

The background of the slide features a repeating pattern of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) logo and the text "Internet Governance Forum" in a light blue color. The logos consist of a stylized globe with a network of lines, and the text is in a sans-serif font.

IGF 2019 Workshops

A Brief Manual for Proposers

The Basics – IGF Workshop FAQs

- ***What is a workshop session? What is the purpose of workshops?***

Workshops are sessions in the IGF annual meeting on a **specific Internet governance-related topic or question**. Internet governance is defined as “**the development and application by Governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programmes that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.**” Workshops should offer expertise or insight on the topic and generate discussion among participants.

- ***What are the IGF themes in 2019?***

The 2019 programme will be framed by three specific themes: [\(1\) Data Governance; \(2\) Digital Inclusion; \(3\) Security, Safety, Stability & Resilience](#). Proposers should submit proposals on topics under one of these, which will be selectable in the workshop submission form. They should also read the [detailed description](#) on each to guide their submission. It is important for proposers to note that the policy questions provided with each theme, as well as the associated Issues and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are **illustrative only** and that many more may be relevant.

- ***Who can submit a workshop proposal?***

Any person, or group of persons, from any stakeholder group - civil society, the technical community, the private sector or government - may submit a workshop proposal. Organizing teams who are proposing for the first time, or are from [developing countries](#), are especially encouraged to submit. **It is also strongly encouraged to list a team that is diverse in terms of gender, region, stakeholder group, age (e.g. youth), and physical ability (e.g. persons with disabilities), as [diversity is an important factor](#) during proposal evaluation.**

- ***Who is the proposer? And who is the organizing team?***

The individual making the submission, the **‘proposer’**, is considered the **contact or communication focal point for the proposal**. The **‘organizing team’** listed in the proposal are the people who are **organizing, leading and responsible for the workshop**. The proposer may list themselves as one of the members of the organizing team if she/he will be playing an organizational role, and should also list Moderators and Rapporteurs as part of the team. The MAG will be looking at the [diversity of the team](#) in terms of gender, region, stakeholder group, inclusion of youth and persons with disabilities.

- ***Who are the speakers in a workshop? How can I find speakers for my workshop?***

-- Workshop proposers can include any speaker appropriate to their proposal, and must list a [minimum of 3](#). They are also advised **not to make their speakers lists too long** (5 total speakers is recommended), to allow enough space in their session for participant engagement.

-- Lists of speakers are subject to the [‘Diversity’ criteria](#). As with the organizing teams, the MAG will be looking at whether they are **diverse in terms of gender, region, stakeholder group, age (e.g. youth), and physical ability (e.g. persons with disabilities)**.

-- Proposers/organizers having difficulty finding speakers with the right expertise, or from a different region or stakeholder group, are invited to consult the [IGF’s roster of ‘resource persons’](#). The rostered experts have volunteered to act as resource persons in IGF sessions upon request.

- ***What are the length and format of a workshop?***

The length of a workshop can be **30, 60 or 90 minutes**. Possible formats include **‘Roundtable’, ‘Breakout Group Discussions’, ‘Panel’, ‘Debate’, ‘Tutorial’ and ‘Birds of a Feather’**. Proposers also have the option to select ‘Other’ and describe the format they have designed.

- ***Is there a limit to the number of proposals I can submit?***

Each submitter is limited to **three proposals**.

- ***Can I submit in any language?***

The working language of the IGF Secretariat and MAG is **English**. Unfortunately, at this time, **submissions in other languages cannot be accepted**.

- ***How can I submit? What is the deadline?***

All proposals must be submitted electronically through the [form](#) provided on the IGF website. **The deadline for submission is 12 April 2019.**

- ***How is a workshop proposal evaluated?***

The IGF's **Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG)** evaluates and selects all workshop proposals, consulting with the IGF Secretariat on organizational matters. Approximately, between 60 and 100 proposals may be selected. The **final round of evaluation will take place during the [MAG's third face-to-face meeting](#) on 5-7 June 2019**. The six major **criteria** around which evaluation revolve are [Policy Questions; Relevance; Format; Diversity; Content; and Interaction](#). The selection process and criteria involved are detailed [here](#).

- ***When will I know if my proposal has been selected or not? What happens next?***

Approximately one week following the face-to-face MAG meeting on 5-7 June 2019, notifications will go out from the Secretariat to all proposers – those selected, identified for a merger, and not selected. All proposers will receive written feedback from the MAG on their submissions, as part of these notifications. **Selected workshops** are then slotted into the IGF 2019 programme, taking into account the workshop's theme and format. The organizers will be periodically requested by the Secretariat to update their workshop information and provide additional information on speakers, if necessary.

- ***What is a 'workshop merger'?***

In some cases, if a workshop proposal is **very similar thematically and shows a great deal of synergy with another proposal**, following the evaluation, the MAG and IGF Secretariat will reach out to the sets of organizers and propose they merge their sessions. This is done to avoid duplication, as well as to include proposals which are worthy but for which space in the programme has run out. The organizers are under no obligation to accept a merger but risk losing a spot in the programme if they decide not to.

- ***Is there a fee to conduct a workshop?***

There is no fee of any kind for submitting a workshop proposal. There is also no fee for the room the workshop will occupy at the IGF, and no collateral cost for the IGF Secretariat's promotion of the workshop as part of overall promotion of the IGF programme.

Personal costs, however, will apply to attending the annual meeting, including **travel and hotel costs**.

- ***Will funding be provided?***

On a limited basis, the IGF Secretariat may fund some participants to attend the annual meeting, **budget permitting**. The determination of whether the budget will allow for any participant funding is made closer to the meeting; if the case, individual applications will be considered based on specific eligibility criteria which strongly favour applicants from [developing countries](#). Please consult the criteria [here](#).

- ***Who will attend the workshop?***

All sessions in the IGF programme must be open to all participants. Anyone participating in the IGF meeting may attend any workshop.

Tips for a Great IGF Workshop Proposal

- 1. Use a new session format.** The MAG will be looking for proposals that use new and innovative formats to encourage greater diversity and participant engagement. Break-out group discussions, debates, birds of a feather, and tutorials are all options this year for workshop sessions. You can also propose your own format for the session.
- 2. Submit a proposal even if you have never been to an IGF.** During the evaluation process, special attention will be paid to first-time workshop proposers, in an effort to welcome new voices to the IGF discussions.
- 3. Attention to proposers from [developing and least developed countries](#):** Preference is given to proposals from your areas, to encourage greater diversity at the IGF event.
- 4. Be clear about why the session should happen and how it will happen.** It is important to be clear on the topic and how it will be addressed under one of three Internet Governance themes this year: (1) Data Governance; (2) Digital Inclusion; (3) Security, Safety, Stability & Resilience.
 - o Why: In your proposal, give a concise description of the issue that your session is designed to explore.
 - o How: Then explain how the issue will be addressed through the session format. For example, if the session is a debate on the “right to be forgotten” explain what aspect of the issue will be discussed, the major discussions points, and the perspectives to be covered. In addition, provide the agenda of the debate, including timings for debaters, moderator and audience.

5. Choose the length of your session wisely. Workshop sessions are either 30, 60 or 90 minutes long. Pick the amount of time that is best for your session. For example, if you wish to give a brief presentation on a topic, a 30-minute session would be a good duration..

6. Plan for online participation: The IGF is a global discussion, and those who are not “on location” also need to be able to participate. The MAG will review the proposer’s plan for online participation under the ‘Interaction’ section, so ensure that you have considered how to accommodate online participants and that you have nominated an Online Moderator in your proposal. You could even check to see if a “remote participation hub” is being planned by members of the Internet community in your locality or region, and work with them.

7. Assign a Rapporteur. All workshop sessions require a rapporteur to produce a summary report of the session. Reports must be submitted to the IGF Secretariat no later than two weeks following the IGF event. If a report is not submitted, then the workshop proposer will not be allowed to submit a workshop proposal for the next IGF.

8. Speakers do not need to be fully confirmed in your workshop proposal (but you should have contacted at least three and indicated this in the proposal form to meet the requirements in the initial screening). The MAG understands that it is difficult to ask workshop speakers to confirm their attendance to the IGF at the proposal stage, so only provisional confirmation for three listed speakers is required. What is equally important is a description of the part each speaker is meant to play in the workshop (e.g. one speaker will share technical expertise on the issue, while another speaker will address the economic considerations of the issue). Strive to make your list of speakers as diverse as possible.

9. Read the [selection criteria](#) in full.

10. **Reach out if you need help.** Please contact the secretariat of the IGF at [<eleonora\[dot\]mazzucchi\[at\]un\[dot\]org>](mailto:eleonora@mazzucchi.un.org) if you have questions about submitting a proposal.

... Plus, 2 common-sense, important reminders to ensure your proposal is evaluated!

- **Check that your proposal meets the minimum requirements to pass the IGF Secretariat's initial screening.** Before the MAG see the proposals they will evaluate, the Secretariat screens each one received and eliminates those which do not meet specific criteria. These are listed [here](#), in 'Stage 1'.
- **Submit within the **deadline: 12 April 2019, 23:59 UTC**.** Proposals will not be accepted after this date.

All Resources for Proposers

- [IGF 2019 Workshop Proposal Form](#)
- [IGF 2019 Themes](#)
- [IGF 2019 Workshop Submission & Review Process](#)
- [List of Volunteer Resource Persons](#) *information appears as submitted by volunteers
- [List of Volunteer Youth Experts](#) *information appears as submitted by volunteers
- [Outcomes of First Face-to-Face MAG Meeting](#)
- [Outcomes of MAG Working Group on Workshop Review and Evaluation Process](#)