. Taxation should be used to redistribute income and welfare but should not penalise small business and digital startups. Globally, a balance needs to be formed between countries which are the drivers of digital business and countries which are broadly digital consumers.
- Policymakers need to incentivise innovative business models and practices, including social enterprises. Investing in digital literacy is also important, especially to enable the reskilling and upskilling of workers. And policies and needed to support a more active engagement of women in the digital economy.
- While countries with proper e-commerce infrastructure enjoy the benefits of online trade, there is still a clear need for better e-commerce frameworks and infrastructures in developing countries.
- In supporting the growth of an inclusive digital economy, macroeconomic and fiscal policies tools are needed to promote innovation, stimulating job creation, and eradicate poverty.
- International cooperation plays a critical role in strengthening consumer protection, particularly during the urgency of the pandemic. Also, a dialogue with stakeholders is fundamental to enable e-trade principles, including with regard to data management and cybersecurity.

Security

- Digital technology is helping us to ensure continuity thanks to a robust infrastructure. As with every crisis, during COVID-19 cybersecurity issues spike and new vulnerabilities arise, but the infrastructure and technologies are standing the stress test. We can be proud, but should not take it for granted.
- The increase of cyber incidents during COVID-19 is raising deep concerns on how threats can impact parts of critical infrastructures. Secretary-General Guterres has called on the international community to address these threats, including the ones affecting the provisions of health services, for example, cyber-attacks against hospitals.
- Cyber has never been more important and dialogue about cyber has never been more crucial. Fortunately, due to globalisation, there is more flexibility to find ways to cooperate. If all agree that this is a global challenge, and that some sectors, such as health, need to be safeguarded and cannot be attacked, work can start through bubbles of trust, diplomacy, international cooperation and norm-building.
- The COVID-19 crisis encouraged a massive uptake of digitalisation, in particular by SMEs, increasing the potential impact of cyber-attacks in the supply chain and economy. Cyber-vulnerabilities have become a classic risk for business that needs to be managed, but we also need to recognise that it is a global problem that needs to be addressed through multistakeholder cooperation and dialogue.
- There is growing awareness and agreement in both developed and developing countries that cybersecurity is an economic, technical, policy, human rights, foreign affairs issue and so on, that requires capacity building to develop national strategies, and policy and institutional capacities, including the training of “cyber diplomats”, to allow countries to get involved in international cybersecurity dialogues at the United Nations and elsewhere.
- The implementation of normative frameworks is equally important as developing and having them in place. We need to continue to explore what can be done better, including how multistakeholder input can help to improve the work, or how work done in different fora can be coordinated.

Social development

- Consolidated multistakeholder efforts are needed to democratise access to the Internet and digital services and ensure that vulnerable and marginalised groups (e.g. women, minorities, people in remote areas) can benefit from the opportunities that the Internet and digital technologies have to offer. Being excluded from Internet connectivity means being shut out of the 21st century. In order to have equality, we need equal access to the digital world.
- Multistakeholder partnerships are needed at the national and international level to build infrastructures and policies that accelerate the use of digital technologies to build back better and achieve sustainable development.
- People need to be put at the centre of technological progress; they should not only learn how to master technologies, but also be involved in shaping the technological revolution.
- There is a need for a common approach at the international level on how to put in place regulatory frameworks that address the potential risks of digital technologies. It is important to acknowledge that technologies should enhance human rights and dignity, and not undermine them. At the same time, Internet-related regulations need to consider the architecture and fundamental properties of the Internet, and preserve its ability to enable permissionless innovation and to deliver new social and economic opportunities for people.
- Tech companies should gain an in-depth understanding of the needs and priorities of governments and societies prior to devising tech solutions to respond to them. They should also work together with the governments and the targeted communities to address those needs.
- Currently, the potential of data to contribute to sustainable development is not sufficiently tapped into. Addressing this challenge requires (1) regulatory frameworks that create fair competition and guarantee trust; (2) cultural changes within institutions and companies to enable interoperability and data sharing; and (3) the democratisation of data production and use, so that users themselves set their own terms and make their own decisions on how their data is used.

9.2 IGF 2020 Main Session Messages on the Thematic Tracks

In line with the IGF 2020 thematic tracks, the MAG has developed a series of main sessions intended to explore key policy questions around issues of data, environment, inclusion and trust. As digital cooperation was a cross-cutting theme, a main session was also dedicated to this topic. Responding to feedback from previous IGF meetings, no other sessions were held in parallel with the main sessions.

Data

- The COVID-19 pandemic revealed that even though many governments and private sector entities had data frameworks and policies, they were not adequate during a crisis, when data needed to be shared in real-time and needed a high degree of accuracy.
- Accuracy in data collection, particularly in times of crisis, does not have to compromise privacy, whether it be personal privacy or the collective privacy of society.
- Establishing legal and ethical frameworks for information processing are vital for establishing transparency and accountability and for preventing data-driven technologies from deepening existing inequalities. These frameworks underpin the notion of informed consent – individuals can make meaningful decisions about data sharing knowing that their data will not be used for purposes other than stated purposes.

- The benefits of data-driven technologies should be accessible to all, not just governments and the private sector, but also to communities and individuals. To enable this, people need access to digital devices and connectivity, as well as the digital literacy skills to make full use of data-driven technologies.

Environment

- The Internet and digital technologies collectively consume vast amounts of power to run them, and to date, the energy and resources consumed by these technologies have not yet been offset by the advantages of using these technologies to address climate change and other environmental issues.
- Achieving digital environmental sustainability is a large, complex task that requires the action of all stakeholders.
- To implement a circular economy in the digital technologies sector, there needs to be commitment throughout the supply chain, and data on the environmental impact at all stages of the lifecycle needs to be collected, analysed and acted upon.
- It was proposed that the private sector switch the model of market consumption from the current perception of owning a piece of equipment to framing it as a loan to future generations and the environment.
- Sharing data collected and analysed at national, regional and global scales will enable a better understanding of environmental trends, including responses to efforts to address environmental degradation and climate change.

Inclusion

- Meaningful and inclusive Internet access should be a guiding principle for all policies and initiatives focused on addressing the digital divide. Meaningful access means that users have access to the Internet constantly, with enough data, a fast connection, and an appropriate device. It also means that users are able to access content and services (especially local) that are relevant to their needs and realities. Policies focused on enabling such access need to be anchored into local contexts.
- Governments need to revise policy and regulatory frameworks to ensure they enable alternative solutions to filling in connectivity gaps in remote areas (especially those not covered by traditional operators). More relaxed spectrum policies, for instance, would benefit community networks and small rural operators. Capacity building is also important for local communities who build their networks, to ensure that they have the skills and knowledge to build and run safe and sustainable infrastructures.
- Multistakeholder cooperation is key in devising and implementing public-interest-driven policies, strategies and initiatives focused on making the Internet affordable, sustainable and useful for all. Creative ways to achieve meaningful global access should be encouraged.
- More resources (including financial) are needed to support the development of digital skills which go beyond how to use devices and access the Internet, and also focus on empowering people to use the Internet in a safe and meaningful way, while exercising critical thinking.

Trust

- The global cross-border nature of the Internet is challenging the notion of sovereignties. Collaboration across borders is becoming the new normal.
- Most actors, be it businesses, SMEs, research institutions, or the civil society want to have the possibility to be their own masters when it comes to data, technological development, and new business models.
- The old rules of scarcity and control are losing significance in a data driven economy, and discussions should focus on data as a shared resource to enable social and economic development.

- Personal data is only one of many types of data, industrial data being another example. While sovereignty and data localisation discussions often focus on controlling data for political ends, there is also a legitimate rationale for data localisation or at least data control in order to develop economies.
- The implementation and adoption at national level of existing norms, frameworks and charters is still minimal. Many developing countries are not involved in negotiations on digital sovereignty. Efforts are needed to reflect the perspective and interests of local communities and nations.
- People-centered approaches and trust are important ingredients for the discussion on digital sovereignty. People's data must be treated in a transparent way, and individuals must know what purpose their data is serving.
- Some countries lack the protection provided by the constitution or rights and legal frameworks, such as anti-hate speech legislation.
- The Internet was designed to encourage global interconnectivity and to be oblivious to international borders. Getting as many people, devices and networks as possible connected, was and continues to be the goal. The Internet's development should not be tailored to the requirements of any particular jurisdiction. The small set of core infrastructure that maintains the global unity of the Internet should not be threatened by attempts that could result in fragmentation.

Digital Cooperation

- There is a need for global digital cooperation more than ever: digital divides are deepening, rather than being bridged.
- IGF as a multistakeholder forum has been an effective mechanism for disseminating good practices and generating capacity building initiatives among participants who meet at the IGF, exchange information and ideas, and then work on implementable solutions in between IGF meetings. As such, it is a good model for how to conduct multistakeholder digital cooperation in ways that lead to actionable outcomes.
- While the Internet now underpins so much of the world's social, economic, cultural and other activities, it is important not to take the Internet's development, or its governance frameworks, for granted. The Internet may have started as a network allowing open exchange of information and innovation, but more recent trends suggest that fragmentation could become the new normal, unless stakeholders engage and work towards a framework of global digital cooperation that benefits all.
- The work by the Secretary-General's office to take forward the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation is already producing outcomes, with partnerships beginning to emerge after the online roundtables that have been held and governments committing to be champions for various aspects of the roadmap.
- The IGF isn't just a once-a-year event, but has a range of intersessional processes, and stakeholders should be encouraged to continue the discussions and activities between annual events.
- There is value in IGF's facilitation of policy discussions, not necessarily with concrete outcomes emerging in every case, as there is no other space that provides a similar space for sharing ideas and raising issues in an open and frank manner. IGF can both maintain that function, while also finding more concrete ways to move forward on issues.

10 Documentation and Outputs by Session Participants

Session organisers were asked to submit short reports of the outcome of discussions from their sessions within 12 hours of the session ending. These reports are available at:

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/igf-2020-reports>

In addition, compilations from the session reports are available for:

- **Key takeaways**

Session organisers were requested to document their own version of messages, “key takeaways” resulting from their sessions’ discussions. A compilation of these takeaways is available at:

https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/10794/2351

- **Policy Recommendations and Suggested Ways Forward**

To make it easier for policy makers to identify policy recommendations and proposals for ways to move forward on a range of Internet-related policy issues, a compilation of recommendations from session reports is available at:

https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/10794/2350

10.1 Youth Summit

The Youth Summit produced draft messages that were available for comment by session participants through to 17 November. The final version of the Youth Summit messages are available at:

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-youth-summit-messages>

10.2 Parliamentary Roundtable

Continuing a practice that was introduced at IGF 2019, a parliamentary roundtable was hosted this year in cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union. Members of parliaments from around the world came together to discuss ways of building trust during and beyond the COVID-19 crisis. The output document crafted with the input from engaged parliamentarians is available at:

https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/9615/2349

11 IGF 2020 Voluntary Commitments

Following the examples of voluntary commitments encouraged as part of other UN processes,² and taking into consideration the United Nations Secretary-General’s call to action on his Roadmap for Digital Cooperation as well as the call for champions for the eight action areas in the Roadmap, IGF 2020, supported by UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), initiated a call for voluntary commitments (actions or pledges) to forward the goals of the Internet Governance Forum and the Roadmap for Digital Cooperation:

² Such as the call for voluntary commitments at the Ocean Conference, The Sendai Framework Voluntary Commitments online platform (VC platform), the SDG Acceleration Actions, and the World Humanitarian Summit,

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020%E2%80%8E-call-for-voluntary-commitments%C2%A0>

All stakeholders – governments, the private sector, the technical community and academia, IGOs, civil society organisations and individual actors – were invited to make a voluntary commitment of an action to be carried out during the 2021 cycle (through to IGF 2021) or beyond, that are supportive of achieving or implementing IGF objectives or action areas related to the Secretary-General’s Roadmap.

A compilation of voluntary commitments received to date is available at:

https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/10794/2352

12 IGF 2020 Intersessional Work Tracks

12.1 Best Practice Forums

There were four IGF Best Practice Forums (BPFs) in the leadup to IGF 2020. The four BPFs announced the draft reports during Phase 1:

Cybersecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Background paper: <i>What Cybersecurity Policymaking Can Learn from Normative Principles in Global Governance</i> https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/10387/2252▪ Research paper: <i>Exploring Best Practices in Relation to International Cybersecurity Agreements</i> https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/10387/2253 <p>BPF home page: https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-cybersecurity</p>
Gender and Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Draft report - <i>Gender at the Internet Governance Forum</i> https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/5004/2319 <p>BPF home page: https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-gender-and-access</p>
Data and New Technologies in an Internet Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Draft report: <i>A dialogue on how users’ data is collected, analysed and used, and best practices to ensure that this data is used to bring benefit and not to harm users</i> https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/9655/2323 <p>BPF home page: https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-internet-of-things-iot-big-data-and-artificial-intelligence-ai</p>

Local Content

- Draft report: *Local and indigenous content in the digital space: Protection, preservation and sustainability of creative work and traditional knowledge*

https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/5005/2321

BPF home page:

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-on-local-content>

Following feedback received during IGF 2020 sessions held by the BPFs, the papers will be finalised and published by the end of the year.

In addition to the BPF activities, there was an intersessional process to review the past IGF Best Practice Forums (2014–2019) to enhance future BPF work. The final report, including suggestions and recommendations for BPFs in future, is available at:

https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/3405/2212

12.2 Dynamic Coalitions

IGF Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) continued their work as independent, multistakeholder expert discussion groups on a variety of topics, respecting common standards of transparency and inclusiveness (open archives, open membership, open mailing lists). Four new Dynamic Coalitions were recognised by the IGF Secretariat since IGF 2019. In total, there are now 23 active Dynamic Coalitions.

12.3 National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives

More than 130 National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) used a bottom-up consultative process to agree on the topic, “Role of the Internet in Emergency Situations”, as a main priority issue for NRI discussion at IGF 2020. In addition, based on national and regional discussions held in NRIs in the leadup to the meeting, NRIs organised seven collaborative sessions on topics of mutual interest:

- Cybersecurity
- Data
- Future of jobs
- Digital economy
- Content regulation
- Access and digital inclusion
- Digital rights

An NRIs Coordination Session will be held after IGF 2020, in which all interested NRIs will meet with the representatives of the UN DESA, MAG, IGF Secretariat and wider IGF community.

More information about the intersessional work of the IGF is available in Annex B.

13 Annex A: IGF 2020 Statistics

13.1 Breakdown of Registrations

Data accurate as of 16 November. Final statistics will be included in the final version of the Summary of IGF 2020.

By stakeholder (percentage)		By region (percentage)	
Government	16.5%	African Group	16%
Legislator	1.2%	Asia-Pacific Group	17%
Intergovernmental Organisation	9%	Eastern European Group	12%
Civil Society	39.8%	Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)	13%
Private Sector	18.1%	Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	34%
Technical Community	15.2%	Intergovernmental Organisation	8%
Press/Media	0.2%		

○

By gender (percentage)		Newcomers (percentage)	
Female	47.7%	Newcomers	59.2%
Male	52.4%		
Other	0.9%		

13.2 Remote Hubs

27 remote hubs registered

- Represented 4 regions
- 52% from Africa
- 11% from Latin America and Caribbean
- 18% from Asia Pacific
- 18% from WEOG
- 0% from Eastern Europe
- Multiple hubs in Nigeria and UK

14 Annex B: Documentation and Process

IGF 2020 website
<https://www.intgovforum.org/IGF>

14.1 IGF 2020 Outputs

IGF 2020 outputs, including IGF 2020 messages, session reports, press releases, and IGF participant statements, can be found at:

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-outputs>

14.2 IGF 2020 Session Reports, Recordings and Transcripts

Reports <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/igf-2020-reports>

Transcripts <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/igf-2020-transcripts>

Recordings <https://www.youtube.com/user/igf/videos>

14.3 IGF 2020 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:

Best Practice Forums (BPFs)

Cybersecurity <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-cybersecurity>

Gender and Access <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-gender-and-access>

Data and New Technologies in an Internet Context <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-internet-of-things-iot-big-data-and-artificial-intelligence-ai>

Local Content <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-on-local-content>

For information on the review conducted during 2020 of past IGF Best Practice Forums, 2014-2019, to enhance future BPF work, see final the following report:

https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/filedepot_download/3405/2212

Dynamic Coalitions (DCs)

<https://www.intgovforum.org>

Accessibility and Disability	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-accessibility-and-disability-1
Blockchain Technologies	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-blockchain-technologies-0
Child Online Safety	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-child-online-safety-1
Community Connectivity	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-community-connectivity-0
Core Internet Values	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-core-internet-values-2
Data and Trust*	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-data-and-trust-dc-dt
Data Driven Health Technologies*	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-data-driven-health-technologies-dc-ddht
DNS Issues	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-dns-issues-dc-dnsi
Gender and Internet Governance	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-gender-and-internet-governance
Innovative Approaches to Connecting the Unconnected	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-innovative-approaches-to-connecting-the-unconnected-0
Internet and Jobs*	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-internet-jobs-dc-jobs
Internet of Things	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-the-internet-of-things-0
Internet Rights & Principles	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-internet-rights-and-principles-1
Internet Standards, Security and Safety*	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-internet-standards-security-and-safety-dc-iss
Internet Universality Indicators*	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dc-on-internet-universality-indicators-dc-iui
Network Neutrality	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-network-neutrality-1
Platform Responsibility	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-platform-responsibility
Public Access in Libraries	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-public-access-in-libraries-dc-pal
Publicness	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-publicness
Schools of Internet Governance	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-schools-of-internet-governance
Small Island	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-small-island-

Developing States in the Internet Economy	developing-states-in-the-internet-economy-dc-sids
Sustainability of Journalism and News Media	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-the-sustainability-of-journalism-and-news-media-dc-sustainability
Youth Coalition on Internet Governance	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/youth-coalition-on-internet-governance-1

* New Dynamic Coalitions formally recognised by the IGF Secretariat since IGF 2019.

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 the 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 2020:

- 131 NRIs recognised in total
- 118 NRIs represented at IGF 2020
- 5 more countries/regions have established IGF processes since IGF 2019

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

About the NRIs	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives
National IGFs	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/national-igf-initiatives
Regional IGFs	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/regional-igf-initiatives
Youth IGFs	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/youth-initiatives
Preparatory work of the NRIs	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-nris%C2%A0preparatory-process

14.4 IGF 2020 Preparatory Process

The IGF meeting programme is prepared by the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (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 an approach that was introduced in 2019, the preparatory processes started with the identification of the four thematic tracks. These were developed by the MAG based on input and contributions submitted by the community. The programme for IGF 2020 was then built around these tracks, while additional elements were added throughout the process (such as high-level sessions).

20 December 2019	Call for feedback on IGF 2019 and Suggestions for improvements for IGF 2020 launched
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Submission deadline: 10 January 2020

- Analysis of input
https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/9615/1948

19 January 2020	Deadline for proposals for 2020 Best Practice Forums
14–16 January 2020	First Open Consultations and MAG Meetings, Geneva https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-first-open-consultations-and-mag-meeting
23 January 2020	IGF 2020 Call for Validation of Thematic Tracks and Action Items launched Submission deadline: 6 February 2020 <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Analysis of input https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/9615/1976
2 March 2020	Calls for following published: <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Workshop proposals■ Dynamic Coalition sessions■ Open Forums■ Day 0 events■ IGF Village booths■ Remote hubs■ Travel support³ Submission deadline: 22 April 2020
6 April	An IGF 2020 Outreach Webinar was hosted https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-outreach-webinar
14 June 2020	It is announced that the IGF 2020 meeting will be held online
15–19 June 2020	2nd set of Open Consultations and MAG Meetings, online https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-second-open-consultations-and-mag-meeting
31 July 2020	Announcement: IGF 2020 will be held in two phases https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/mag-chair-s-blog
1 September 2020	Registration for IGF 2020 opened
12 & 14 October 2020	IGF 2020 webinars for organisers, speakers and hubs https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/webinar-for-igf-2020-sessions-organizersspeakers-hubs
27 October 2020	Online booking form for virtual networking slots opened.

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

³ When IGF 2020 became a remote meeting, the travel support program was no longer needed.

Working Group on Outreach and Engagement (WG-OE)

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/working-group-on-outreach-and-engagement-wg-oe-0>

Working Group on Workshop Process (WG-WSP)

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/working-group-on-workshop-review-and-evaluation-process-wg-wrep>

Working Group on Language (WG-Language)

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/working-group-on-language-wg-language>

Working Group on IGF Strengthening and Strategy (WG-Strategy)

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/working-group-on-igf-strengthening-and-strategy-wg-ss>

15 Annex C: Co-located Meetings, Events and Launches

Because IGF is the one annual event at which the widest range of Internet governance stakeholders are present, many organisations and groups choose to launch new processes, books, studies and reports at the IGF; others choose to co-locate their meetings at IGF.

15.1 Launches and Announcements

There were a number of launches and announcements made at IGF 2020:

The Dynamic Coalitions on Community Connectivity and Net Neutrality launched the ebook, “The Value of Internet Openness at Times of Crisis”	https://cyberbrics.info/the-value-of-internet-openness-in-times-of-crisis/
2020 EQUALS in Tech Awards	https://www.equals.org/awards
Freedom Online Coalition Joint Statement on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights	https://freedomonlinecoalition.com/news/foc-issues-joint-statement-on-artificial-intelligence-and-human-rights/
GovTech Poland - Chancellery of the Prime Minister Office: Game Jam Kick Off Ceremony	http://www.govtechfestival.com/

15.2 1st Virtual Meeting of the Open Consultation Process for the WSIS Forum 2021

The IGF was an outcome of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Tunis Agenda. IGF 2020 supported the ongoing and wider process of implementing the WSIS outcomes by hosting the first virtual meeting of the Open Consultation Process for the WSIS Forum 2021:

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2020/Home/OCP2021#phase2>

15.3 Networking Sessions

With IGF 2020 being an entirely online event, there was no ability to hold bilateral meetings or informal get-togethers, both of which have become vital elements of the annual IGF meeting. To try and make up for this lack of informal meetings that are possible at a physical IGF venue, a range of virtual networking slots was made available for participants to request to use.

15.4 Pre-events

Day Zero has become a key day for IGF participants to hold pre-events focused on specific stakeholder and interest groups and their activities. With the IGF 2020 being held online, the traditional Day Zero events became pre-events and spread across the first phase of the meeting.

Meetings and Events

Below is a list of forums and summits that co-located their meetings at IGF 2020 as pre-events.

IGFSA General Assembly	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-94-igf-sa-general-assembly
2020 Annual Symposium of the Global Internet Governance Academic Network	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-1-giganet-2020-symposium
Coalition against Stalkerware: Stop stalkerware: tackling digital stalking helps victims of domestic violence	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-12-stop-stalkerware-tackling-digital-stalking-helps-victims-of-domestic
Forum of the Internet & Jurisdiction Policy Network	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-97-forum-of-the-internet-jurisdiction-policy-network
Internet Commons Forum	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-39-internet-commons-forum
Digital Sustainability Forum – a CEE initiative to support tech sustainability	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-77-digital-sustainability-forum—a-cee-initiative-to-support-tech
Freedom Online Coalition: Promoting Rights-Respecting AI: a Call for Action from the Freedom Online Coalition	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-65-promoting-rights-respecting-ai-a-call-for-action-from-the-freedom

Presentations of reports, progress reports and studies

Several organisations used pre-events to present various reports and studies.

Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace and The Hague Centre for Strategic Studies: Presentation of findings and developments of the GCSC Report “Advancing Cyberstability”	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-36-2020-cyberstability-stocktaking-of-norms-and-institutional-dialogues
UNESCO: Presentation of the Internet Universality ROAM-X Indicators national assessment results from 21 countries	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-16-unesco-s-launch-of-igf-dynamic-coalition-on-internet-universality-roam
Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism: Presentation of the latest trend in how terrorism and extremism are manifesting themselves in the online environment	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-10-an-open-discussion-about-tackling-terrorist-and-violent-extremist
Missions Publiques: Presentation of the Global Citizens’ Dialogue on the Future of the Internet	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-17-we-the-internet-experiencing-the-global-deliberation
Just Net Coalition: Launch of the compendium “A Digital New Deal: Visions of Justice in a Post-Covid World”	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-28-the-digital-justice-conversations

Algorithm Watch: Presentation of excerpts from the “Automating Society 2020” report	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-20-automating-society-well-show-the-evidence
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Polish Economic Institute: Presentation of the results of a survey testing the understanding of and willingness to share private data with public institutions	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-64-sharing-of-personal-data-during-pandemic
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Informational and coordination sessions for specific groups and stakeholders

As in previous years, stakeholder and special interest groups often hold pre-events to prepare their members for the week of IGF.

Collaborative Leadership Exchange	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-13-internet-societys-collaborative-leadership-exchange-clx
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Civil society coordination meeting: a Public Interest Internet discussion	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-31-civil-society-coordination-meting-a-public-interest-internet
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Regional dialogues

Pre-events also provided an opportunity for regional discussions and coordination.

North Africa Stakeholders Coordination Meeting	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-4-north-africa-stockholders-coordination-meeting
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IGF LAC Space	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2020-pre-event-9-igf-lac-space
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