

STRENGTHENING ENGAGEMENT OF YOUTH IN THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE ECOSYSTEM

- Strategy for the IGF 2021/22 processes –

(Draft document. Latest update: 15 December)

Note: This is a living document, subject to updates as its implementation is further developed.

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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.

The IGF Secretariat intends to cooperate with the *IGF Host Country*, as well as with other youth-focused initiatives in line with its mandate (including: [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](#) etc.). Approached for cooperation will also be interested [schools on Internet governance](#), as well as the networks of IGF's intersessional work such as its *Policy Networks*, *Best Practice Forums* and *Dynamic Coalitions*.

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

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

The overall engagement structure will develop around:

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

The consultations will be conducted through a dedicated survey, webinars and open mailing list: igfyouth@intgovforum.org².

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.

²Subscribe via https://intgovforum.org/mailman/listinfo/igfyouth_intgovforum.org

It will consult youth on their Internet governance priorities building on the outcomes of the previous Youth Summit and its outputs. The identified priorities will be a foundation for developing capacity on the Internet governance topics and processes.

There will be **webinars** in preparations for the upcoming annual IGF meeting to: (i) introduce the concept of the IGF, capture ideas and expectations from youth regarding the IGF processes, as well as the thematic interest, (ii) explore youth's integration in Internet governance discussions, as well as the IGF framework. Also, (iii) capacity development activities on emerging Internet issues will be carried out.

2. Capacity development in Internet governance

Through the IGF framework, in an open, bottom-up consultative process, young people will have several opportunities to mark their interest in Internet governance substantive matters. Based on these, capacity development activities will be implemented through networking opportunities with key stakeholders in Internet governance ecosystem on this matter; and substantive guidance training on the issues of interest.

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

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



Publication from 2021

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.

The publication will build on the existing publication the IGF Secretariat has produced in consultations with the NRIs in 2020/21³.

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*

³ The publication will be subject to continuous updating on every two IGF-cycles.

- *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 continue to be communicated through the igfyouth@intgovforum.org mailing list.

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.

5. Youth at the upcoming annual IGF meeting

One of the core objectives of this initiative is a meaningful integration and participation of youth into the IGF 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 upcoming annual meeting, all IGF 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 help to organize the Global Youth **Summit** during the upcoming annual IGF meeting as a 90-120 min long interactive session, that would build on the previous Global Youth Summit outputs. 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 Summit will produce a tangible outputs in a form of messages Youth has on Internet governance.

Networking opportunities in a form of **thematic flash sessions** could be organized with key discussant(s) as the representative(s) of a particular organization/initiative. As these flash sessions could be around 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.

TIMELINE

To be confirmed.

PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Possible design of the activities could be:

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