The IGF

- An Overview -

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What is the IGF?

The IGF is a forum for multistakeholder dialogue on public policy issues related to key elements of Internet.

Its main purpose is to:

- Maximize the opportunity for open and inclusive dialogue and the exchange of ideas on Internet governance (IG) related issues;
- Create opportunities to share best practices and experiences;
- Identify emerging issues and bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public;
- Contribute to capacity building for Internet governance.

IGF Establishment

WSIS Phase I: Geneva, 2003

- The Summit recognized the need for a broad based discussion of public policy issues relating to the Internet.

- It requested that the UN Secretary-General form a **Working Group on Internet Governance (WGIG).**

Working Group on Internet Governance

- *Internet governance is the **development** and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of **shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures**, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.*

WSIS Phase II: Tunis, 2005

"Tunis Compromise"

Paragraph 72 of the Tunis Agenda:

Discuss public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet.

- *In 2006, the UN SG convened the IGF giving it a five year mandate.*

IGF Principles

All work is conducted in accordance with the main IGF principles:

- **<u>Bottom Up</u>** - agenda composed based on inputs from the wider community;
- **<u>Multistakeholder and inclusive</u>** – all stakeholders involved and act on equal footing;
- **<u>Open and Transparent</u>** – online and onsite discussions and outputs publicly available.

IGF Structure

- **Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG),** established by the United Nations Secretary-General to prepare the substantive agenda and programme for the IGF meetings. (Governments, Civil Society, Technical Community, Private Sector, Intergovernmental Organizations.

- **IGF Secretariat,** coordinates the overall IGF process and work.

- IGF's institutional home is under the UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs (**UNDESA**).

Strengths and Weaknesses

Different views on strengths and weaknesses:

-        Some see lack of decision-making power as a weakness:

  -    They want the IGF 'to produce concrete results'.

 -Others see this as a strength:

  - The lack of decision-making power creates a space for open dialogue creating an enabling environment
  - Out of their silos
  - Level playing field for discourse
  - Value at the edges

IGF Annual Meetings 2006 - 2017

- **2017 IGF: Geneva, Switzerland**
- **2016 IGF: Guadalajara, Mexico**
- **2015 IGF: João Pessoa, Brazil**
- **2014 IGF: Istanbul, Turkey**
- **2013 IGF: Bali, Indonesia**
- **2012 IGF: Baku, Azerbaijani**
- **2011 IGF: Nairobi, Kenya**
- **2010 IGF: Vilnius, Lithuania**
- **2009 IGF: Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt**
- **2008 IGF: Hyderabad, India**
- **2007 IGF: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**
- **2006 IGF: Athens, Greece**

IGF in Practice

A. IGF COMMUNITY INTERSESSIONAL WORK

o **Best Practice Forums** **(e.g. Gender online, Cybersecurity, IXPs, IPv6)**

o **Connecting and Enabling the Next Billions**

B. DYNAMIC COALITIONS

(e.g. Child online safety, Blockchain technologies, Public access in libraries, Freedom of expression online, Access etc.)

C. NATIONAL, REGIONAL and YOUTH IGF INITIATIVES

(91 NRIs across the world. Finland being one of them)

IGF in Practice

I.   **Programme Structure of the IGF Annual Meetings (with statistics from the 2016 IGF). 229 sessions in total:**
- 8 Main Sessions
- 96 Workshops
- 31 Open Forums
- 4 Best Practice Forum Sessions
- 14 Dynamic Coalitions Sessions
- 23 Lightning Sessions
- 5 Unconference Sessions
- 17 Other Sessions

II.   **24 Day 0 events**

III. **40 IGF Village booths were featured in the IGF Village**

IV.   **2 000 onsite participants attended, from 123 countries, representing all stakeholder groups and regions. 45 remote hubs were organised around the world, with 2 000 stakeholders participating online.**

LOOKING AHEAD

- **IGF 2017:** *Shape Your Digital Future!*

18 -21 December, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland

- **Future of the IGF**

General Assembly resolution A/RES/70/125, December 2015:

''We acknowledge the role of the Internet Governance Forum as a multistakeholder platform for discussion of Internet governance issues. We support the recommendations in the report of the Working Group on Improvements to the Internet Governance Forum of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, which the General Assembly took note of in its resolution 68/198 of 20 December 2013, and we call for their accelerated implementation.

We extend for another 10 years the existing mandate of the Internet Governance Forum as set out in paragraphs 72 to 78 of the Tunis Agenda.''

- Engage with the IGF -
Contact the IGF Secretariat at:
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