

IGF 2024 newsletter  
Op-ed for LP/MAG  
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Pivotal Years for IGF: 2024 and 2025

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In 2005, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was created as the second convening of the World Summit on the Information Society ended. In 2015, the IGF's mandate was extended for another ten years. In 2024 the Summit of the Future will convey the UN's agenda for at least the rest of this decade and present a Pact for the Future that will include a Global Digital Compact of great relevance to the IGF. In 2025, a decision will be made as to the future of the IGF.

A key term in all of these efforts is **action**. Secretary-General Guterres has consistently and persistently reminded us all that words are worthless without action. We can take this to heart as we prepare for our own intersessional work in 2024, **strengthening synergies between** our national and regional IGF meetings and our annual meeting in Riyadh. **The work of the Policy Networks and Best Practice Forums will continue to focus on key themes provided by stakeholder communities and IGF outcomes delivering insightful and practical outputs of value.** As the MAG receives proposals for sessions in IGF 2024, it will be asking how each proposal might lead to concrete actions. The Leadership Panel (LP) presented its preliminary "Internet We Want" ideas at IGF 2024 and we imagine that the next version might be titled "The Internet We Want and How to Get There."

As 2024 dawns, it is apparent that the Internet and the World Wide Web are more than ever a part of daily life for billions of users and billions more will engage before the year ends. Among our objectives for this calendar year will be outreach to parties not yet represented **or underrepresented** in the IGF. In addition, the LP will be looking for significant financial support **and work towards capacity building** for the operation of the Secretariat. We look forward to conveying the observations and conclusions of IGF 2023 and its predecessors to broader audiences and hope that all participants in the IGF will join in this work.

We anticipate continued expansion of Internet access in 2024 thanks to investment in LEO satellite coverage and new subsea fiber optic cable systems. Expansion of wireless access with 5G, 6G and the new WiFi-7 will provide higher speeds and more efficient coverage. The digital community will surely focus on digital safety, security and privacy and legislators will be hard at work looking towards codifying domestic and international policies for the use of the Internet. Proposals for handling cybercrime will likely be agreed during 2024, most notably on an international basis.

The hot buttons of 2023 will persist into 2024, especially Artificial Intelligence in the form of Large Language Models and other applications of machine learning. The debates over the regulation of this technology will occupy center stage. Internauts will be looking for stronger guarantees of identity, authenticity and provenance of persons and digital property. New, quantum-resistant cryptographic algorithms will be agreed and implemented in aid of that goal. All told, 2024 will be a year of challenge and hard work to make progress toward the Internet we all want. We look forward to a collaborative year, aligning the efforts of the LP and MAG and reinforcing the importance of IGF in the future.

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