



[IGF 2024 Call for thematic inputs](#)

Please select up to three thematic areas, including up to three issues per area selected from the dropdown box, the IGF could prioritize in 2024.

Data Governance	Digital Cooperation	Rights and Freedoms
Data Localisation	Broadening stakeholder engagement in Internet Governance	Freedom of Expression
Data Privacy and Protection	Multistakeholderism and Multidisciplinarity	Human Rights
Data services?		Privacy

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 following? **United Nations Secretary General's Our Common Agenda** and its **12 commitments**, particularly the **Global Digital Compact** in the lead up to the "**Summit of the Future**" (2024). *[optional]*

The IGF is an instrument of great value. The amount of institutional knowledge it holds and the community of technologists, civil society groups, businesses, researchers and policymakers it has fostered over the years is incomparable to any other existing process. It is for these, among other reasons, that the IGF, including intersessional work through the NRIs, Dynamic Coalitions, and Policy Networks, has become a vital component of the governance of the Internet and related technologies, and why it must be preserved, protected, and expanded.

The annual IGF is an essential avenue for discussing some of the foremost challenges in a rapidly evolving field, on a consistent and timely basis that allows for predictability, transparency, and accountability. This year, in particular, it can play an additional role: it can serve as a venue for examining how states respect and respond to the outcomes of other key convenings expected earlier in 2024, including the Global Digital Compact (GDC), the WSIS+20 High-Level Event, and the Summit of the Future.



Internet governance and its surrounding issues will be a key thematic area among states this year. The Global Digital Compact (GDC) is geared towards discussing some of the issues that the IGF community has been working on for years. Ensuring that the lessons learned, the complexities identified, and the processes that it established are understood and taken into account through the GDC process is crucial. This is a unique role that the IGF can and should play in the GDC process, which has already been identified by a host of different stakeholders in their [submissions](#) to the GDC process.

It is pertinent, therefore, that this forthcoming IGF makes room for participants to discuss and deliberate on the GDC process and its outcomes. By the time the IGF takes place in Riyadh, both the GDC and the Summit for the Future will have concluded. This provides a unique opportunity for the IGF to allow its community to reflect on these processes and how they have affected Internet governance.

GNI therefore recommends that this year's IGF facilitates a stocktaking exercise of what has transpired in 2024. The MAG, along with the IGF Secretariat, could invite the IGF community to collaborate towards creating a resource (or resources) focused on the outcomes of the GDC and what they mean for the IGF's present and future.

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)? *[optional]*

This year's IGF will take place in a country with a highly problematic human rights record which, as many organisations have [warned](#), "will severely undermine civil society's ability to participate in the annual meeting". While the decision to hold the IGF in Saudi Arabia has not been reversed, the IGF Secretariat and the MAG must at least work closely with the Host Country to provide assurances and strengthen protections for in-person participation, including through documentation and transparency around Privileges & Immunities for participants and relevant provisions in the Host Country Agreement, training of relevant Host Country and United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) personnel, including on the IGF and other relevant Codes of Conduct, as well as arranging consultations with civil society organisations to properly understand their needs to be able to participate safely.

In addition, the Secretariat, MAG, and Host Country should support and promote robust opportunities for remote participation, including by facilitating the use of encrypted services, scheduling across diverse time zones, and clarifying how the code of conduct will be applied in the context of remote participation.



Finally, the Secretariat, MAG, and Host Country should commit to ensuring robust representation of human rights-focused programming for in-person, hybrid, and online sessions, including but not limited to sessions that feature gender empowerment and LGBTQI+ inclusion. They should also commit to ensuring meaningful multistakeholder participation of a diverse array of stakeholders, including vulnerable and marginalized communities in in-person, hybrid, and online programming.