

In the last decade Internet became ever more important for the lives of every human on this planet. It created new business opportunities and new social paradigms for interaction, moving from the local to the global scale and vice-versa.

Whereas many of the Internet developments have surpassed any expectations in terms of benefits for the citizens and the economy, there are several reasons for concern about the future developments of this technology. In particular, the concentration of power in the hands of few companies, the relative lack of citizens' control over personal data, as well as the restrictions on Internet access because of geographical, socio-economic or political reasons are some of the main areas where concerns are raising and at the frontline in Internet Governance discussions.

The Internet of the future can be more open, provide better services, more intelligence, greater involvement and participation. In order to achieve these goals it will need to reflect specific social and ethical values: freedom, openness and interoperability.

We are at a turning point for the evolution of the Internet, a technology that can and should be used to address the many challenges our societies face today.

This is the time to reflect on what is the Internet we want for us and for future generations, in a world of constant change. We are now planting the seeds that will grow into the Internet of the future.

In order to do so, the open forum organizers have recently engaged in consultation exercises, in order to collect users' perspective on the future developments of the Internet. The open forum at the IGF will be a good opportunity to share some of the most significant outcomes of these exercises, while at the same time engaging in a constructive discussion on possible solutions, thus directly contributing in shaping their digital future.

Our open forum aims at bringing together several voices, from different stakeholders' groups as well as diverse background in terms of gender and country, to discuss about the current state of the Internet, but most importantly about the perceived developments and critical points from the perspective of their stakeholder group.