



IGF Internet Governance Forum

National, Regional, Sub-Regional & Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs)



Brazil IGF



Italy IGF



El Salvador IGF



Ireland IGF



Austria IGF



Pacific IGF



South East Asia Youth IGF



Caribbean IGF



Panama IGF



Bangladesh Youth IGF



Estonia IGF



India IGF



Iraq IGF



Australia IGF



Maldives IGF

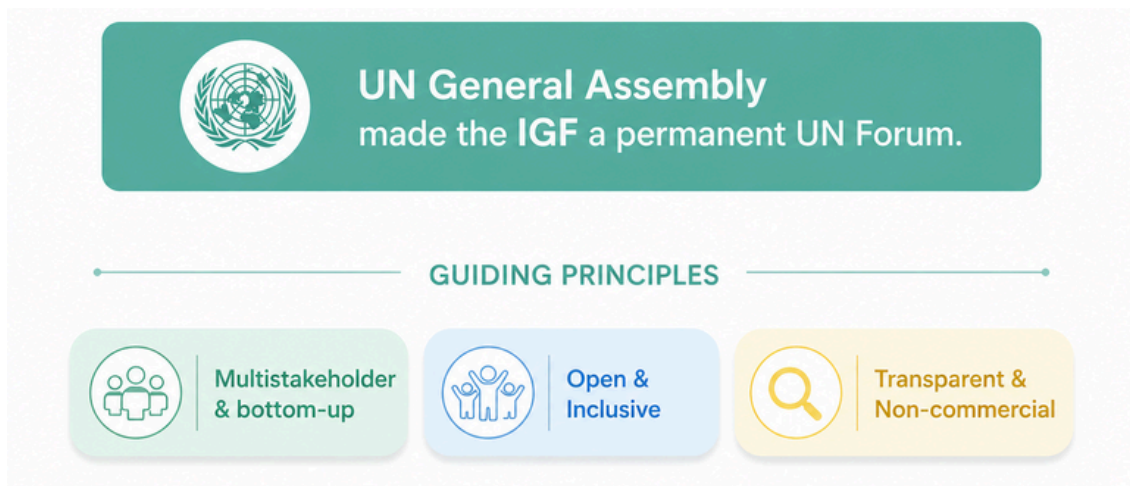


Tanzania IGF

About the IGF

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a United Nations platform where all stakeholders - governments, civil society, academia, private sector, technical community, intergovernmental organizations, media - discuss how the Internet should be governed and used for the public good.

The IGF was one of the most important outcomes of the United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), which requested the United Nations Secretary-General to formally convene the Forum on 18 July 2006 as a multilateral, multistakeholder, democratic and transparent platform for discussions on Internet governance issues.



2006

Convened by
UN Secretary-General

2025

Permanent UN Forum status
granted

20+

Annual IGFs hosted by
various governments

9,000+

Thousands of stakeholders
participate in the IGF

IGF is a Year-Round Process

The IGF operates as a year-round process that combines global meetings with ongoing collaborative work. Each year, the IGF annual meeting brings together thousands of participants from around the world to discuss digital policy challenges and opportunities. Participants represent diverse stakeholder groups and disciplines.

Between annual meetings, the community works on several substantive activities including best practice forums, dynamic coalitions and policy networks focused on a particular Internet governance issue. These initiatives bring stakeholders together to develop knowledge and exchange practices and experiences on key digital policy issues.

Annual Meeting

Thousands of participants from around the world gather to discuss digital policy challenges and opportunities.

Intersessional Work

Stakeholders exchange inputs year-round through thematic policy networks, best practice forums, and dynamic coalitions.

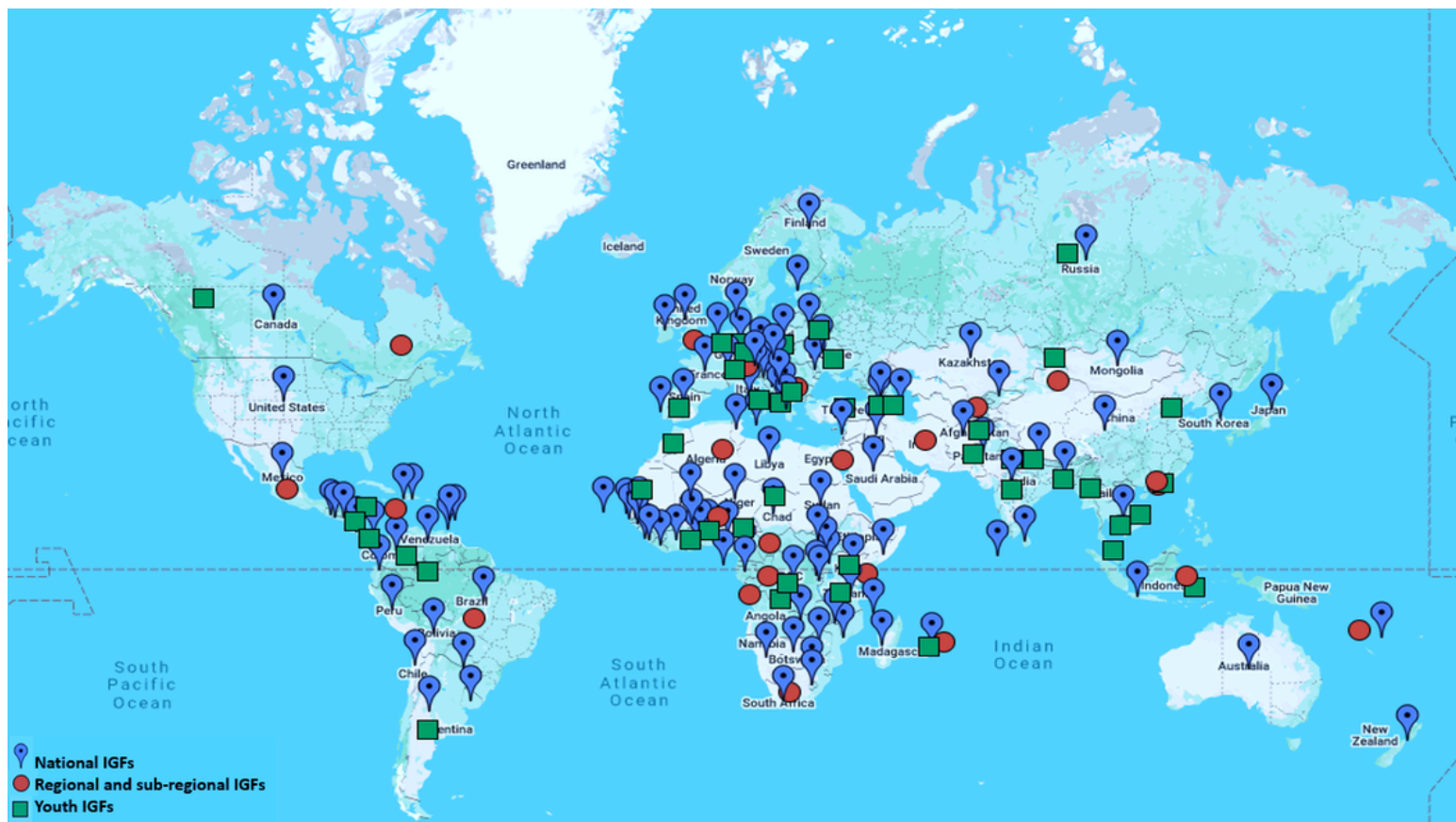
Capacity Development

Strategic stakeholder engagement to strengthen underrepresented groups, particularly in developing countries.

National, Regional, Sub-Regional & Youth IGF Initiatives

Over the years, the IGF has inspired multistakeholder communities across countries and regions to establish national and regional IGF processes. These initiatives reflect the IGF's core principles while adapting the multistakeholder model to their respective national and regional contexts.

The National, Regional, Sub-regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) facilitate dialogue and cooperation on Internet governance and digital policy issues that are most relevant to their communities. Some initiatives focus specifically on youth participation, enabling young people to contribute their perspectives to digital policy discussions; these are known as Youth IGF initiatives. To date, there are over 180 NRIs recognized by the IGF Secretariat.



National IGF Initiatives

Multistakeholder communities at the level of a member state.

180+

Recognized NRIs by IGF Secretariat

Regional and Sub-regional IGF Initiatives

Multistakeholder communities connected geographically and/or culturally.

150+

Average stakeholder participation at national IGF annual meeting

Youth IGF Initiatives

Communities at national or (sub)regional level prioritising youth-relevant perspectives.

300+

Average stakeholder participation at (sub)regional IGF annual meeting

What Do NRIs Do?

In regions where digital policy ecosystems are still evolving and where structural digital divides persist, NRIs play an important role in enabling inclusive dialogue on issues such as data protection, platform governance, digital inclusion, human rights online, cybersecurity, and emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence and quantum technologies.

By fostering locally grounded multistakeholder engagement, NRIs contribute to more informed and context-aware policymaking processes. While remaining independent and community-driven, they operate in accordance with the IGF's core principles. Their meetings and intersessional activities are organized through open, consultative and bottom-up processes led by multistakeholder organizing teams and conducted on a non-commercial basis.



Global Recognition of NRIs

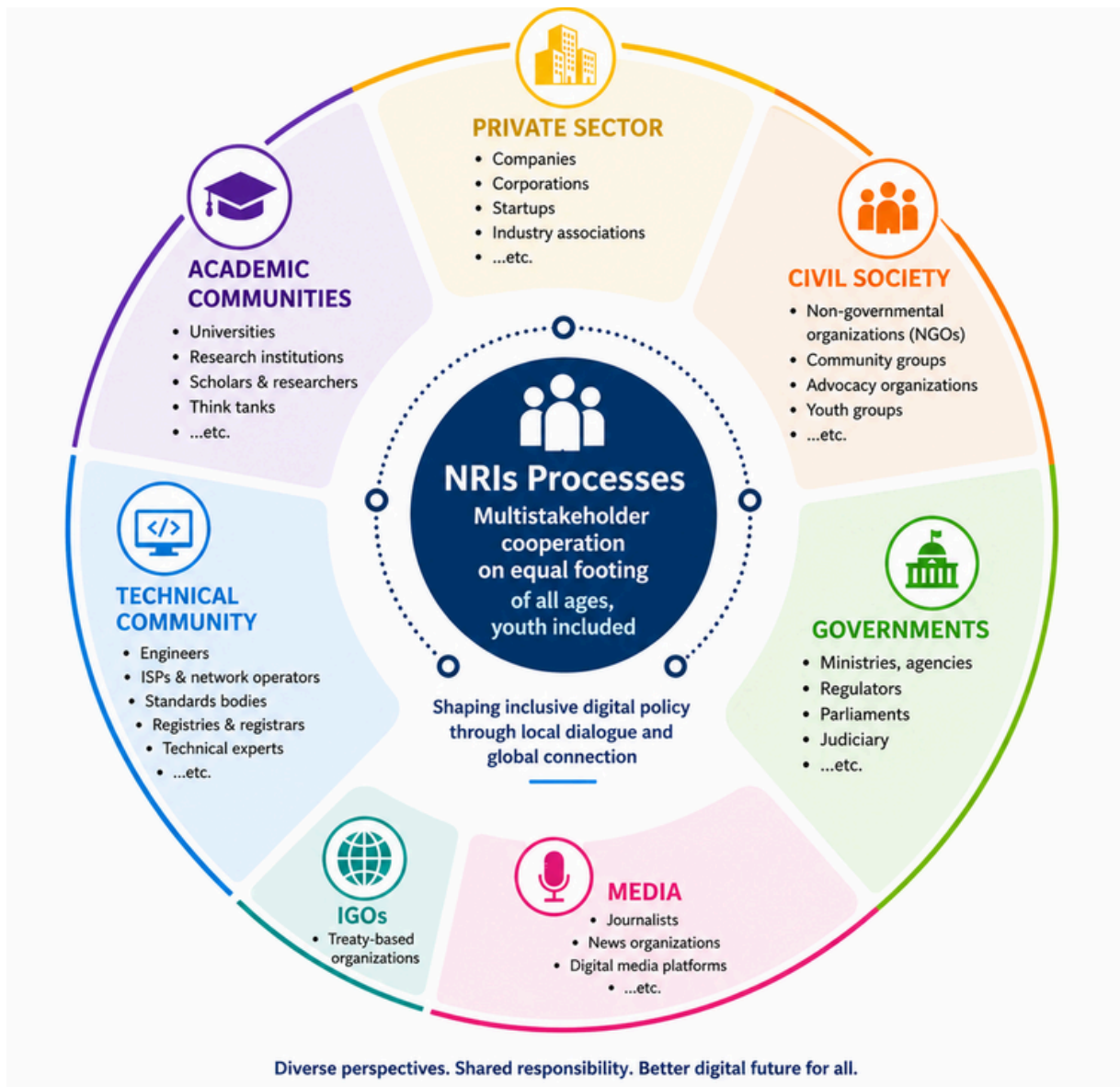


The [General Assembly's WSIS+20 Resolution A/RES/80/173](#) recognized the important contribution of the NRIs to the global Internet governance ecosystem. It specifically highlighted:

- Continued growth of NRIs worldwide
- Their role in strengthening inclusive, bottom-up, multistakeholder dialogue; and
- Importance of further supporting participation from developing countries and underrepresented groups

Who Are The Stakeholders Affiliated with NRIs?

Individuals and organizations from different stakeholder groups and disciplines, from different parts of the country and/or region are actively engaged with the NRIs. The engagement models are different and can relate to formal membership in the NRIs multistakeholder organizing committee; or active participation in NRI-led events such as the roles of session organizers, moderators, rapporteurs or expert speakers.



Why Engage with NRIs?

The Internet is all-pervasive. Its services and tools are becoming increasingly integrated into people's lives and are intersecting with their rights and freedoms. Further, its impact on the world's economy is growing each day. When compounding this with the Internet's complex nature, its governance requires the involvement of everyone—from those that understand its technical operations, to those understanding policy aspects.

In diverse socio-economic and regulatory environments, NRIs provide a structured space to anticipate policy challenges, test ideas in an open setting, and build trust among stakeholders before formal legislative or regulatory processes take place. This can help reduce fragmentation and promote more coherent digital governance approaches.

Learning from Good NRI Practices: Engaging Decision Makers

A comprehensive understanding of Internet governance is essential. IGF initiatives inform decision-making through a multistakeholder lens. As a result, legislative bodies often draw on these sources of knowledge when shaping approaches to Internet governance.

Kenya IGF

The Kenya IGF's multistakeholder organizing committee, composed of stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, represents a nexus of expertise on the Internet—spanning technological, policy, societal, cultural, economic, and legal dimensions. The committee ensures inclusive stakeholder engagement throughout the IGF process and actively involves decision-makers, enabling them to consider all relevant aspects of digital technologies before regulation, in support of informed, people-centered policy outcomes.



Real Impact: Exchanges between Members of Parliament and the Kenya IGF and its School on Internet Governance, alongside responses to evolving cybersecurity challenges.

SEEDIG

The subregional IGF for South Eastern Europe (SEEDIG) has strengthened cooperation with parliaments across the region. In 2018, its annual meeting was held under the patronage of the President of the National Assembly of Slovenia, enabling engagement with the parliamentary dimension of the South-East European Cooperation Process. In 2019, when hosted in Romania, ICT parliamentary committees from both chambers partnered with SEEDIG.



Real Impact: These collaborations helped ensure parliamentary participation in IGF activities while increasing awareness of multistakeholder Internet governance within legislative bodies. Similar engagement is growing in other regions, where NRIs provide neutral platforms for dialogue on emerging digital policy issues, including artificial intelligence, cross-border data flows, digital identity, and online safety.



Asia Pacific Youth IGF



Lusophone IGF



West Africa IGF

NRIs at the Annual IGF Meeting

NRIs collectively participate in dedicated NRIs sessions at the annual IGF meeting. Through a bottom-up, consultative, open, and inclusive approach, the IGF Secretariat facilitates regular exchanges among NRIs to ensure their sustained representation at the global level. These exchanges enable NRIs to contribute locally grounded perspectives, priorities, and experiences to the IGF programme, including its intersessional work. A significant portion of IGF-related capacity development is also carried out in cooperation with NRIs.

NRIs are further recognized as key partners in strengthening stakeholder engagement, including with decision-makers. For example, the IGF facilitates the engagement of members of parliaments in its multistakeholder processes, organized collaboratively by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the IGF Secretariat, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, and the IGF Host Country. The annual IGF meeting brings together parliamentarians from across regions to exchange views on issues of common interest. Engagement through national and regional IGFs serves as valuable preparation, enabling parliamentarians to better understand multistakeholder processes and to bring context-specific inputs from their communities into global Internet governance discussions.



African IGF



IGF-USA



Portugal IGF

NRIs and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development



The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes the transformative potential of digital technologies to advance development, bridge digital divides and support knowledge societies. Realizing this potential requires sound digital governance and inclusive policymaking.

Through the work of NRIs and the IGF process, stakeholders - including governments, parliaments, businesses and civil society - contribute to shaping digital policies that support sustainable development and inclusive digital transformation.

Interested in starting a national, regional, sub-regional or youth IGF initiative? Start here:

- [Explore the NRIs Toolkit](#)
- [Reach out to the IGF Secretariat](#)
- [Connect with other NRIs and learn from their experiences](#)



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