



United Nations

Department of
Economic and
Social Affairs



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ

To all Presidents of IPU Groups

19 August 2021

Dear Madam President,

Dear Mr. President,

From **6 to 10 December 2021**, the Government of the Republic of Poland will host the United Nations 16th Internet Governance Forum (IGF 2021) under the overarching theme *Internet United*. Participants from around the world are expected to take part in this event in Katowice, Poland and online.

The IGF brings together different stakeholder groups (governments, international organisations, private companies, technical and academic communities, and civil society), and some of the most prominent individuals in the global Internet governance dialogue will take part in this event. The detailed programme of IGF 2021, including its high-level and parliamentary components together with related information, will be made available soon at the following websites: www.igf2021.pl and www.intgovforum.org. The event will be held in a hybrid format allowing onsite and online participation.

In recent years, the IGF has sought to strengthen the parliamentary dimension of the discussions on some of the most pressing issues related to the use, evolution and governance of the Internet and related digital technologies. Participants in the [2019](#) and [2020](#) parliamentary roundtables recommended, among other issues, that national parliaments cooperate and exchange good practices on dealing with digital policy issues.

We wish to invite you and the Members of Parliament from your country to actively join the discussion and to take part in IGF 2021. In particular, we would like to draw your attention to the **parliamentary track, taking place on 7–8 December on the theme *Legislative approaches for a user-centric digital space***. In the lead-up to this track, a **series of preparatory sessions will be held online between September and November**, allowing Members of Parliaments to become familiar with the IGF and the broader Internet governance ecosystem, and to engage in dialogue on key digital policy issues concerning personal data, the fight against harmful content, and ensuring that artificial intelligence remains human-centred. The main points emerging from these discussions will form the basis for the output document from the parliamentary track at IGF 2021. A concept note with more information on the parliamentary track (including the online preparatory sessions and the Katowice events) is attached.



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We kindly ask you to bring this invitation to the attention of relevant parliamentary committees and those parliamentarians who work on digital affairs and Internet policy issues. We would be delighted to welcome parliamentary representatives from your country, in order to jointly lay the foundations for a productive discussion on the questions that will shape the future of the progressively digitalised world.

In addition to the parliamentary track, parliamentarians are invited to take part in all discussions and events at the IGF, including the special music concert on the evening of 6 December organised by the host country, Poland, and the official opening ceremony on 7 December. The practical information note contains details of how to register for IGF 2021 as well as the preparatory sessions for the parliamentary track.

Limited funds have been allocated to support the participation of several parliamentarians from developing countries in IGF 2021. More details are available in the attached documents.

We look forward to welcoming members of your parliament to the IGF 2021 parliamentary track and the overall IGF meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Liu Zhenmin

Under-Secretary-General for
Economic and Social Affairs
United Nations

Martin Chungong

Secretary General
Inter-Parliamentary Union

Elżbieta Witek

The Marshal of the Sejm
The Republic of Poland