

## IGF 2026

### First Open Consultations and MAG Meeting 24-26 June 2026

#### UN Office at Nairobi (UNON) & Online

##### Summary of key outcomes & next steps

The [first Open Consultations and Multistakeholder Advisory Group \(MAG\)](#) meeting in the IGF 2026 preparatory cycle was held from 24 to 26 June 2026, onsite at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON), Kenya, and online. The meeting was co-chaired by Ms. Jennifer Chung, Chair of the MAG, and Ambassador Philip Thigo, Special Envoy on Technology for the Republic of Kenya, representing the Host Country. The Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, Mr. Li Junhua, delivered opening remarks via [video message](#). The three-day meeting combined one day of Open Consultations with two days of MAG discussions focused on establishing the strategic direction, programme architecture and organizational arrangements for IGF 2026.

The meeting marked the beginning of the first IGF preparatory cycle following the United Nations General Assembly's decision to establish the IGF as a permanent forum ([A/RES/80/173](#)). Discussions focused on translating this renewed mandate into a strengthened programme and a more coherent IGF ecosystem, while advancing preparations for the twenty-first annual IGF meeting to be hosted by Kenya. This summary provides an overview of the principal discussion outcomes, decisions and follow-up actions. For a detailed record of the discussions, [meeting recordings](#) and [documents](#) are available on the IGF website.

##### Strategic priorities for the IGF 2026 cycle

- Participants expressed broad support for strengthening coherence across the IGF ecosystem through closer integration of the annual meeting, [intersessional work](#), [National and Regional Initiatives \(NRIs\)](#) and capacity-development activities.
- There was broad convergence on the need for the IGF to build on its permanent mandate by increasing its practical impact, strengthening links between dialogue and implementation, and contributing more clearly to follow-up on WSIS+20, the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and other digital governance processes.
- Participants emphasized capacity development, meaningful participation from developing countries and strengthening the IGF's role as an inclusive multistakeholder platform capable of producing more actionable outcomes.

##### IGF 2026 programme priorities

- Representatives of partner organizations, United Nations entities and other stakeholders highlighted opportunities for stronger alignment between the IGF and ongoing digital governance processes, including implementation of WSIS+20, the GDC and emerging AI governance initiatives, while avoiding duplication with existing forums.
- Broad support emerged for positioning the IGF as a platform that helps translate global commitments into practical implementation through multistakeholder dialogue, [capacity development](#) and collaboration across the wider IGF ecosystem.
- Participants emphasized strengthening linkages between the annual meeting, intersessional activities, partner organizations and NRIs to reinforce implementation and local impact.

## IGF 2026 overarching theme and visual identity

- The Host Country presented its proposed visual identity and the draft overarching theme, "Governing the Future of Intelligence," outlining the concept and design principles underpinning the proposal. Participants broadly welcomed both the visual identity and the ambition of a forward-looking theme reflecting the emerging "age of intelligence."
- There was broad agreement that trust, openness, human agency and participation should remain central to the framing. Participants suggested refining elements of the proposed wording to reinforce the IGF's focus on Internet governance, maintain global relevance and avoid unintended interpretations of concepts such as "governing" and "sovereignty."
- The proposed visual identity received broad support and suggestions, with participants welcoming its emphasis on openness, inclusiveness and the IGF's renewed permanent mandate.

## Host country preparations

- The Host Country updated participants on preparations for IGF 2026, highlighting efforts to deliver an inclusive meeting with strong engagement from parliamentarians, the judiciary, youth and other stakeholder communities.
- Participants welcomed the emphasis on accessibility, visa facilitation, hybrid participation and broad engagement from Africa and the Global South, while noting the opportunity for the Nairobi meeting to showcase regional perspectives within a truly global multistakeholder forum.

## MAG-approved intersessional activities and MAG Working Groups

- The MAG agreed to launch the four MAG-approved [Policy Networks](#) at the start of the IGF 2026 cycle, with co-facilitators providing strategic guidance while ensuring broad and inclusive community participation.
- The MAG further agreed that the [MAG Working Group on Strategy](#) would serve as the principal forum for longer-term strategic questions, supported, where appropriate, by practical, time-bound task groups. The Working Group on Youth was also reconstituted for the 2026 cycle.
- The MAG agreed the following roles:
  - Policy Network on AI: Rajendra Pratap Gupta and Audace Niyonkuru (co-facilitators)
  - Policy Network on Cybersecurity: Oktavía Hrunn Guðrúnar Jóns and Carina Birarda (co-facilitators)
  - Policy Network on Digital Inclusion: Angela Wibawa (co-facilitator)
  - Policy Network on Open Digital Infrastructure: Sophia Longwe and Jordan Carter (co-facilitators)
  - MAG Working Group on Strategy: Olaf Kolkman, Peace Oliver Amuge and Rajendra Pratap Gupta (co-facilitators)
  - MAG Working Group on Youth: Saba Tiku and Barrack Otieno (co-facilitators)
  - Stakeholder Coordinators: Meni Anastasiadou and Martina Le Gall Malakova (Private Sector); Barrack Otieno (Technical Community); Peace Oliver Amuge (Civil Society); Moctar Yedaly, Taiwo Aromolaran and Neema Lugangira (Government).

## Strengthening collaboration across the IGF ecosystem

- Broad support emerged for strengthening collaboration across [Dynamic Coalitions \(DCs\)](#), [National](#)

[and Regional Initiatives \(NRIs\)](#), the [Youth Track](#) and other intersessional activities throughout the IGF cycle.

- Participants emphasized integrating capacity-development activities more systematically across the IGF ecosystem and annual meeting, including continued support for youth engagement and initiatives involving journalists and media professionals.
- The MAG reaffirmed its commitment to closer collaboration with all intersessional activities and NRIs throughout the 2026 preparatory process.

### **Programme architecture and Government Dialogue**

- The MAG expressed broad support for simplifying the presentation of the IGF programme to improve navigation and accessibility, particularly for newcomers, while preserving the diversity of IGF session formats.
- Participants supported a programme architecture that more clearly distinguishes interconnected thematic tracks, standalone sessions and intersessional activities, while presenting the programme around substantive content rather than session formats.
- The MAG agreed that the public call for proposals should continue to offer the existing range of session types while enabling a more streamlined, substance-driven presentation of the programme.
- Strong support also emerged for introducing a Government Dialogue that remains fully embedded within the IGF's multistakeholder model. Participants emphasized the importance of clearly defining its objectives and ensuring that it complements, rather than duplicates, existing high-level programme elements

### **Call for session proposals and programme development**

- The MAG reviewed and agreed the overall approach for the [IGF 2026 Call for Session Proposals](#), including retaining the existing session formats while distinguishing more clearly between substantive programme sessions and community and networking activities within the overall programme.
- The Secretariat was requested to include introductory guidance on the responsible use of artificial intelligence in preparing proposals, clarifying that AI may support proposal development and analysis but will not be used to evaluate proposals.
- The MAG agreed to continue work on the proposal evaluation framework during the July virtual MAG meeting, with particular attention to developing a shared understanding of the characteristics of a strong proposal. The Secretariat, together with interested MAG members, will also organize a webinar to support prospective applicants.

### **Policy Labs**

The MAG expressed support for introducing Policy Labs as a pilot initiative at the IGF 2026 annual meeting. Participants viewed the format as an opportunity to foster more interactive and solution-oriented discussions on the impact of emerging technologies on the Internet and its governance. The MAG requested an opportunity to further discuss the details of the Policy Labs during a future virtual MAG meeting.

### **Overall decisions and next steps**

- The meeting concluded with broad agreement on the strategic direction for the IGF 2026

preparatory process and a series of actions to be taken forward by the Secretariat and the MAG over the coming months.

- The MAG confirmed the launch of four Policy Networks, the reconstitution of the MAG Working Groups on Strategy and Youth, and the appointment of their respective co-facilitators and Stakeholder Coordinators to begin work immediately.
  - The agreed programme architecture will guide development of the IGF 2026 programme, with continued refinement through the virtual MAG meetings.
  - The MAG approved moving forward with the Call for Session Proposals, retaining the existing session formats while introducing clearer distinctions in programme presentation between substantive sessions and community and networking activities. The Secretariat will incorporate agreed guidance on the responsible use of AI in proposal preparation, organize a webinar for prospective applicants, and continue work with the MAG on refining proposal evaluation criteria.
  - The MAG agreed to pilot Policy Labs with details to be further developed.
  - Following discussion over the course of the meeting, the MAG expressed preference for the formulation "Governing the Internet in the Age of Intelligence" as the proposed overarching theme for IGF 2026.
- ➔ The Secretariat will incorporate MAG feedback to improve programme navigation, strengthen connections across programme elements and present a more substance-focused programme.
  - ➔ The Secretariat will support the launch of Policy Networks and MAG working groups by providing guidance to co-facilitators, reactivating mailing lists and supporting coordination across intersessional activities.
  - ➔ The relaunched MAG Working Group on Strategy will determine its constituent task forces and report on these in upcoming MAG virtual meetings.
  - ➔ The Secretariat will circulate the Policy Labs proposal language for further consideration, while the MAG will determine the topics and further develop the format during upcoming virtual meetings.
  - ➔ The Secretariat will convey the outcome of the MAG's discussions on the overarching theme to the Host Country for consideration.