

IGF 2025 Call for Thematic Inputs

Internet Society Contribution

10 January 2025



Thematic Inputs

Thematic Areas that the IGF could prioritize in 2025.

- Cybersecurity and Trust
 - Encryption
 - Internet Fragmentation
 - Legal and regulatory issues
- Digital Cooperation
 - Broadening stakeholder engagement in Internet governance
 - IGF organization and role
 - Multistakeholderism and multidisciplinary
- Universal Access and Meaningful Connectivity
 - Access and connectivity
 - Marginalized and vulnerable groups
 - Youth engagement

Additional Input

The IGF also relates to major global initiatives and agendas. How can the IGF annual meeting and its intersessional work better reflect or contribute to the implementation of the Global Digital Compact and to the review of the overall implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society in the lead up to the high-level meeting end of 2025?

The active participation of the WSIS+20 review co-facilitators and the personnel from the UN Office for Digital and Emerging Technologies (ODET) will be crucial to strengthening multistakeholder engagement in the WSIS+20 review and the implementation of the Global Digital Compact. Attending the IGF 2025 and actively engaging in its sessions is the best way to extract the most value from the IGF, allowing the Forum to demonstrate its true value for the Internet governance and digital cooperation communities.



Also, close and agile communication between the WSIS+20 review co-facilitators, the UN ODET, the IGF Secretariat, the IGF Leadership Panel, and the IGF MAG in the lead-up to the IGF 2025 meeting will allow for better alignment among several parallel efforts while incorporating improvements to different processes in line with the guidelines outlined in the NETmundial+10 outcome document. Aligning processes to these guidelines will allow for truly multistakeholder implementation, avoiding a common confusion with collaborative processes where transparency, accountability, and participation are not at the same level as in multistakeholder processes.

Do you have any ideas to share about the overall format and design of the IGF (including thematic tracks, or treating themes in a different way)?

One of the most pressing challenges the IGF community will face in 2025 while designing the 2025 meeting is striking a balance between the space and sessions devoted to the WSIS+20 review and those focused on the relatively usual programmatic issues related to Internet governance and digital cooperation. As explained above, we recommend a close and agile collaboration with relevant actors of the WSIS+20 review, but we also acknowledge that the highest value the IGF can offer to that process and the GDC implementation resides in the projects and activities implemented by the IGF community at the regional and local levels. This impact is achieved yearly thanks to the continuous participation in the multistakeholder spaces and processes enabled by the IGF intersessional activities and the NRIs network.

To better illustrate this point, session organizers may be invited to identify which WSIS Action Lines and GDC commitments each session contributes to. This information can be useful to map out a direct link between the IGF sessions and the WSIS and GDC processes, illustrating the added value represented by the IGF and its community. To complement this action, session organizers can also be invited to identify potential follow-up spaces, ranging from multilateral global spaces to focalized projects at the national or regional level, which will help demonstrate the spaces and topics where the IGF community directly helps produce concrete outputs.