

This preliminary narrative is intended as a starting point for further development by the MAG. It reflects the workshops included in the combined selection model and the overarching theme of IGF 2026: “Governing the Internet in the Age of Intelligence: Our Shared Responsibility.”

Cooperation & Policy

Under the IGF 2026 overarching theme, **“Governing the Internet in the Age of Intelligence: Our Shared Responsibility,”** this thematic area considers how established governance principles can be translated into effective institutions, practical safeguards and collective action. It examines how international, regional and national processes can work together more coherently, including through the implementation of WSIS+20, stronger coordination across governance bodies, more resilient IGF institutions, and meaningful participation in emerging UN mechanisms. It also explores how governance approaches can respond to different regional, linguistic and social contexts.

A central question for IGF 2026 is how to ensure that communities and countries with different levels of resources and institutional capacity can participate meaningfully in shaping digital rules. The workshops explore the role of National, Regional, Sub-regional and Youth IGF Initiatives, standards-led approaches, capacity-building, human rights mechanisms and new forms of multistakeholder collaboration. They also invite reflection on the assumptions embedded in governance models and consider alternative futures for Internet governance.

AI is an important thread running through these questions. Workshops explore how to move from principles to implementation; broaden participation in international rule-making; and address language, disability, gender and capacity divides. They also consider emerging challenges such as emotional AI, AI-mediated search and political information, and the use of AI in security. Across the area, shared responsibility means governance that is coordinated but context-sensitive, globally connected but locally grounded, and capable of turning dialogue into practical action.