

IGF 2021

Analysis of proposed issues

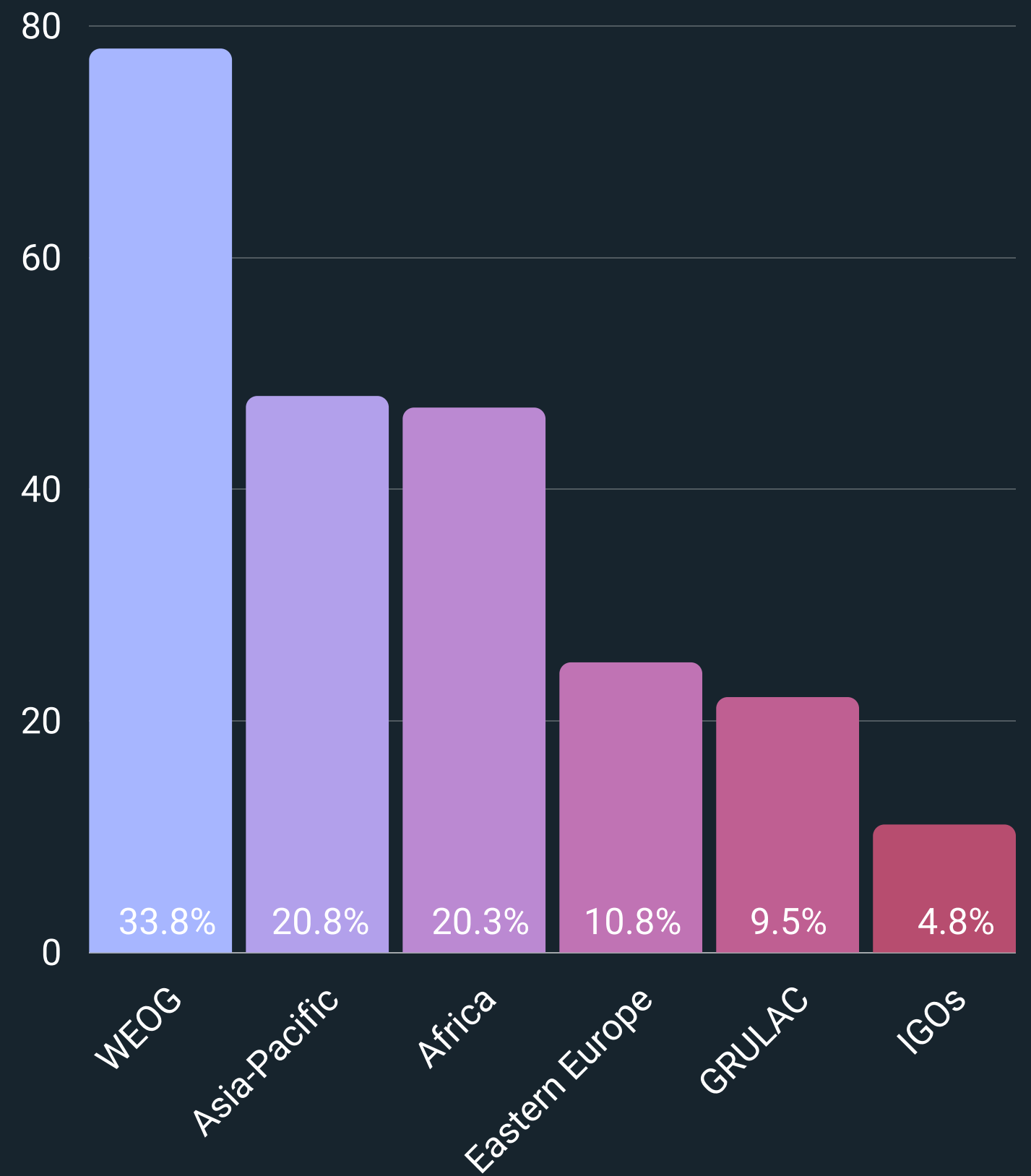
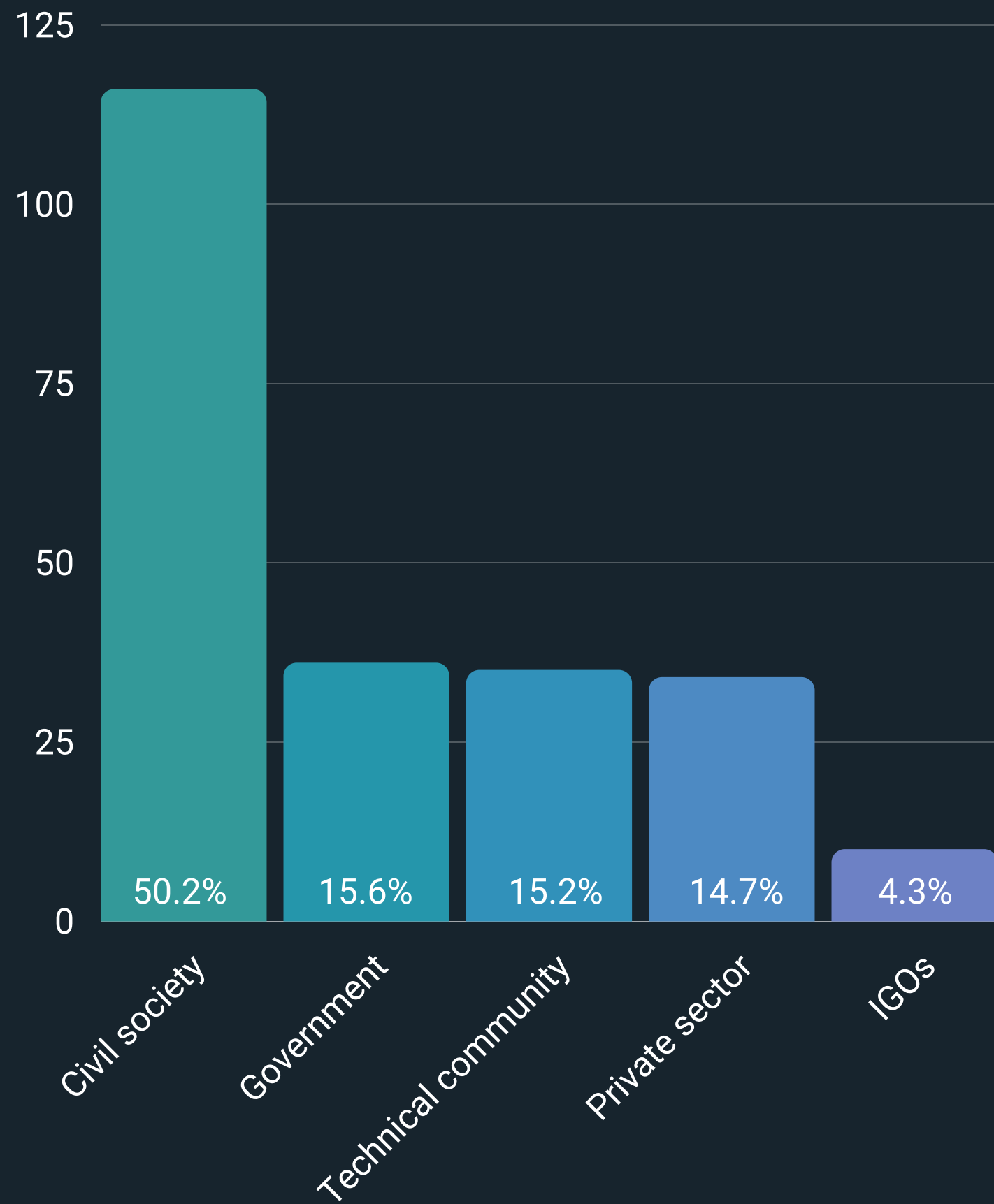
Prepared by the IGF Secretariat

February 2021

About the call

- The call was open between 28 December 2020 and 31 January 2021.
- The community was invited to suggest issues for the IGF to prioritise in 2021. Unlike some of the previous calls for issues, this time the submitters were not asked to indicate themes under which their proposed issues would fit.
- 231 submissions were received. A list with these submissions is available on the IGF website.
 - <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/igf-2021-proposed-issues>

Statistics (for submissions as received)



Overview of proposed issues

- The overview includes **507 issues**. This resulted after 'cleaning up' the 231 submissions: removing invalid ones (duplicates, blank, not relevant) and breaking down submissions into individual issues. (Most submissions included more than one proposed issue.)
- The 507 issues are grouped into **53 clusters** and **10 themes**.
- Each theme includes:
 - **Primary clusters** (they group similar issues under an overarching topic).
 - **Sub-clusters** (they give a glimpse into the key issues included under some of the complex clusters).
 - Stand-alone issues (which could not be included into any of the existing (sub)clusters due to their specificity).
- For each theme, primary cluster and sub-cluster, the total number of issues included under them is indicated.
- While each issue was allocated to **only one theme**, some of the issues are cross-cutting and could fit under multiple themes. This is why a separate list of clusters is also presented, to give a general overview of the most popular topics regardless of the theme.

Key numbers

507
issues

10
themes

53
clusters

Inclusion
(116)

Security and trust
(70)

Digital rights and
freedoms
(69)

Sustainability and
environment
(61)

Economic issues
(45)

Data
(40)

Internet governance
ecosystem
(36)

New and emerging
technologies
(33)

Digital cooperation
(27)

Technical issues
(10)

Overview of issues by theme

Inclusion (116)

Expanding Internet infrastructure (20)	Inclusion of disadvantaged communities (17)	Online education (16)	Universal access (15)	Capacity development (14)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing and deploying Internet infrastructures (6) • Community networks (5) • Policy and regulatory solutions to enable cost-effective expansion of connectivity (including alternative models) (6) • Broadband connectivity (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital inclusion of disadvantaged communities (persons with disabilities, senior citizens, other vulnerable and marginalised groups) (10) • Access and digital development in rural areas (7) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online education and the digitalisation of educational processes/institutions – challenges and opportunities (8) • Access to online education (6) • Online education and children's rights (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet access for all (12) • Affordability of access (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing digital skills (10) • Digital literacy (4)
Access to/development of online content/resources (10)	Gender inclusion (10)	Meaningful Internet access (6)	Digital inclusion (general) (6)	Youth inclusion (2)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilingualism and local content (access and development) (5) • (Equitable) access to (open) content and resources (5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender equality (6) • Addressing the gender gap in access and skills (4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Internet access (4) • Stable and reliable Internet access (2) 		

Security and trust (70)

Internet safety (17)	Online trust and content policy (16)	Cybersecurity – other issues (10)	Encryption (6)	Network/infrastructure security (5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safety (8) • Internet safety (general) (5) • Online gender-based violence (4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling misinformation & disinformation (15) • Addressing violent content online (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cybersecurity (general) (5) • Cybersecurity strategies, policies, frameworks (2) • Cybersecurity awareness (2) • Cybersecurity standards and best practices (1) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network security – addressing vulnerability and threats (4) • Security of critical national infrastructures (1)
Responsible state behaviour in cyberspace (5)	Cybercrime (4)	Cyber-resilience (3)	Internet/digital trust (3)	Other stand-alone issues (1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malicious nation-state cyber actions (3) • Cybernorms (1) • Confidence building measures (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cybercrime acts (3) • Frameworks for international and public/private cooperation (1) 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election security (1)

Digital rights and freedoms (69)

Freedoms in the digital space (21)	Protecting human rights in the digital space (18)	Children's rights (10)	Digital rights and equality (7)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom of expression (FoE) – between platforms' content policies and government regulation (9) • Transparency and accountability in content moderation (both human and algorithmic) (6) • Protection of FoE (general) (5) • Intellectual property and FoE (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital rights (general) (6) • Human-rights-based approaches to technology design and policy (5) • Roles and responsibilities of the private sector (4) • Legal frameworks for digital rights (national and international) (2) • Capacity development for digital rights advocates (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of children's rights (8) • National and international instruments for protecting children's rights (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital tech and racial justice (3) • Gender rights online (2) • Equal digital rights for all (2)
Digital authoritarianism and digital surveillance (6)	Internet restrictions (4)	Other stand-alone issues (3)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital authoritarianism and digital surveillance by governments (4) • Digital surveillance by tech companies (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet shutdowns (2) • Censorship (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health (1) • Protection of journalists (1) • Self sovereign identity (1) 	

Sustainability and environment (61)

Digitalisation, development and sustainability (26)	Internet, digital tech and environment (18)	Internet, digital tech and climate (8)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digitalisation/digital transformation for development (across industries, public services, society overall) (14) • Internet, digital technologies and sustainability/SDGs (9) • Enabling policy environments for digitalisation (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital technologies and environment protection – benefits and risks (6) • Greening the Internet and digital tech (6) • Environment protection (general) (6) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet, IG and climate action (6) • Digital tech for weather forecast (2)
Internet and digital tech in the context of COVID-19 crisis and post-COVID recovery (5)	Digital health (4)	

Economic issues (45)

Regulating Big Tech (20)	Future of work (8)	Consumer protection (7)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Regulating Big Tech – addressing market concentration/centralisation and fostering competition (15)• Regulation of social media platforms (general) (4)• Digital platforms as public infrastructure (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jobs in the digital age (3)• Social protection for workers (3)• Frameworks for online work (2)	
Digital economy, innovation and growth (6)	Digital currencies (2)	Digital tax (2)

Data (40)

Data privacy (23)	Data governance (13)	Data availability and use (4)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Privacy and data protection (general) (14)• National and international privacy legislation – present, future, implications (5)• Platforms and data privacy (2)• Balancing national / international security and privacy (1)• Identification and authentication – privacy implications (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data governance (5)• Cross-border data flows – governance approaches (4)• Governance frameworks for data sharing (3)• Data portability (1)	

Internet governance (IG) ecosystem (36)

IGF and NRIs (16)	Inclusion within IG and policy spaces/processes (12)	Challenges to current IG approaches (5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the IGF (12) • Strengthening and expanding NRIs (4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive and open IG/policy processes (7) • IG capacity development (3) • Addressing issues of interest for developing countries (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralisation vs decentralisation of governance (2) • The future of multistakeholderism (2) • Rebalancing the power dynamic between stakeholders (1)
Other stand-alone issues (3)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersection of people governance and Internet governance (1) • Pandemic effects on Internet governance (1) • Regulation (1) 		

New and emerging technologies (33)

Artificial intelligence (AI) (13)	Internet of things (IoT) (8)	Implications of emerging technologies (5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI governance, human rights and ethics (6) • AI (general) (3) • AI readiness/adoption (2) • AI applications for good (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IoT applications for good (3) • IoT and innovation (3) • Technologies for connected and self-driving cars (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruptive technologies (3) • Emerging technologies (general) (2)
Blockchain (3)	New communication technologies (2)	Quantum computing (2)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5G (1) • 6G (1) 	

Digital cooperation (27)

Digital (inter)dependence (12)	Digital cooperation (9)	Digital public goods (5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implications of digital sovereignty approaches (5)• Internet fragmentation – causes and consequences (5)• China-USA tech relations (2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooperation in governing the digital future (5)• Global digital cooperation (4)	
Other stand-alone issues (1)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cyber-diplomacy (1)		

Technical issues (10)

Standardisation (5)	Critical Internet resources (CIR) (4)	Other stand-alone issues (1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Existing and emerging Internet/IT standards (2)• The interplay between standardisation and policy goals (2)• Multistakeholderism and Internet standards development (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top-level domains (2)• Responsible CIR management (1)• Governance of the DNS root (1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ICT building blocks (1)

Overview of issues by cluster

<p>1 Digitalisation, development and sustainability (26)</p>	<p>2 Data privacy (23)</p>	<p>3 Freedoms in the digital space (21)</p>
<p>4 Regulating Big Tech (20)</p>	<p>5 Expanding Internet infrastructure (20)</p>	<p>6 Internet, digital tech and environment (18)</p>
<p>7 Protecting human rights in the digital space (18)</p>	<p>8 Inclusion of disadvantaged/vulnerable communities (17)</p>	<p>9 Internet safety (17)</p>
<p>10 IGF and NRIs (16)</p>	<p>11 Online education (16)</p>	<p>12 Online trust and content policy (16)</p>
<p>13 Universal access (15)</p>	<p>14 Capacity development (14)</p>	<p>15 Artificial intelligence (AI) (13)</p>
<p>16 Data governance (13)</p>	<p>17 Digital (inter)dependence (12)</p>	<p>18 Inclusion within IG and policy spaces/processes (12)</p>

19
Access to and development of online content/resources (10)

20
Children's rights (10)

21
Cybersecurity – other issues (10)

22
Gender inclusion (10)

23
Digital cooperation (9)

24
Internet, digital tech and climate (8)

25
Internet of things (IoT) (8)

26
Future of work (8)

27
Consumer protection (7)

28
Digital rights and equality (7)

29
Digital authoritarianism and digital surveillance (6)

30
Digital economy, innovation and growth (6)

31
Digital inclusion (general) (6)

32
Encryption (6)

33
Meaningful Internet access (6)

34
Challenges to current IG approaches (5)

35
Digital public goods (5)

36
Implications of emerging technologies (5)

37 Internet and digital tech in the context of COVID-19 crisis and post-COVID recovery (5)

38 Network/infrastructure security (5)

39 Responsible state behaviour in cyberspace (5)

40 Standardisation (5)

41 Critical Internet resources (CIR) (4)

42 Cybercrime (4)

43 Data availability and use (4)

44 Digital health (4)

45 Internet restrictions (4)

46 Blockchain (3)

47 Cyber-resilience (3)

48 Internet/digital trust (3)

49 Digital currencies (2)

50 Digital tax (2)

51 New communication technologies (2)

52 Quantum computing (2)

53 Youth inclusion (2)

Digitalisation, development and sustainability (26)	Data privacy (23)	Freedoms in the digital space (21)	Regulating Big Tech (20)
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Expanding Internet infrastructure (20)	Internet, digital tech and environment (18)	Protecting human rights in the digital space (18)	Inclusion of disadvantaged/vulnerable communities (17)
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<p>Internet safety (17)</p>	<p>IGF and NRIs (16)</p>	<p>Online education (16)</p>	<p>Online trust and content policy (16)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child safety (8) • Internet safety (general) (5) • Online gender-based violence (4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening the IGF (12) • Strengthening and expanding NRIs (4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online education and the digitalisation of educational processes/institutions – challenges and opportunities (8) • Access to online education (6) • Online education and children's rights (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tackling misinformation & disinformation (15) • Addressing violent content online (1)
<p>Universal access (15)</p>	<p>Capacity development (14)</p>	<p>Artificial intelligence (AI) (13)</p>	<p>Data governance (13)</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet access for all (12) • Affordability of access (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing digital skills (10) • Digital literacy (4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI governance, human rights and ethics (6) • AI (general) (3) • AI readiness/adoption (2) • AI applications for good (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data governance (5) • Cross-border data flows – governance approaches (4) • Governance frameworks for data sharing (3) • Data portability (1)

Digital (inter)dependence (12)	Inclusion within IG and policy spaces/processes (12)	Access to and development of online content/resources (10)	Children's rights (10)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implications of digital sovereignty approaches (5) • Internet fragmentation – causes and consequences (5) • China-USA tech relations (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive and open IG/policy processes (7) • IG capacity development (3) • Addressing issues of interest for developing countries (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multilingualism and local content (access and development) (5) • (Equitable) access to (open) content and resources (5) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of children's rights (8) • National and international instruments for protecting children's rights (2)
Cybersecurity – other issues (10)	Gender inclusion (10)	Digital cooperation (9)	Internet, digital tech and climate (8)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cybersecurity (general) (5) • Cybersecurity strategies, policies, frameworks (2) • Cybersecurity awareness (2) • Cybersecurity standards and best practices (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gender equality (6) • Addressing the gender gap in access and skills (4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperation in governing the digital future (5) • Global digital cooperation (4) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet, IG and climate action (6) • Digital tech for weather forecast (2)

Internet of things (IoT) (8)	Future of work (8)	Consumer protection (7)	Digital rights and equality (7)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IoT applications for good (3) IoT and innovation (3) Technologies for connected and self-driving cars (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jobs in the digital age (3) Social protection for workers (3) Frameworks for online work (2) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital tech and racial justice (3) Gender rights online (2) Equal digital rights for all (2)
Digital authoritarianism and digital surveillance (6)	Digital economy, innovation and growth (6)	Digital inclusion (general) (6)	Encryption (6)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital authoritarianism and digital surveillance by governments (4) Digital surveillance by tech companies (2) 			

Meaningful Internet access (6)	Challenges to current IG approaches (5)	Digital public goods (5)	Implications of emerging technologies (5)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality Internet access (4) • Stable and reliable Internet access (2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centralisation vs decentralisation of governance (2) • The future of multistakeholderism (2) • Rebalancing the power dynamic between stakeholders (1) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disruptive technologies (3) • Emerging technologies (general) (2)
Internet and digital tech in the context of COVID-19 crisis and post-COVID recovery (5)	Network/infrastructure security (5)	Responsible state behaviour in cyberspace (5)	Standardisation (5)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network security – addressing vulnerability and threats (4) • Security of critical national infrastructures (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malicious nation-state cyber actions (3) • Cybern norms (1) • Confidence building measures (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing and emerging Internet/IT standards (2) • The interplay between standardisation and policy goals (2) • Multistakeholderism and Internet standards development (1)

Critical Internet resources (CIR) (4)	Cybercrime (4)	Data availability and use (4)	Digital health (4)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top-level domains (2) • Responsible CIR management (1) • Governance of the DNS root (1) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cybercrime acts (3) • Frameworks for international and public/private cooperation (1) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of children's rights (8) • National and international instruments for protecting children's rights (2)
Internet restrictions (4)	Blockchain (3)	Cyber-resilience (3)	Internet/digital trust (3)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internet shutdowns (2) • Censorship (2) 			

Digital currencies (2)	Digital tax (2)	New communication technologies (2)	Quantum computing (2)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5G (1) • 6G (1) 	

Youth inclusion (2)	Stand-alone issues (9)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyber-diplomacy (1) • Election security (1) • ICT building blocks (1) • Intersection of people governance and Internet governance (1) • Mental health (1) • Pandemic effects on Internet governance (1) • Protection of journalists (1) • Regulation (1) • Self sovereign identity (1)

The overview in a spreadsheet format

An online spreadsheet with the overview of issues is also available:

<https://cutt.ly/0k8bMuC>