

IGF 2019 Chair's Summary

*Fourteenth Meeting of Internet Governance Forum
Berlin, 25-29 November 2019*

[DRAFT: 29 November 2019]

IGF 2019 at a Glance

When & Where	25-29 November 2019, Berlin, Germany
Overarching theme	One World. One Net. One Vision
3 interlinked main themes informing work programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Data Governance■ Digital Inclusion■ Security, Safety, Stability and Resilience
New to this year's IGF	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Enhanced support for:<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Global South■ Parliamentarians■ SMEs■ Sustainability initiatives
IGF 2019 in numbers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 3679 participants from 161 countries■ 200 sessions

Introduction to IGF 2019

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2019 brought together representatives from governments, the technical community, business and civil society to discuss amplifying digital cooperation. The IGF, convened for the fourteenth time since its establishment in 2005, was hosted by the Government of Germany in Berlin. Under the overarching theme, 'One World. One Net. One Vision', the IGF 2019 provided a substantive multistakeholder platform for engaged and informed discussions about policy issues pertaining to the Internet, and how the Internet can support and fulfil the nexus of respecting human rights and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

IGF 2019 by the Numbers

4 days	
3679 delegates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ From 161 countries■ 53% were IGF newcomers■ 42% of delegates were female■ 2925 online participants■ About 12,000 webcast views
200 sessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 10 thematic main sessions■ 64 workshops■ 36 Open Forums■ 4 Best Practice Forum (BPF) sessions■ 14 Dynamic Coalition (DC) sessions■ 6 National, Regional and Youth IGF initiative (NRI) collaborative sessions■ 37 Day 0 sessions■ 16 other sessions■ 50 booths in the IGF Village
Preparation processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ 52 members Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG)■ 3 face-to-face Open Consultation and MAG Meetings■ 19 virtual MAG meetings■ 5 MAG Working Groups

What Made IGF 2019 Unique

Highly Focused Themes Guiding Intersessional and Berlin Activities

An open, bottom-up Call for Thematic Inputs launched in January 2019 identified three themes as the highest priorities for IGF participants:

- Data governance
- Digital inclusion
- Security, safety, stability and resilience

These themes helped shape many of the IGF 2019 preparatory and intersessional work processes.

Strong Host Government Vision for IGF 2019

Strengthening Support for the Engagement of Under-Represented Stakeholders

An important objective for the Government of Germany throughout its preparations has been to strengthen the IGF and the relevance of the multistakeholder approach to maintain a truly global, open, free and human rights-centered Internet without barriers.

Global South

The structure of the IGF 2019 itself reflected the IGF's role in relation to supporting broader sustainable development issues. Responding to the call for improvement to the IGF through greater participation of developing countries, the Government of Germany provided substantial funds through the Global South Grant supported by UN DESA.

Small-to-Medium Enterprises (SME)

As SMEs play a highly significant role in the national economies of many countries in the world, and for society at large – especially in the Global South – the German government provided support for greater SME involvement in the IGF this year, to better ensure that SME's interests are part of the global debate on Internet governance. During SME discussions at IGF 2019, SMEs agreed to nine actions needed for successful digital transformation.

Parliamentarians

IGF 2019 included the first-ever parliamentary session as part of the main programme. The goal of the session was to bring the outcomes of IGF 2019 to national legislative bodies for concrete action and follow up.

High-Level Leaders Track

On IGF 2019 Day 0, Germany's Minister of Economic Affairs and Energy chaired a meeting of more than 100 high ranking representatives from governments, business and civil society to discuss with them actual topics around data governance, digital inclusion and network security, including a Ministerial Breakfast with representatives from 28 countries and institutions.

In addition, the Government of Germany ensured that all meeting rooms and facilities were fully accessible provided child care services and assistance for people that need help were offered.

Promoting Sustainability

To making IGF 2019 the most inclusive and innovative IGF to date, the Government of Germany encouraged the use of digital applications to make the IGF a “paperless” event. Reusable water bottles and water refilling stations were also provided for participants to reduce waste from the event and a sustainability area was installed to inform participants.

Further Strengthening Links Between United Nations Processes

IGF deliberations have long contributed to the discussions taking place every year at the United Nations General Assembly in New York at the United Nations Headquarters. IGF has existing relationships with Second and Third Committees:

- IGF is regularly referred to in the resolutions of the Second Committee (Economic & Financial), such as resolutions on Information and Communications Technologies for Sustainable Development.
- Discussions in IGF sessions on cyber threats, including cyber crime, inform the discussions at the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Issues).

New, targeted IGF communication channels

UN Secretary-General’s High Level Panel on Digital Cooperation (HLPDC)

IGF hosted online consultations in the lead-up to Berlin to collect feedback from Internet governance stakeholders on Internet-governance-related recommendations in the HLPDC report, which then informed discussions in Berlin on the report’s recommendations.

At IGF 2019, the UN Secretary-General stated, “I will soon appoint a Technology Envoy to work with governments, industry and civil society to help advance international frameworks, and nurture a shared digital future that puts people first and helps bridge the social divide.”

UN General Assembly First Committee

Cybersecurity BPF outputs and Berlin IGF Messages on Security, Safety, Stability and Resilience were developed with an aim of being transmitted:

- Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security
- Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security

A coordinator from the Cybersecurity BPF will present the BPF’s 2019 report at the open consultation session of OEWG in New York the week after IGF 2019 ends.

Overarching theme of 14th IGF: One World. One Net. One Vision.

Hosted in a country where memories of the tearing down of a physical wall and resulting reunification are still fresh in the minds of many of its citizens, the main theme of “One World. One Net. One Vision.” resonated highly with participants at IGF 2019. In a world where there is an increasing trend to erect physical barriers between nations, participants in Berlin reflected on the social, cultural and economic effects of similar barriers, both intentional and otherwise, being raised in the online world via developments as diverse as:

- Differing legal and regulatory regimes
- Efforts to undermine online security via both states and malicious actors
- The spread of misinformation via social media algorithms
- The failure to adequately address growing digital divides

High-Level Statements on the IGF 2019 Theme

In the Opening Session of IGF 2019, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres observed that virtual walls also have the effect of amplifying existing digital, social and political divides. He declared, “If we do not work together to address these divides, we will be remembered as the generation that ruined the early promise of the Internet.”

Also in the Opening Session, the German Chancellor Angela Merkel noted that just as people’s yearning for freedom, connection and a hope for progress had resulted in the fall of the Berlin Wall, the same values were behind the vision of the creators of the Internet and the World Wide Web. She urged participants: “May you be inspired by this location, where 30 years ago, when the Wall fell, it marked the dawn of a new age.”

Both Guterres and Merkel supported the United Nations as the appropriate platform for reshaping global Internet governance to ensure a free, open, and decentralized Internet that is secure and stable and can support development for all. Both reinforced the IGF, a platform for all stakeholders to come together and address pressing policy issues related to the Internet, as the most appropriate forum within the United Nations for advancing and evolving Internet governance norms and frameworks.

- Full statement by UN Secretary-General António Guterres
<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/un-secretary-general-remarks-to-the-igf-2019>
- Full statement by German Chancellor Angela Merkel
<https://www.bundestkanzlerin.de/bkin-de/aktuelles/rede-von-bundestkanzlerin-angela-merkel-zur-eroeffnung-des-14-internet-governance-forums-26-november-2019-in-berlin-1698264>

IGF 2019 Messages

The three main themes identified by IGF participants as the highest priorities for 2019 complement the overarching theme of IGF 2019: **One World. One Net. One Vision:**

- **Data governance** addresses the challenges of strengthening the protection of people's fundamental rights and freedoms while working to ensure there is one interconnected and global Internet.
- Digital exclusion results entrenches social and economic divides and exclusion based on gender, race, identity and income. **Digital inclusion** is to one network, one world and one vision, what social inclusion and human rights are to sustainable development and security.
- **Security, safety, stability and resilience** are paramount for the Internet to achieve its potential as a channel of free speech and an engine for economic growth.

To provide a high-level overview for decision-makers of the most current thinking on key Internet governance issues, discussions from the over 200 sessions held during IGF 2019 have been distilled into Berlin IGF Messages on the three main themes of data governance, digital inclusion, and security, safety, stability and resilience. The Berlin IGF Messages are available at:

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/berlin-igf-messages>

Messages by UN Secretary-General & Chancellor of Germany on main themes

Digital Inclusion

- Technical innovations are there to serve people and not the other way around.
- We need to better understand the relationship between digital advances and inequality: inequality and exclusion drive social unrest and conflict; digital technologies can either widen digital, social and economic divides, or be a force to help reduce them.
- Attacks against Internet connectivity have become a dangerous instrument of politics.

Data Governance

- Flows of data and information link up communities, cities, countries and continents, bringing people together beyond traditional barriers established through politics, through religion or social status.
- Artificial Intelligence and algorithms, if not governed effectively, can be used to monitor and manipulate behaviour, to besiege us with ever more targeted and intrusive advertising, to manipulate voters and to stifle freedom of expression.

Security, Safety, Stability and Resilience

- The answers to whether we become more, or less, secure and safe depends on our ability to work together across disciplines and actors, across nations and political divides.
- Low-intensity cyber-conflict between major States is not a prediction for the future but a feature of the present. In such a climate, mechanisms that build trust and cooperation are indispensable.

IGF 2019 Intersessional Work Tracks

Best Practice Forums

Four IGF Best Practice Forums (BPFs) worked in the leadup to the Berlin on:

- Implementing cybersecurity agreements (BPF on Cybersecurity)
- Using IoT, Big Data, AI to address societal challenges (BPF on Internet of Things, Big Data and Artificial Intelligence)
- Promoting and preserving linguistic diversity, cultural heritage and local content in contexts of political upheaval (BPF on Local Content)
- Beyond access: Women and gender-diverse people's participation in the digital economy (BPF Gender and access)

BPF sessions on these topics exchanged views on policy challenges and best practices with relevant experts and stakeholder representatives.

Insights and community feedback from the Berlin sessions will feed into the final reports published as output of the IGF 2019 BPF work.

Dynamic Coalitions

IGF Dynamic Coalitions (DCs) continued their work as independent, multistakeholder expert discussion groups on a variety of topics, respecting common standards of transparency and inclusiveness (open archives, open membership, open mailing lists).

National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives

More than 120 National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) used a bottom-up consultative process to agree on topic, "Emerging Technologies", as a main priority issue for NRI discussion in Berlin. In addition, based on national and regional discussions held in NRIs in the leadup to IGF 2019, NRIs organized six collaborative sessions on topics of mutual interest:

- Access
- Cybersecurity
- Human rights
- Online content regulation
- Privacy and data protection

To discuss the long-term sustainability of the NRIs, there was an NRIs Coordination Session in which all NRIs present in Berlin met with the representatives of the UN DESA, MAG, IGF Secretariat and wider IGF community.

Annex A: IGF 2019 Statistics

Breakdown of Onsite Participants by Stakeholder and Region Groups

By stakeholder (percentage)		By region (percentage)	
Government	18%	African Group	10%
Legislator	3%	Asia-Pacific Group	12%
Intergovernmental Organization	4%	Eastern European Group	9%
Civil Society	42%	Western European and Others Group (WEOG)	55%
Private Sector	19%	Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC)	9%
Technical Community	11%	Intergovernmental Organization	5%
Press/Media	3%		

Global Engagement in Berlin

122 National, Regional and Youth IGFs (NRIs) represented	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 56 physically present in Berlin ■ 6 more countries have established IGF processes since IGF 2018 ■ 4 communities established Youth IGFs since IGF 2018 ■ 122 NRIs established in total (not all present in Berlin)
55 remote hubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Represented all 5 regions ■ 54% from Africa ■ 6% from Latin America and Caribbean ■ 14% from Asia Pacific ■ 19% from WEOG ■ 7% from Eastern Europe ■ Multiple hubs in Nigeria, Ghana, Chad, Benin, Botswana, Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, India, Russia, Canada, Germany

Annex B: Documentation and Process

Host Country website https://www.igf2019.berlin	IGF Secretariat website https://www.intgovforum.org
Invitation to 14th IGF from UN Under-Secretary-General https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-invitation	

IGF 2019 Outputs

IGF 2019 outputs, including Berlin IGF messages, session reports, press releases, IGF host government reports and IGF participant statements, can be found at:

<https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-outputs>

IGF 2019 Session Reports, Recordings and Transcripts

Reports <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/igf-2019-reports>

Transcripts <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/igf-2019-transcripts>

Recordings <https://www.youtube.com/user/igf>

IGF 2019 Intersessional Work

The community-led intersessional activities that occur throughout the year offer the IGF community the opportunity to work on substantive and concrete longer-term projects in the field of Internet governance:

Best Practice Forums (BPFs)

Cybersecurity <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-cybersecurity-1>

Local Content <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-local-content-0>

IoT, Big Data, AI <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-internet-of-things-iot-big-data-and-artificial-intelligence-ai>

Gender and Access <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/bpf-gender-and-access>

Dynamic Coalitions (DCs)

Accessibility and Disability <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-accessibility-and-disability-1>

Blockchain Technologies <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-blockchain-technologies-0>

Child Online Safety	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-child-online-safety-1
Community Connectivity	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-community-connectivity-0
Core Internet Values	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-core-internet-values-2
DNS Issues	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-dns-issues-dc-dnsi
Gender and Internet Governance	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-gender-and-internet-governance
Innovative Approaches to Connecting the Unconnected	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-innovative-approaches-to-connecting-the-unconnected-0
Internet of Things	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-the-internet-of-things-0
Internet Rights & Principles	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-internet-rights-and-principles-1
Network Neutrality	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-network-neutrality-1
Platform Responsibility	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-platform-responsibility
Public Access in Libraries	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-public-access-in-libraries-dc-pal
Publicness	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-publicness
Schools of Internet Governance	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-schools-of-internet-governance
Small Island Developing States in the Internet Economy	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-small-island-developing-states-in-the-internet-economy-dc-sids
Sustainability of Journalism and News Media	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/dynamic-coalition-on-the-sustainability-of-journalism-and-news-media-dc-sustainability
Youth Coalition on Internet Governance	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/youth-coalition-on-internet-governance-1

<https://www.intgovforum.org>

National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs)

National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) are organic and independent formations that are discussing issues pertaining to the Internet Governance from the perspective of their respective communities, while acting in accordance with the main principles of the global IGF. Below are the sources where to find more information about the NRIs and their work.

About the NRIs	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives
National IGFs	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/national-igf-initiatives
Regional IGFs	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/regional-igf-initiatives
Youth IGFs	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/youth-initiatives
NRI meetings in 2019	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/nris-annual-meetings
Preparatory work of the NRIs	https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-nris%C2%A0preparatory-process