Internet Governance Forum 2024 | Parliamentary Track

Building a Multistakeholder Digital Future

PROGRAMME

CONTEXT

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As a multistakeholder platform, the United Nations (UN) Internet Governance Forum (IGF) brings together yearly over 9,000 participants and facilitates the discussion of public policy issues pertaining to digital technologies on and off the Internet.

This year, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is hosting the 19th Internet Governance Forum (IGF 2024) to be held from 15 to 19 December in Riyadh under the overarching theme ***Building our Multistakeholder Digital Future.*** With over 300 scheduled sessions, the programme will be structured around the following four sub-themes:

- o   Harnessing innovation and balancing risks in the digital space

- o   Enhancing the digital contribution to peace, development and sustainability

- o   Advancing human rights and inclusion in the digital age

- o   Improving digital governance for the Internet We Want.

Since 2019, the IGF actively involves members of parliaments (MPs) from around the world and provides an important platform for parliamentarians to exchange views on digital policy issues and to interact with leading experts, including from the private sector, civil society, technical community and government. Through a dedicated Parliamentary Track and in collaboration with numerous IGF partners, the Forum organizes a set of activities in the lead-up to and at the annual IGF meeting.

The Parliamentary Track at IGF 2024 is jointly organized by the Internet Governance Forum Secretariat from the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), and the Shura Council of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The IGF welcomes the participation of any interested member of parliament and parliamentary staff, especially those working in relevant parliamentary committees, and parliamentarians who work on digital affairs and Internet policy issues.

TOPICAL OVERVIEW

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Digital transformation, including the rapid development of information and communications technologies (ICT) and global interconnectedness, has great potential to accelerate human development and bridge digital divides, among and within countries. Indeed, the pace of technological change is unprecedently fast, fundamentally transforming our common future. In support of the implementation and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030, the contribution of parliaments at the national, regional and global levels, including through multistakeholder partnerships, is vital for the roadmap to a digitally transformed future.

In this era of rapid change in which technology has become increasingly powerful, partnerships and collaborating ecosystems ensure an effective, representative and inclusive transformation. These collaborations should encompass national parliaments as key legislative bodies that can address the impact, opportunities and challenges societies are facing in the digital age. Members of parliament can ensure that the digital transformation journey is not only successful but also human-centered, inclusive, sustainable and ethical.

Under the overarching theme of the IGF 2024 *Building our Multistakeholder Digital Future*, the objective of the Parliamentary Track is to strengthen digital cooperation, including by:

- Facilitating inter-parliamentary and multistakeholder dialogue on the role of science, technology, and innovation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda).
- Discussing the role of parliaments in creating an inclusive, risk-free, ethical and sustainable digital space.
- Identifying parliamentary priorities in digital affairs and Internet policy issues, and ways to build capacity to take action on these priorities.
- Building dialogue between parliamentarians and the private sector, the technical community and civil society, including youth, on challenges and potential solutions related to digital transformation.

OUTPUT

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During the interactive sessions, parliamentarians are invited to engage with experts, share their views, and exchange opinions and experience on existing or potential legislative solutions. The key messages that emerge from discussions at the IGF Parliamentary Track will be captured in a formal, action-oriented document as one of the outputs from IGF 2024.

United Nations | Department of Economic and Social Affairs

The Shura Council

Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.
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PROGRAMME

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A more detailed programme, including the list of speakers, will be made available on the IGF 2024 website and application closer to the dates of the IGF.

PARLIAMENTAY TRACK CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES	
Date and time	**Focus**
Day 1 – Monday, 16 December 2024	
10:30−12:30 *Plenary Hall*	[IGF Opening Ceremony]
12:30−14:00	Lunch break
14:00−14:15 *Parliamentary Track Room*	[Opening] **IGF Parliamentary Track: Welcome remarks**
14:15−15:00 *Parliamentary Track Room*	[Keynote Address] **How to navigate an era of digital transformation: A dialogue with Maria Ressa on global cooperation** As the world must prepare for an inclusive, risk-free and sustainable digital transformation, Maria Ressa, the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize Winner and IGF Leadership Panel Co-Chair, will set the stage for this year's IGF Parliamentary Track. Navigating the digital transformation journey requires a strategic approach that encompasses an understanding of evolving trends and technology adoption while mitigating risks arising from these rapid changes. By facing this particularly disruptive period in human history, members of parliaments can ensure with a collaborative mindset that the transformation journey is inclusive, rights-respecting, sustainable and ethical.
15:00−15:45 *Parliamentary Track Room*	[Parliamentary Session 1] **Digital cooperation at the United Nations: A briefing for parliamentarians** High-level representatives from the United Nations system will brief parliamentarians on important digital governance processes, such as the Global Digital Compact (GDC) and the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) review process. Members of parliament will be concretely informed on how to get involved and contribute to the shaping of our common digital future.

15:45−16:15	Coffee Break
16:15−17:45

Parliamentary Track Room | [Parliamentary Session 2] **What are parliamentary priorities in the digital sphere today? An open exchange.**

The Internet Governance Forum is a year-round process that has a network of over 170 National and Regional IGF initiatives (NRIs). These initiatives involve local actors, including members of parliament. In 2024, regional Parliamentary Tracks were organized in Africa, Central Asia, and in Latin America and the Caribbean.

This session will report back on the most pressing digital issues that emerged from the regional Parliamentary Tracks as a starting point for discussion on the priorities for parliaments in the coming year. These priorities will guide the discussions and inform the outputs from the global IGF Parliamentary Track. |
| 18:00−20:00 | Official IGF 2024 reception |
| **Day 2 – Tuesday, 17 December 2024** | |
| 09:30−10:15

Parliamentary Track Room | [Parliamentary Session 3] **Researching at the frontier: Insights from the private sector in developing large-scale AI systems**

Innovation is a crucial element of societal development. As the core driver for modern existence, it addresses social needs and resolves collective problems, by contributing, among others, to economic growth, job creation and poverty reduction. Innovation can, however, disrupt markets. With the rapid development and adoption of artificial intelligence (AI), especially generative AI, societies are confronted with new risks and challenges.

During this session, parliamentarians will interact with representatives of a private sector company that develops large-scale AI systems and researches the safety and societal impact of its models as the technology becomes increasingly advanced and capable. |
| 10:15−11:00

Parliamentary Track Room | [Parliamentary Session 4] **Fostering inclusive digital innovation and transformation**

Digital transformation offers a wide range of benefits, driving innovation, growth and access to global markets and education. However, the accelerated development and integration of digital technologies across societies risk exacerbating inequalities and infringing on rights. It is vital to ensure that opportunities arising from the digital transformation journey, starting with technological innovation, are accessible to all, including to marginalized and disadvantaged groups. Mindful of the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) to "leave no one behind", this session delves into policy practices that promote inclusive digital innovation and transformation. |
| 11:00−11:30 | Coffee break |

11:30–13:00 *Parliamentary Track Room*	[Parliamentary Session 5] **Collaborative approaches to address online harms** In today's hyperconnected world, users are confronted with risks when relying on Internet's applications. Indeed, the features that make the Internet powerful can also lead to online harms that impact societies, particularly vulnerable and marginalized groups. Members of parliament have been given the delicate responsibility of developing effective legislation that enhances safety online, while balancing innovation and risks in the digital space. The global reach and the nature of these risks require collaboration across sectors and, in some cases, across international borders. This session brings parliamentarians together with different actors from the digital community to showcase successful collaborative approaches that effectively and sustainably address online harms.
13:00–14:30	Lunch break
14:30–15:30 *Parliamentary Track Room*	[Parliamentary Session 6] **Leading the digital transformation journey: Dialogue with youth leaders** As future generations are the most affected by our global future, young people have a leading role in the digital transformation journey. Through a dedicated IGF Youth Track, a global network of young people active in the digital sphere has organized workshops across all regions around the theme *Empowering young leaders for trusted AI*, which will culminate in the IGF 2024 Global Youth Summit. This session brings together youth leaders and parliamentarians to foster a dialogue on priorities and perspectives for a more inclusive digital future.
15:30–16:00	Coffee Break
16:00–17:30 *Parliamentary Track Room*	[Parliamentary Session 7] **Building parliamentary capacity to effectively shape the digital realm** By this time, the discussions at the Parliamentary Track will have drawn out the priority areas for parliaments to focus on. This session will go further into the "how". What do parliaments and parliamentarians need in order to play a full role in shaping digital policies? How to build capacity in parliaments to take action on the priority issues? Experts and IGF partners from multiple disciplines and regions will be present in the session room to inform parliamentarians about training and exchange programmes, collaboration with academic institutions, peer learning, digital policy toolkits, stakeholder engagement platforms and more. By investing in these capacity-building efforts, the IGF Parliamentary Track aims at supporting parliamentarians to navigate the challenges and opportunities of the digital transformation.
17:30–18:00	[Closing] **Closing remarks and key messages from the Parliamentary Track**

Parliamentary Track Room	
19:00–21:00	IGF Music night
Day 3 – Wednesday, 18 December 2024	
15:15–16:45 *Plenary Hall*	[Parliamentary Roundtable in the IGF plenary] **A powerful collective force for change: Parliamentarians for a prosperous global digital future** Global digital cooperation is increasingly important in our interconnected world where digital technologies have become integral to nearly every aspect of life. International collaboration among parliaments is equally important as digitalization continues to expand across borders, impacting citizens globally. The establishment of cooperative frameworks would ensure that the benefits of digital advancements are widely shared while addressing the challenges they pose. Through enhanced collaboration, parliaments can indeed help shape a more inclusive, secure and prosperous global digital future. The Parliamentary Roundtable will bring together parliamentarians from different regions of the world to share experiences of collaborative initiatives to address emerging digital challenges, harmonize legislation and facilitate global digital governance.

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The IGF compiled a list of sessions organized by IGF stakeholders who aim at involving Members of Parliaments into their session discussions. Members of Parliaments may want to consider attending these suggested IGF sessions when building their own programme outside of Parliamentary Track sessions.

The overall IGF programme includes over 300 sessions and will be made available on our IGF 2024 website and application closer to the dates of the IGF.

SUGGESTED SESSIONS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS	
Date and time	**Focus**
Day 0 – Sunday, 15 December 2024	
11:45–12:45 *Workshop Room 9*	[Day-0 Event #112] The Technical Community Safeguarding the Internet You Want **Organizers** ● Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) in collaboration with Internet Technical Community organizations
14:45–16:15 *Workshop Room 8*	[IGF Global Youth Summit] Youth for Good AI Governance
Day 1 – Monday, 16 December 2024	
09:00–10:00 *Plenary Hall*	[IGF 2024 Newcomers Session]
10:30–12:30 *Plenary Hall*	[IGF 2024 Opening Ceremony]
12:30–14:00	Lunch break
14:00–18:00	[Parliamentary Track Sessions Day 1] *Please see the above Parliamentary Track Calendar of Activities*

Parliamentary Track Room	
Day 2 – Tuesday, 17 December 2024	
09:30–13:00 *Parliamentary Track Room*	[Parliamentary Track Sessions Day 2] *Please see the above Parliamentary Track Calendar of Activities*
13:00–14:30	Lunch break
14:30–18:00 *Parliamentary Track Room*	[Parliamentary Track Sessions Day 2] *Please see the above Parliamentary Track Calendar of Activities*
Day 3 – Wednesday, 18 December 2024	
09:30–11:00 *Workshop Room 9*	[Open Forum #68] Countering the use of ICT for terrorist purposes **Organizers** • Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) • Tech Against Terrorism • Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) • United Nations Office on Counter Terrorism (UNOCT) • United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime/Terrorism Prevention Branch (UNODC) • Regional organizations (Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean (PAM) and/or the UNODC-NAUSS Interregional Centre of Excellence for Evidence-Based Drug Control, Crime Prevention, and Criminal Justice Policies and Strategies)
12:00–13:00 *IGF Village Stage*	[Launch & Award #168] Parliamentary approaches to ICT and UN SC Resolution 1373 **Organizers** United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism (UNOCT)
17:00–18:00 *Workshop Room 8*	[Open Forum #72] European Parliament Delegation to the IGF & the Youth IGF **Organizers** • Youth IGF Movement • European Parliament Delegation to the IGF

Day 4 – Thursday, 19 December 2024	
09:30–10:30 *Workshop Room 10*	[Networking Session #51] Code and Constitution: Empowering African Parliamentarians **Organizers** ● African Parliamentary Network on Internet Governance
MPs are also encouraged to actively participate in all other IGF 2024 sessions taking place during the week and contribute their views and experiences to the discussions. The overall programme will be made available on the IGF website and application in due time.	