

STRENGTHENING ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH IN THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE ECOSYSTEM

- Strategy for the IGF 2020/21 processes –

(Draft document. Latest update: 15 September)

Note: This is a living document, subject to updates as its implementation is further developed. The structure, however, will not change.

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ABOUT

In efforts to fulfil the IGF’s mandate and building on the recommendations of the IGF’s Retreat in 2016¹, the IGF Secretariat conducts systematic efforts on engaging youth in Internet governance, including in the IGF, its intersessional work and the annual meeting.

In order to achieve the long-term sustainable mechanisms for this capacity development effort and impact the youth worldwide, the IGF Secretariat will cooperate with the initiatives that also work, in their respective areas, on equipping youth with skills and knowledge on Internet governance.

¹https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/3367/711

For an efficient integration of youth into the IGF annual meetings, cooperative mechanisms are established with the past and future IGF's host Governments, with an aim to bridge processes and outcomes on the matter, develop a continuous engagement strategy and foster culture of active youth participation.

Over the course of IGF 2020 and 2021 cycles, the IGF Secretariat will cooperate with *the IGF 2021 Host Country – Government of Poland, represented by the [Polish Ministry of Digital Affairs](#)² along with the [Polish Research Institute - NASK](#), on all below listed activities. On particular activities as indicated further below, the cooperation will extend to [UN DESA](#) (through its Division for Inclusive Social Development and youth programmes, e.g. youth envoys); [The Internet Society](#); [Youth Coalition on Internet Governance \(YCIG\)](#); [Youth IGF initiatives](#); [Youth IGF Movement](#); Youth Observatory; and [IGF 2019 Youth Summit organisers](#). Approached for cooperation will also be interested [schools on Internet governance](#), as well as the networks of IGF's [Best Practice Forums](#) and [Dynamic Coalitions](#).*

The following content outlines the concept of each activity, subject to further planning by the involved parties in the implementation process.

ACTIVITIES IN 2020

The overall engagement structure will develop around:

1. *Global outreach toward youth*
2. *Capacity development on Internet governance*
3. *IGF 2020 newsletter for youth*
4. *Publication to capture good practices on youth engagement in Internet governance*
5. *Networking opportunities at the IGF 2020*
6. *IGF 2020 Youth Summit*

1. Global outreach toward youth

Public consultations with youth will be carried out, for the sake of understanding their expectations regarding participation in the IG(F) processes, as well as to brainstorm on creative and efficient ideas on how to support these expectations and develop capacity.

² The Polish Ministry will support the below-explained activities also with graphic design services.

The consultations will be conducted through a dedicated survey, webinars and open mailing list: igfyouth@intgovforum.org³.

All above mentioned parties will be approached to support outreach efforts in bringing the survey and webinars to the attention of as many young people as possible.

The **survey**⁴ will be open for three weeks (soft deadline: 15 September). It will consult youth on their Internet governance priorities building on the outcomes of the 2019 Youth Summit and its messages⁵. The identified priorities will be a foundation for developing capacity on the Internet governance topics and processes; as well as to focus on the youth-related sessions at the IGF 2020 and develop planning for IGF 2021.

The **webinars**⁶ in preparations for the 15th annual IGF meeting are planned to be hosted on:

- 11 May, 14 PM UTC (**already implemented*)
- 21 September, 18 PM UTC
- 14 October, 12 PM UTC

While the first webinar introduced the concept of the IGF, captured ideas and expectations from youth regarding the IGF processes, as well as the thematic interest, the second will be more focused on youth's integration in Internet governance discussions, as well as the IGF 2020 framework. In partnership with the Internet Society, capacity development activities on emerging Internet issues will be carried out.

The provisional agenda for the second up to 90-minutes long webinar will build on the survey results, as showed below.

Webinar II | 21 September | 18 PM UTC | duration up to 90 min
Provisional Agenda (*interactive discussion with Q&A after each section*)

1. Overview of IGF 2020 youth-focused activities
2. IGF 2020 consultations with youth: presenting survey results
3. Introduction to Internet governance processes of youth's priority (YCIG, ISOC, Youth Observatory, GameJam, YSIG, IGF 2020 intersessional work etc.)
4. Looking at topics youth set as a priority through frameworks of:
5. IGF 2020 key thematic tracks (by IGF Secretariat)
6. Policy issues: using the Internet Impact Assessment Toolkit to address them (by ISOC)⁷

³ Subscribe via https://intgovforum.org/mailman/listinfo/igfyouth_intgovforum.org

⁴ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/youth-at-igf-2020-0>

⁵ IGF 2019 Youth Summit <https://yigf.de/news/youth-igf-summit-messages-of-berlin/>

⁶ In addition, the IGF 2021 Host invests efforts in strengthening the youth engagement in IG in Poland, to lay out firm foundations for the IGF 2021 cycle.

⁷ Using the Internet Impact Assessment Toolkit to address them

<https://www.internetsociety.org/issues/internet-way-of-networking/internet-impact-assessment-toolkit/>

7. Next steps
8. AoB and Closing

Webinar III | 14 October | 12 PM UTC | duration up to 90 min

Provisional Agenda (*interactive discussion with Q&A after each section*)

1. Youth summit programme and how to prepare?
2. Youth networking flash sessions at IGF 2020: who, what, when & where?
3. Participating in other sessions: who, what, when & where?
4. Other engagement opportunities at IGF 2020 (GameJam)
5. What to do after the 15th IGF? Poland has a plan! (*lead-discussant- IGF 2021 Host*)
6. AoB and Closing

2. Capacity development on Internet governance

Through the IGF 2020 framework, in an open, bottom-up consultative process, young people will have several opportunities, as referenced above, to mark their interest in Internet governance substantive matters. Based on these, capacity development activities will be implemented at the IGF 2020/21 through networking opportunities with key stakeholders in Internet governance ecosystem on this matter. The work will be continued after the IGF through substantive guidance training on the issues of interest, networking opportunities in a lead up to a number of activities at the IGF 2021.

For example, as mentioned above, in partnership with ISOC, capacity development activities on emerging Internet issues will be carried out, starting from introducing the concept during the second webinar on 21 September.

This section will be further developed once the public consultations with youth are finalised.

3. Publication on youth engagement in IG(F) globally



Online consultations and bilateral meetings will be carried throughout the IGF ecosystem, to capture the good practices on youth engagement done by the recognized youth IGF initiatives, as well as the national and regional IGFs, and other forms of international capacity development initiatives, such as schools on Internet governance or the IGF's Dynamic Coalitions. The publication will also consult with the leaders of the Best Practice Forums to gather advice for meaningful youth participation in these initiatives' work.

Publication from 2017

build on the existing publication the IGF Secretariat has produced in consultations with the NRIs in 2017⁸.

For the other forms of capacity development initiatives, the Secretariat will gather good practices from the initiatives in compliance with the following criteria:

- *Existing website with clearly defined scope of work on matters related to youth and Internet governance*
- *Transparent documentation of work*
- *International/regional or national impact (*in order of priority)*

Consultations will be carried out with all listed partners in the 'About' section of this document.

4. IGF 2020 newsletter for youth

In order to have youth continuously informed and up-to-date on all IGF activities of relevance, a monthly newsletter will be communicated through the igfyouth@intgovforum.org mailing list (starting from August, each month until the IGF 2021).

The newsletter will allow for visibility of some capacity development initiatives for youth. These will be signing-up with the IGF Secretariat and IGF 2021 Host Country every month. Based on the following criteria, and respecting the regional diversity, one good practice will be selected and explained in the newsletter:

- *Existing website with clearly defined scope of work on matters related to youth and Internet governance*
- *Transparent documentation of work*
- *International/regional or national impact (* in order of priority)*

All selected practices/initiatives will be gathered and displayed at a dedicated space on the IGF website.

⁸ The publication will be subject to continuous updating on every two IGF-cycles.

5. Youth at the IGF 2020

One of the core objectives of this initiative is a meaningful integration and participation of youth into the IGF 2020 processes, namely in the intersessional work and annual meeting, and through that framework in global Internet governance ecosystem.

Concretely, to achieve meaningful integration of youth in the 15th IGF, all IGF 2020 session organizers will be approached to either **engage youth as speakers or resource persons**, that would be recognized during the sessions to communicate specific youth perspectives on the discussion subject matter (*this could be done either for all sessions or just for the sessions focused on thematic priorities the youth will identify beforehand through public consultations as explained further below under 'Youth Thematic Priorities'*).

The collaborators will also organize the **Summit for Youth** during the IGF 2020 on 5 November⁹. It will be a 120 min long interactive session, that would build on the IGF 2019 outcomes. The agenda for the Summit will develop through an open, bottom-up and consultative process with youth (*thematic interests identified through survey*). Therefore, the Summit could focus on the (1) IGF process at local and regional levels, and on (2) specific themes came out of the mentioned consultations. The structure and agenda of the summit will be a subject for public feedback at the third webinar before it is finalized. The IGF 2021 Host Country would also announce the engagement strategy the preparatory process of the next year's IGF and inaugurally will present its Youth IGF that will welcome all youth to Poland next year.

The Summit's agenda, moderators, speakers, methodology for the selection of speakers and networking breaks design is under development and will be communicated in September 2020. The Summit will produce a tangible outcome in a form of messages Youth has on Internet governance.

Finally, five networking opportunities in a form of **thematic flash sessions** will be organized with key discussant(s) as the representative(s) of a particular organization/initiative. As these flash sessions will be up to 30 min long, the preparatory process will be done beforehand. Namely, participants will be presented key information about the initiative's work and interested participants would ask questions through a dedicated form a few days before the flash session. The discussant(s) would respond to the summary of all received questions/comments and additional Q&A section would develop.

⁹ Tentatively scheduled time: 16:30-18:30 UTC

TIMELINE

Global outreach webinar I (mailing list and newsletter planning)

- 11 May, 14:00 PM UTC (**already implemented*)

Public consultations: thematic priorities for youth

- September - October

Webinar II: Ways of engagement in IG and IGF 2020

- 21 September, 18:00 PM UTC

Webinar III: Youth at IGF 2020

- 14 October, 12:00 PM UTC

Publication on good practices on youth engagement in Internet governance

- 30 October

IGF 2020 Youth Summit

- 5 November, 16:30-18:30 PM UTC

IGF 2020: five flash sessions and youth engagement with session organizers

- 2 – 17 November, exact times TBC

ACTIVITIES IN 2021

The work done in IGF 2020 through the above described activities will continue over the 16th IGF preparatory cycle and annual meeting. The IGF Secretariat will continue cooperating with the IGF 2021 Host Country – Government of Poland, on implementation of the following activities:

- **Thematic networking webinars (every eight weeks).** The thematic focus will build on set priorities during the IGF 2020 Youth Summit. Youth will have an opportunity to meet international experts on the subject matters of their interest.
- **Monthly newsletter**
- **Competition for Youth run by the Office of the Polish President**
- **Up to three outreach webinars on Internet governance topics and processes of priority**
- **IGF 2021 Youth Summit** that will result in messages on global Internet governance priorities for youth.

This process will also connect with the IGF 2022 Host Country, to continue supporting the above-mentioned structure of youth engagement at the IGF.
