

IGF 2025

First Open Consultations and MAG Meeting 5 – 7 February 2025 | Online

Summary of action items & next steps

The first Open Consultations and [Multistakeholder Advisory Group](#) (MAG) meeting in the IGF 2025 preparatory cycle was held from 5 to 7 February, fully online. Carol Roach, MAG Chair, and Ole-Martin Martinsen, Host Country Co-Chair, co-moderated the meeting.

The traditional [three-day meeting](#) started on 5 February with an Open Consultation, also inviting the UN Office on Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET) to inform about Global Digital Compact (GDC) implementation, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) to brief on the WSIS+20 Review process, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Over one-hundred eighty (180) participants connected to the Open Consultation and MAG meeting remotely.

This summary provides an overview of action items and next steps raised in relation to future actions and activities, as well as main decisions made. For a detailed record, recordings are available [here](#).

5 February 2025

Briefing on the current state of preparation for IGF 2025 by the Host Country

The Host Country delivered a [presentation on the current IGF 2025 preparations](#), providing general information about Oslo and Lillestrøm, including accommodation, and presenting the IGF 2025 logo and its graphic elements, the venue, as well as the roadmap towards the IGF 2025.

The Host Country strongly encouraged onsite IGF participants to book their accommodation early. Additional information, such as visa application guidelines, will soon be made available on the [official IGF 2025 website](#).

IGF 2024 Stock Taking and Considerations for IGF 2025

The IGF Secretariat presented the [summary of the inputs](#) received to the IGF 2024 stocktaking process touching upon the preparatory process, the programme structure, communications and technical matters, logistics and the Host Country's role, as well as the IGF's contribution to ongoing and upcoming international digital governance processes.

Building on the [input received](#) via the stocktaking call, the IGF community further suggested to:

- Invite prominent figures and engage notable moderators for High-Level leaders' session in a timely manner, which would most likely attract news coverage from well-known media outlets;
- Engage media through national and regional IGF initiatives in preparation for the global IGF and clearly highlight IGF outputs;
- Visually display national and regional IGF initiatives at the Forum, by placing NRI village booths centrally and holding NRI sessions on the open stage;
- Increase youth participation by organizing more inclusive, virtual pre-conference dialogues.

IGF 2025 in Context of Ongoing & Upcoming Processes (GDC & WSIS+20 Review)

The IGF Secretariat invited UN organizations implicated in the GDC implementation and WSIS+20 review to inform the IGF community on advancements and potential collaborative approaches.

- UNDESA, which provides secretariat support to the WSIS+20 review, invited participants to follow the [WSIS+20 preparatory process, roadmaps and reviews by the UN system](#) on their [website](#). The modalities for the overall review of the implementation of the outcomes of WSIS will be finalized by end of March.
- ODET informed IGF stakeholders about current developments since the adoption of the Pact of the Future and the GDC. The UN Secretary-General will unveil the GDC roadmap, as a tool for a coherent implementation of commitments until the High-Level review at the 82nd UN General Assembly. National and Regional IGF initiatives (NRIs) could support with communication and outreach. NRIs could also cooperate with UN Resident Coordinators (UNRCs) in creating a blueprint template for GDC implementation at local levels, which could potentially be presented as an output at the next IGF in Norway. It was also suggested to have a liaison from the IGF to the Working Group on Digital Technologies and from ODET to the IGF.
- The CSTD is currently considering the applications received for the Working Group on Data Governance, which will include 20 members of non-state stakeholders. The synthesis report of outcomes of CSTD consultations will be published by 7 April on the [CSTD website](#) and participants were welcomed to [join the 28th session](#) from 7 to 11 April 2025 in Geneva.
- The ITU [presented](#) future milestones of the WSIS joint preparatory process and preparations of the WSIS Forum High-Level event. Participants were invited to join the ITU Open Consultation process leading into the WSIS Forum.

Themes for IGF 2025 and other Strategic Approaches to the Programme

Summary of the IGF 2025 Call for Thematic Input

The IGF Secretariat presented the results of the [IGF 2025 open call for thematic input](#). The summary can be viewed [here](#).

Open Discussion on IGF 2025 overarching themes and subthemes, and programme structure

The Host Country introduced suggested the [IGF 2025 overarching theme and sub-themes](#), based on the results of the thematic input received from IGF stakeholders, and considering GDC objectives, WSIS Action Lines and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The IGF community welcomed the Host Country's suggestions and provided a few comments to:

- Limit the number of sub-themes to four (4) to simplify the agenda;
- Include topics on cybersecurity and resilience, capacity building in Internet governance, financing for development and a forward-looking aspect to Internet governance and the IGF; and
- Expand description of the IGF overarching theme and sub-themes.

The Host Country presented a draft skeleton of the IGF schedule, informing on rooms, layouts and timing of the meeting. The IGF community was also consulted on the existing session types. The following suggestions were made:

- The MAG can review the session types, taking into consideration the need for session types that are different from workshops, but also the sessions' length;
- The open stage, placed in the center of the IGF village, could allocate specific session types, such as lightning talks, launches and awards, as well as NRI sessions or public consultations;
- Networking sessions could be facilitated at the end of daily meetings, in adjacent locations (e.g., neighboring hotels).

6 February 2025

Updates from IGF 2025 MAG Working Groups

All [MAG Working Groups](#) from the IGF 2024 cycle were re-chartered for 2025 cycle. Three working groups presented their workplans:

- [MAG Working Group on Strategy: Work Plan](#)
- [MAG Working Group on Youth Engagement: Work Plan and Timeline](#)
- [MAG Working Group on Workshop Processes: Work Plan and Timeline](#)

The MAG Working Group on Strategy was asked to provide a timeline to its workplan and better align with other intersessional work and Leadership Panel (LP) activities.

MAG members were invited to join [Working Groups' mailing lists](#).

Selection of Policy Networks and Best Practice Forums

Co-facilitators of Policy Networks (PNs) and Best Practice Forums (BPFs) introduced five proposals:

- [Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence \(PNAI\): Proposal for 2025](#)
- [Policy Network on Internet Fragmentation \(PNIF\): Proposal for 2025](#)
- [Group on the IGF and Digital Cooperation and Governance Proposal for 2025](#)
- [Best Practice Forum on Securing Access to the Internet and Protect Core Internet Resources in Contexts of Conflict](#)
- [Policy Network on Meaningful Access \(PNMA\): Proposal for 2025](#)

MAG members agreed to continue with PNAI, PNIF and PNMA and to introduce the BPF on Securing Access to the Internet and Protecting Core Internet Resources in Contexts of Conflicts.

Co-facilitators were asked to better align proposals, taking into consideration that most focus on GDC implementation.

It was suggested to include a section in the key messages and IGF summary report that consolidates all GDC and WSIS-related content produced by IGF intersessional work. A revised version would be published by December 2025 as intersessional work will continue after the IGF 2025 annual meeting.

The IGF Secretariat will start the hiring process for intersessional work consultants.

Leveraged collaboration between IGF Dynamic Coalitions, National and Regional IGF Initiatives (NRIs) and capacity development initiatives

Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) are planning to build their work for the IGF 2025 cycle on their main session held at the IGF in Riyadh, during which they clustered themselves and contributed to each objective of the GDC. DCs may also decide to align with IGF 2025 sub-themes.

DCs developed and presented an inventory of the work that they will showcase at the IGF 2025. While not all DCs will be able to have an individual session scheduled in the programme, they are also keen to explore other avenues, such as making use of the IGF open stage to present their tangible outcomes.

DCs invited the MAG to identify a MAG liaison, who would bring the thinking of the MAG to the DC coordination group and better integrate DCs into the mainstream of the IGF's work.

The IGF Secretariat briefed on the status of joint activities by [National and Regional IGF initiatives \(NRIs\)](#), as well as on [Youth and Capacity Development activities](#).

This year, IGF Youth will focus on multistakeholder digital governance as applied to various policy issues, including cybersecurity, media and content, and emerging technologies.

NRIs expressed their interest and willingness to contribute to the WSIS+20 review process. Similar to previous years, NRIs will develop collaborative and main session proposals, starting with their traditional coordination session on Day 0.

The [IGF 2025 Parliamentary Track](#) plans on further engaging at regional IGF initiatives and strengthening its collaboration with partner organizations and the UN system. The IGF Secretariat started preparations of the global IGF with the Norwegian Parliament and with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Invitation letters to the Track will be sent to the Presidents of IPU Groups by the end of February.

IGF 2025 overarching theme and sub-themes

The MAG agreed on the IGF 2025 overarching theme, based on the Host Country's proposal:

- **Building Digital Governance Together**

The MAG agreed to limit the number of tracks to four (4) subthemes, considering the feedback received from IGF 2024 participants, who asked for a more focused agenda.

The MAG opted for the following IGF 2025 sub-themes, adding under each sub-theme a reference to relevant GDC objectives, WSIS Action Lines, SDGs and digital governance topics from the IGF 2025 Call for Thematic Input:

1. **[Building] Digital Trust and Resilience**
2. **[Building] Sustainable and Responsible Innovation**
3. **[Building] Universal Access and Digital Rights**
4. **[Building] Digital Cooperation**

MAG volunteers were asked to finalize a descriptive text by Monday, 10 February, prior to the launch of the call for session proposals.

IGF 2025 Programme structure, overall programme structure and flow

In light of views expressed in the stocktaking process and the limited physical space of the IGF 2025 venue, the MAG agreed to simplify the programme.

The Host indicated that approximately 60 to 90 sessions can be allocated in workshop rooms from Days 1 to 4. These numbers do not include sessions taking place on Day 0, in the Plenary and Conference Hall and on the potential Open Stage. The programme is set to start at 09:00 a.m. and to end at 05:00 p.m.

Once the Host confirms the feasibility of the open stage, a limited number of lightning talks, launches and awards, networking sessions, as well as media events will be

allocated in this area. It was also suggested to hold NRI sessions on the open stage to spotlight NRIs' work and attract more IGF participants to the discussions. It was also agreed to schedule networking sessions primarily at the end of meeting days.

The IGF Secretariat is closely working with the IGF 2025 Host Country on High-Level Leaders' sessions, Parliamentary Track, business and judiciary engagement activities.

7 February 2025

Call for session proposals: timetable and process

The co-facilitators of the MAG working group on workshop processes presented the:

- [IGF 2025 Workshop Proposal Form](#)
- [IGF 2025 Workshop Submission Manual](#)
- [IGF 2025 General Guidance on Workshop Evaluation](#)
- [IGF 2025 Workshop Evaluation Form](#)

While opinions differed, it was agreed to have a requirement of three (3) speakers onsite, including the (onsite) moderator. Session submission forms should also clearly encourage proposers to include diverse views and perspectives of speakers in their session proposals.

It was suggested to share moderating advice with session organizers and moderators during the IGF 2025 orientation session and ensure active participation of both onsite and online attendees.

The MAG working group will meet separately to discuss the IGF 2025 workshop evaluation form more in detail. Any suggested changes by the group will be presented to the MAG at their next virtual meeting.

A Vision of The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Beyond 2025

The co-facilitator of the MAG working group on strategy introduced the document the group drafted on [A Vision of the IGF Beyond 2025](#), including their proposed actions to:

1. Formalize regular discussion on IGF evolution and the IGF strategic model in the IGF event schedule
2. Plan and implement initial IGF Global Digital Compact follow-up track
3. Work to further develop complementary relationships between the IGF and WSIS partner institutions
4. Continue MAG discussion regarding NETmundial+10 alignment
5. Review and refine intersessional work modalities
6. Lead a conversation on affirming the mandate of the IGF, specifically its broad interpretation and scope, in IGF and WSIS+20-related venues



7. Propose a greater institutional presence for the IGF Secretariat in the United Nations Group on the Information Society (UNGIS)

Funding of the IGF, including UN regular budget funding for Secretariat staff, has also been discussed.

The IGF Secretariat will send a Doodle Poll to schedule the joint Leadership Panel and MAG meeting on 14 February.

Annex: Participant List of MAG Members, representatives to the MAG and Secretariat

MAG Chair	
Roach	Carol
IGF 2025 Host Country Co-Chair	
Martinsen	Ole-Martin
MAG Members	
Aguerre	Carolina
Astbrink	Gunela
Betancourt	Valeria
Bou Harb	Zeina
Buckridge	Chris
Cassa	Concettina
Cavalli	Olga
Choudhury	Amrita
Chung	Jennifer
Dofel	Sook-Jung
Echeverria	Raul
Elgamal	Hossam
Fair	Justin
Fernandez	Juan
Horejsova	Tereza
Illishebo	Michael
Ibarra	Rafael Lito
Inné	Anne-Rachel
Katoh	Masanobu
Kenyanito	Ephraim Percy
Major	Peter
Miller	Cheryl
Milosevic	Desiree
Mbow	Alhagie
Moisander	Juuso
Nalwoga	Lillian
Neves	Ana
Olufuye	Jimson
Pedraza Barrios	Ricardo
Quaynor	Nii
Suto	Timea
Sha'ban	Charles
Sibul	Heiki
Sultanov	Talant
Swinehart	Theresa
Wagner	Flavio
Zhang	Xiao
Past and prospective IGF host countries	
Arida	Christine
Cancio	Jorge
Iida	Yoichi
Lois	Isabelle
Ngo	Tu An

Schulte	Philipp
Skwarek	Wiktor
Representatives of intergovernmental organizations (IGOS) and European Commission	
Assefa	Sorene
Carballido	Ariana
Dell'Accio	Dino
De Sola Criado	Isabel
Gonzalez Sanz	Angel
Hackshaw	Tracy
Sah	Gitanjali
Sofransky	Octavian
Wehbe	Rita
Past MAG Chairs	
Esterhuysen	Anriette
Kummer	Markus
UN DESA	
Susar	Deniz
IGF Secretariat	
Bal	Celine
Bobo	Luis
Chukov	Roman
Gengo	Anja
Masango	Chengetai
Mazzucchi	Eleonora