

IGF 2021 Preparatory and Engagement Phase Draft Schedule

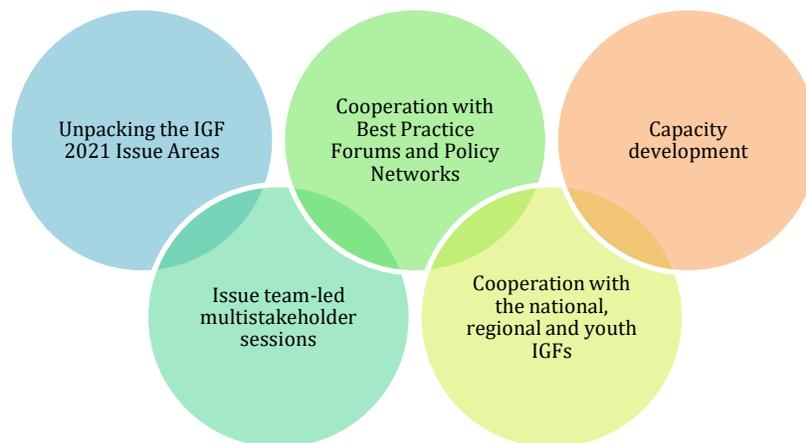
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About

In the lead-up to the 16th IGF in Katowice, Poland, the IGF 2021 hybrid process will feature a preparatory and engagement phase which will include build-up sessions on the IGF 2021's issue areas, development of IGF intersessional work as well as a series of capacity development activities. The main goals of this phase are to:

- Facilitate in-depth engagement with IGF 2021 issue areas towards achieving the goal of a more focused and impactful IGF
- Provide the IGF community with opportunities for developing capacity in IGF-linked areas
- Facilitate engagement with IGF intersessional activities, and,
- Broaden participation and inclusion in all aspects of the IGF process.

The IGF Preparatory and engagement phase links closely with IGF intersessional work, as well as NRIs, and includes opportunities to develop capacity in Internet governance and IGF-related processes.



The IGF 2021 preparatory phase activities will unfold in the following ways:

I. Deep diving into IGF 2021 issue areas

In response to input from the IGF community and from proposals relating to the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation calling for a more focused IGF, the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) has opted for using an issue-driven approach to design the IGF 2021 programme.

The IGF 2021 programme content will be based on two groups of issue areas to **enable a more focused IGF** (through the main focus areas), **while at the same time keeping the IGF open for new and emerging issues and giving participants choice** (through the emerging and cross-cutting issues):

IGF 2021 Main focus areas

- Economic and social inclusion and human rights
- Universal access and meaningful connectivity

IGF 2021 Emerging and cross-cutting issue areas

- Emerging regulation: market structure, content, data and consumer/users rights regulation
- Environmental sustainability and climate change
- Inclusive Internet governance ecosystems and digital cooperation
- Trust, security, stability

1. Mapping links between IGF 2021 issue areas and activities of the IGF community at large to feed into the 16th IGF programme

The MAG will be using **shared wiki spaces** to collect information on how the IGF 2021 issue areas are being addressed (a) in the framework of the IGF 2021 programme, and (b) by the broader IGF community (e.g. within IGF intersessional activities, NRIs, and other stakeholder initiatives). This is intended to foster collaboration and create synergies. This information will also help the MAG to prepare the main sessions.

This mapping of IGF issue areas serves double purpose: (1) community resource feeding in the annual programme. - to help the MAG to shape the programme of the annual meeting and prepare main sessions taking into account how the issue is being addressed in the IGF community; (2) a starting point to identify synergies and foster cooperation between community activities.

It is proposed that the MAG works through a **set of public wiki pages** available to everyone. A possible illustrative design of one wiki page is annexed (A1).

The preparations will start in July while the active work phase will be conducted in between September and November 2021.

As an additional possibility, stakeholders can share their relevant inputs on the issue areas also through [this webform](#). It would help the MAG issue teams to populate the issue area wiki pages and create useful resources reflecting how and where the issues are being addressed.

2. Unpacking the IGF 2021 issue areas through introductory and scoping sessions

The IGF 2021 preparatory and engagement phase will include **online hosted introductory and scoping sessions**, curated by the MAG but organized collaboratively with members of the IGF community, working in “issue teams”¹ to unpack the IGF 2021 issue areas.

At these sessions participants will receive an [overview](#) of the issue area and will be invited to engage in a community discussion to provide feedback, prioritize topics and refine the area descriptions and policy questions, as a useful input to prepare the various community-facilitated sessions that will be hosted during the 16th IGF in Katowice. IGF intersessional activities (NRIs, BPFs, DCs and policy networks) can participate in these sessions, providing input linked to the issue area that they might have been addressing in their own work. The sessions are also expected to serve as outreach events, attracting and involving new players in the IGF discussions.

The tentative schedule of these sessions is annexed (A2).

This phase will also aim to engage parliamentarians to understand this specific group’s views toward the IGF 2021 issue areas. A separate update will be shared in due course, by the parliamentary track co-facilitators: IGF 2021 host country - Government of Poland, the Polish Parliament, IPU and UN DESA.

3. Multistakeholder community organized feeder workshops

Once the MAG has concluded the evaluation of workshop proposals, they might identify some proposals to include in the programme of the IGF 2021’s preparatory phase with the agreement of the session organizers (“**feeder workshops**”). Sessions that, for example, focused on setting the scene for a particular issue or policy question might work very well during the preparatory phase. Similarly, sessions that aim to build participants knowledge of a specific problem, or context.

4. Documenting discussion during the preparatory phase and linking to the annual forum

All sessions that take place during the preparatory phase will be asked to **document outputs** stemming from their discussions and these will be aggregated and synthesized for the purpose of informing discussions at the annual forum which will be held from 6 to 10 December 2021 in Katowice, in a hybrid format ensuring onsite and online ways of participation.

The proposed tentative timeline is:

- July 2021: produce a recommended list of sessions and obtain agreement from the session organizers
- September/October 2021: hosting of sessions
- October 2021: finalization of the session outputs and updating the Meeting Guide on Issues and Policy Questions.

¹ Groups of MAG members facilitating the development of the issue areas narratives.

II. Engaging IGF 2021 Intersessional Work

To create the opportunity for the IGF's intersessional activities to share progress and engage the broader community, the IGF 2021 preparatory phase will include a session dedicated to their work for 2021 (which is distinct from the IGF2021 issue areas even if there is some overlap). The best practice forums on cybersecurity and gender and digital rights; as well as of the policy networks on environment and meaningful access, and all dynamic coalitions will be invited to participate. The content of this session will be related to the 2021 work programmes of the respective intersessional activities. A tentative schedule is annexed (A2).

The intersessional work streams will continue running their regular meetings. The Secretariat will invest efforts in additional outreach toward un(der)represented stakeholder and regional groups. For all intersessional work meetings, a schedule will be announced on the IGF website.

The [meeting guide](#) will be updated on the basis of relevant outputs.

III. Capacity development activities

1. Series of capacity development workshops on engagement in the IGF

In order to build long term engagement between various communities and Internet Governance Forum (IGF), as well as to build capacity on IGF processes, the capacity development workshops will be delivered for various regions of the world, hosted in close collaboration with the NRIs, where possible and on the margins of the regional NRIs meetings. For 2021, given the COVID-19 pandemic constraints, these workshops would be delivered online. These workshops would be organized by the IGF Secretariat with the invitation to the facilitators of the relevant programme components, where appropriate. The draft concept of the workshops is annexed.

2. How to effectively host and participate in a hybrid IGF 2021?

Training for session organizers and developing countries stakeholders on meaningful ways of participation in the hybrid IGF 2021 meeting, will be implemented. The training will be backed with the guide on participation in a hybrid meeting developed in cooperation with the MAG WG-Hybrid meetings.

3. Capacity development workshops: "Our Digital Future"



A series of multistakeholder capacity development workshops on digital transformation and cybersecurity will be hosted, primarily for developing countries. In implementing these, the United Nations acknowledges the kind and generous support of Microsoft in developing and donating a website to support the workshops and contributing substantive inputs to the workshops’ programme development.

These workshops will aim at interconnecting the existing expertise on the matter with the intersessional work, namely with the BPF Cybersecurity and DCs focused on cybersecurity issues.

Driven by the call in the [UN Decade of Action to partner for the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDG\)](#), the workshop will support stakeholders interests in issues closely connected to [Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation](#) and the Goal [16: Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies](#).

The preparatory phase will include two online workshops, while the final one will be hosted in the framework of the 16th IGF. The exact schedule will be announced.

ANNEX

A1 Possible illustrative design of the wiki page

- Introduction
- Description of the issue area and policy questions
- Mapping of the issue areas
 - IGF 2021 Programme
 - IGF 2021 Sessions (to be included when available)
 - IGF Community Activities
 - IGF Intersessional activities
 - NRI and youth initiatives
 - Stakeholder initiatives
- Relevant IGO discussions

A2 Tentative schedule of introductory and intersessional work-focused sessions

Date and Time	Session Agenda	Facilitators
8 September 2021 12 hrs UTC	Introducing IGF 2021 issue areas - presentation followed by interactive discussion	MAG issue-areas teams

<p>Duration: 3 hours with breaks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overview - Main focus areas (Universal access and meaningful connectivity and Economic and social inclusion and human rights) <p>Goal: Refining the scope of these issues with input from the perspective of different regions and stakeholder groups</p>	
<p>15 September</p> <p>Duration: 90 min</p>	<p>IGF intersessional activities in 2021 - updates on draft research and recommendations followed by interactive discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Best Practice Forum on Cybersecurity</i> <i>b. Best Practice Forum on Gender and Digital Rights</i> <i>c. Policy Network on Environment</i> <i>d. Policy Network on Meaningful Access</i> <i>e. Dynamic Coalitions (DC Coordination Group and all DCs who choose to participate)</i> <p>Goal: Discuss issues these workstreams cover to inform the community and get feedback that will be incorporated into their final 2021 output documents</p>	<p>MAG Chair and IGF Secretariat and MAG members</p> <p>Facilitators of the BPFs, PNs and DCs (names to be confirmed)</p>
<p>22 September 2021 15 hrs UTC</p>	<p>IGF 2021 Emerging and cross-cutting issue areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Emerging regulation: market structure, content, data and consumer/users rights regulation - Environmental sustainability and climate change 	<p>MAG issue-areas teams</p>
<p>23 September 2021 13 hrs UTC</p>	<p>IGF 2021 Emerging and cross-cutting issue areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inclusive Internet governance ecosystems and digital cooperation - Trust, security, stability 	<p>MAG issue-areas teams</p>
<p>Dates to be determined</p>	<p>Community organized feeder workshops as identified by the MAG and based on agreement with organizers</p>	<p>MAG issue-areas teams</p>

Date to be determined 16 hrs UTC	Wrapping up on the issue areas	MAG issue-areas teams
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