



Internet  
Governance  
Forum  
Support  
Association

# IGFSA Annual Report 2023



## Table of Contents

Message from the chair .....	3
Introduction - inclusive multistakeholder Internet Governance.....	4
Our Objective: Strengthen the multistakeholder Internet governance dialogue .....	6
IGFSA partnerships.....	7
National and Regional IGF Initiatives and Youth IGFs .....	7
Internet Governance Forum Trust Fund .....	8
Spotlight - Youth IGF Initiatives .....	9
IGFSA - Organisational .....	11
IGFSA Activities report 2022-2023.....	13
Supporting Multistakeholder Internet governance - IGFSA partnerships .....	13
IGFSA support funding 2023 - Contribution to the IGF Trust Fund .....	13
IGFSA support funding 2023 - Regional IGF Initiatives .....	13
IGFSA support funding 2023 - National IGF Initiatives supported by IGFSA.....	14
IGFSA support funding 2023 - Youth Initiatives .....	16
IGFSA Financial Report 2022-2023 .....	17
IGFSA contact .....	17

## Message from the Chair

In 2024, we commemorate the 10th anniversary of IGFSAs, a significant milestone that prompts both celebration and introspection. It is a moment to look at what we have achieved thus far and the journey ahead.

Over the course of the last 10 years, IGFSAs has been a strong advocate for an inclusive multi-stakeholder model of Internet Governance. Moreover, it has served as a source of financial assistance for the IGF Secretariat and for various National, Regional and Youth IGF initiatives (NRIs), particularly from the Global South. Since its inception in 2014, IGFSAs has contributed 592, 500 USD towards 245 meetings of national, sub-regional, regional and youth IGFs. This support has played a crucial role in enhancing the participation of diverse voices, including those of young people, in discussions on digital governance issues of importance across the globe.

As we approach the World Summit on the Information Society +20 review, where the future of the IGF will be decided, it is extremely encouraging to witness the steady growth of the NRI network year on year with new initiatives at the national and regional levels. From 37 NRIs in 2011, the network has grown to an impressive 170 to date. Even more encouraging is the extent to which NRIs have become active participants in the IGF process. They engage and contribute to the IGF by organising events at the annual meeting, contributing to Best Practice Forums,

Policy Networks and Dynamic Coalitions, and by taking IGF messages back to their respective communities. We are committed to continuing our support and to amplify these initiatives

To achieve this goal and ensure the maximum support possible for NRIs, IGFSAs has been working in close cooperation with the IGF Secretariat. Additionally, IGFSAs has been making annual contributions to the IGF Trust fund to support the working of the IGF Secretariat, and we intend to uphold this support in the future.

The years 2024 and 2025 are pivotal for the IGF and the multistakeholder model, especially with the upcoming Summit of the Future in September and the WSIS +20 review. At IGFSAs, we strongly believe that it is crucial to continue evolving and strengthening the multi-stakeholder model and IGF ecosystem, while showcasing and demonstrating the benefits we have gained from it.

In order to continue fulfilling its mission, IGFSAs must enhance its own outreach and engagement efforts to attract new members and donors, while also ensuring the active engagement of existing members.

Thank you very much to every individual and institution that has supported our work through membership fees and donations. We look forward to your continued support.

*Best Regards*  
**Amrita Choudhury, IGFSAs Chair**



## Introduction – inclusive multistakeholder Internet Governance

The **Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA)** is dedicated to promoting and supporting the inclusive multistakeholder dialogue in Internet governance, both at the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and at the National, Regional and Youth IGF initiatives around the world.

**Inclusive multistakeholder Internet governance** involves all stakeholder groups as equals to, together, shape the evolution and use of the Internet. The United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) and the National, Regional and Youth IGF initiatives create the essential multistakeholder venues where stakeholders can explore the opportunities and challenges of our digital world. The IGF initiatives bring people together at the global, regional, sub-regional, and local level to share and learn from their experiences, exchange best practices, and discuss concerns and solutions. They have proven to be adequate and invaluable forums for finding common ground on how to address key Internet governance policy questions.

The **United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF)** is the global forum for multistakeholder dialogue on public policy issues related to Internet governance. The IGF is convened by the UN Secretary-General pursuant to a decision by the World Summit on the Information Society in 2005 and reconfirmed by the UN General Assembly in 2015. Its mandate is contained in Paragraph 72 to 78 of the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society. The Forum



is open to all relevant stakeholders who participate on an equal footing. The 18th annual IGF meeting, hosted by the Government of Japan in Kyoto from 8 to 12 October 2023, brought together more than 6,000 on-site and 3,000 online participants from 178 countries. IGF inter-sessional activities, including the Best Practice Forums, Policy Networks, and Dynamic Coalitions complement the discussions at the annual events.

**National and Regional IGF initiatives (NRIs)** and **Youth IGF initiatives** are organic and independent initiatives that, similar to the IGF, foster the inclusive discussion of Internet policy from the perspective of their community. NRIs and Youth IGFs are expected to adhere to the main principles of the IGF of being open and transparent, inclusive, non-commercial, bottom-up and consensus-driven. NRIs have been established at a national level, for example the Armenia IGF or Uganda IGF, and the regional or sub-regional level, for example Africa IGF, EuroDIG, or Central Asian IGF. Youth initiatives, such as the Youth IGF India or Youth LAC IGF are being organised with a national, regional or sub-regional focus. Currently, the IGF Secretariat recognises and lists 170 initiatives and counting located across all five UN regions, underscoring their global reach and impact.



**"IGF is a central focus for UN work on the Internet. IGFSA is dedicated to supporting the IGF and its secretariat and so am I."**  
*Vint Cerf, Chair, Leadership Panel of the IGF*

## Our Objective: Strengthen the multistakeholder Internet governance dialogue

The Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA) is a not-for-profit multistakeholder initiative set up to promote and support the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) as well as the expanding network of initiatives that foster multistakeholder dialogues on Internet policy at a national, sub-regional, regional level and from the youth perspective. The IGFSA was launched at the IGF meeting in Istanbul, Türkiye, in 2014 and marked its tenth General Assembly during the IGF meeting in Kyoto, Japan, in October 2023.



The IGFSA fulfils its objective to strengthen the Internet Governance Forum and National Regional IGFs and Youth Initiatives by

- Providing funds to maintain and strengthen the IGF Secretariat and National and Regional IGF Initiatives;
- Seeking and promoting the exchange and collaboration with National and Regional IGF Initiatives;
- Identifying new sources of funding and facilitating funding to the IGF;
- Contributing to the IGF Trust Fund administered by the United Nations;
- Awarding fellowships for participation at IGF meetings and preparatory meetings.

Since its creation, and up until the end of 2023, IGFSA has granted a total of 892,500 USD in sponsorships to support the IGF and facilitate the organisation of more than 220 National, Regional and Youth IGF activities around the world.

IGFSA sponsorship activities since 2014

**892,500 USD**

IGF Trust Fund 325,000 USD

**325,000 USD**

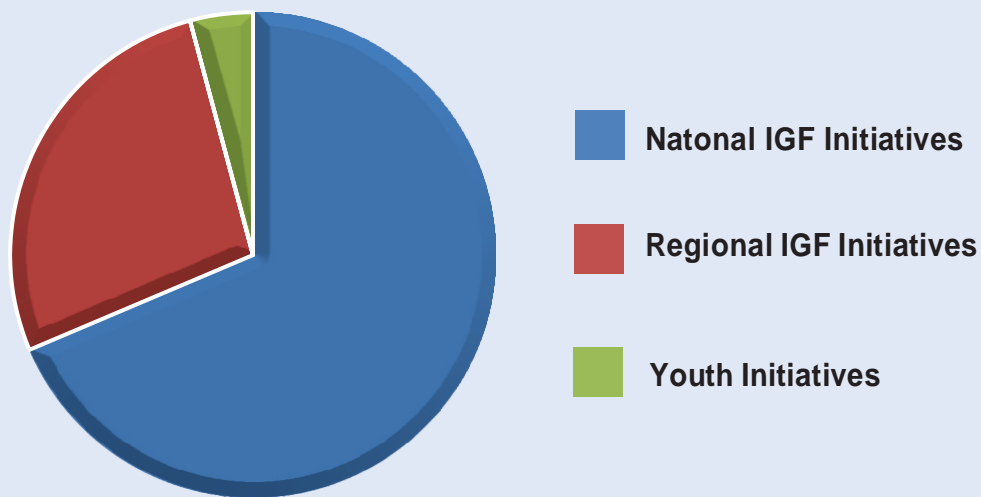
National, Regional and Youth IGFs

**567,500 USD**

## IGFSA partnerships

### National and Regional IGF Initiatives and Youth IGFs

Since its establishment in 2014, IGFSAs has supported over 245 meetings of IGF initiatives across the world and has consistently made annual contributions to the IGF Trust Fund. IGFSAs coordinates closely with the IGF Secretariat to ensure that IGFSAs partnerships complement the activities of the IGF Secretariat and thereby expand as much as possible the total number of supported IGF initiatives. Both new and existing initiatives are potentially eligible for an IGFSAs contribution if they are initiatives recognized by the IGF Secretariat. Since 2020, the IGFSAs has extended its support



### IGFSAs activities since 2014

# Contributions to National IGFs

**165**

# contributions to regional and subregional IGFs

**67**

# Contributions to youth IGFs

**13\* since 2020**

The overview of supported initiatives since IGFSAs's creation can be found at <https://igfsa.org/nris-funded-by-igfsa/> . IGFSAs partners, such as the Africa IGF, Armenia IGF, or Youth IGF India have become well established regular events.

## Internet Governance Forum Trust Fund

The Internet Governance Forum Trust Fund is the multi-donor trust fund administered by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) to finance the activities of the IGF Secretariat from extra-budgetary contributions. While the host countries bear the majority of the costs associated with holding the annual meeting, the activities from the IGF Secretariat are funded from the Trust Fund. IGFSAs, since its creation, has been a regular donor to the IGF Trust Fund, acknowledging the important work done by the Secretariat, and in particular the efforts to promote and support NRI initiatives among its many other duties. On top of its contribution to the Trust Fund, IGFSAs invested in enhancing the accessibility of the IGF, for example by providing captioning for MAG meetings.



In 2023 the IGFSAs contributed 15,000 USD to the UN, bringing up the total of its contributions to the UN to 325,000 USD. For more details visit <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-trust-fund>.



“The IGFSAs has been instrumental in promoting and supporting National and Regional IGF as well as youth initiatives, now acknowledged as indispensable outcomes and components of the IGF.”

***Chengetai Masango, Head of Office, IGF Secretariat***

## Internet Governance Forum Berlin

25–29 November 2019

ONE WORLD. ONE NET. ONE VISION.



## Spotlight YOUTH IGF Initiatives

*Insights from Youth IGFs, a virtual Q&A with Umut Pajaro Velasquez and Karen Cruz Araya (LAC Youth IGF), Yao Amevi (Youth IGF Benin), Sok Haingkheang (Cambodia Youth IGF), Lily Edinam Botsoe (Youth IGF Ghana), edited by Wim Degezelle*

### **What drives young people to engage in discussions on Internet governance?**

Young people want to be part of the conversations that directly influence their digital lives and contribute to the development of policies that address today's Internet challenges. Moreover, young people want to actively participate in processes that shape the future trajectory of the Internet, rather than passively inheriting what is handed down to them. Additionally, they are concerned about the imbalance in Internet governance dynamics, with a disproportionate focus on the Global North, and emphasise the importance of acknowledging and addressing challenges faced by the Global South. Solutions the majority of the world's population can offer should be given due consideration.

### **Why involve young people in Internet governance discussions?**

Young minds bring fresh perspectives to the table. Many of the younger generations are digital natives, having grown up in a world where the Internet is a place to connect, learn and create. Well-versed in technology, idealistic in their outlook, and unafraid to question prevailing norms, they often propose innovative solutions and explore avenues beyond more traditional approaches.

### **What do young people expect from Youth IGFs?**

Participants expect that Youth IGFs are places to discuss and learn. They are forums to discuss Internet policy, exchange viewpoints and engage in a dialogue with other stakeholders. In addition, Youth IGFs provide training and capacity building. Here, the younger generations can deepen their understanding of Internet governance issues and processes, while developing the skills and knowledge necessary to actively engage in multistakeholder policy making in their country, their region and beyond.

### **How do Youth IGFs amplify the youth voice in Internet governance?**

Youth IGFs empower young people to raise their voice. They identify and prioritise the issues that matter most to the youth and facilitate discussions on potential solutions. These forums serve as starting points toward deeper engagement with policy makers and other stakeholders, advocacy, and further dialogue on solutions. Moreover, Youth IGFs can help to hold decision-makers accountable.

### **What Internet governance issues are young people concerned about?**

A wide range of issues are discussed at Youth IGFs. These include closing the digital divide and ensuring affordable and reliable Internet access for all, including those in rural areas; cybersecurity, online safety and the worrying increase in cyberbullying, harassment, and hate speech, which often affect young people; the collection, use, and sale of personal data and the desire for greater online privacy and more robust and responsible data governance regulation and control; freedom of expression online and the harm caused by misinformation and censorship.

### **What are the main challenges when organising a Youth IGF?**

Youth IGFs heavily rely on passionate and dedicated volunteers who bring the event to life. However, they also need the support of allies and sponsors. A lack of funds is a significant organisational hurdle,

### **What are the main challenges when organising a Youth IGF?**

Youth IGFs heavily rely on passionate and dedicated volunteers who bring the event to life. However, they also need the support of allies and sponsors. A lack of funds is a significant organisational hurdle, especially when upfront payments or guarantees are required to secure a venue, order catering, and rent technical equipment for remote participation. Limited funding adversely affects the inclusiveness of the event. Many representatives from rural areas, ethnic minorities, diverse communities and various backgrounds depend on travel sponsorships. Moreover, organising remote hubs or establishing a connectivity fund to support remote participants in areas where qualitative broadband is hugely expensive costs money. Insufficient budget also limits the ability to invite international speakers and experts, or for Youth IGF representatives to participate in regional and the global IGF.

Youth IGF Ghana <https://igf.org.gh/youth-igf/>

Youth LAC IGF <https://youthlacigf.lat/>

Youth IGF Benin <https://youthigblenin.am.bj>

Cambodia Youth IGF <https://yig h.org/en/>

## IGFSA - Organisational



### IGFSA Members and Sponsors

The IGFSA is a membership association. As of 2023 the IGFSA membership counts 260 members, including individuals, organisations and corporations. The IGFSA budget is funded from membership fees of 25-100 USD annually depending on the category and donations. IGFSA has received substantial and regular support from Google, ICANN, the Number Resource Organization (NRO) and many others.

### Become an IGFSA member today.

Everyone who wants to show support and strengthen the IGF should join the IGFSA. Individuals, organizations and corporations are encouraged to apply for membership to show their support for the growth and success of the IGF.

Parties who care deeply about relationships and sharing ideas and experiences about what has worked when it comes to key policy or technical issues relating to the Internet should join the IGFSA.



“IGFSA Provides not only crucial financial resources but ongoing advice and support to a growing number of national and regional IGFs worldwide. ICANN recognises their important role in raising awareness and developing talent to participate in multi stakeholder Internet governance processes. We are proud to be longtime supporters of IGFSA.”

**Christopher Mondini,**  
*ICANN Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement and  
Managing Director for Europe*

## Composition of the 2022-2023 IGFSA Executive Committee & Secretariat

The IGFSA Executive Committee, appointed by the General Assembly, is composed of 9 members representing all stakeholder groups and reflecting adequate diversity and geographic balance, and manages the affairs of the Association. Executive Committee members are elected for renewable three-year terms.

### Composition of the 2022-2023 IGFSA Executive Committee



**Ms Amrita Choudhury,  
IGFSA Chair, India**



**Mr Nigel Hickson,  
IGFSA Treasurer,  
United Kingdom**



**Ms Fiona Asonga,  
Kenya**



**Ms Joyce Chen,  
Australia**



**Mr Wisdom Donkor,  
Ghana**



**Ms Anriette Esterhuysen,  
South Africa**



**Mr Amado Espinosa,  
Mexico**



**Mr Christopher Mondini,  
USA**



**Mr Flávio Wagner,  
Brazil**



**Mr Markus Kummer,  
Chair Emeritus,  
Switzerland**



**Ms Jennifer Chung,  
IGFSA Secretary**



**Ms. Phyo Thiri Lwin  
Secretariat Team**



**Mr. Kelvin Truong  
Technical and  
Operational Services**

### IGFSA Secretariat

The IGFSA secretariat is provided by DotAsia with Ms. Jennifer Chung serving as IGFSA Secretary and heading the Secretariat team which includes Ms. Phyo Thiri Lwin, and technical and operational services supported by Mr. Kelvin Truong.

## IGFSA Activities Report 2022-2023

The section covers the IGFSAs activities between the ninth IGFSAs General Assembly convened during IGF 2022, on 28 November 2022 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and online, and the tenth IGFSAs General Assembly to be held during IGF 2023, on 8 October, in Kyoto, Japan and online.

The IGFSAs Executive Committee is chaired by Ms Amrita Choudhury. In 2023, Mr Flávio R. Wagner and Mr Amado Espinosa joined the Executive Committee, taking up the seats of outgoing Chair Mr Markus Kummer and Mr Eduardo Santoyo, who reached the completion of two three-year mandates. Ms Joyce Chen, Mr Wisdom Donkor, Mr Nigel Hickson and Mr Christopher Mondini were confirmed for a second term. The IGFSAs Executive Committee met seven times between the Addis Ababa and Kyoto General Assembly. Meeting summaries are published on the IGFSAs webpage.

In accordance with the decision of the IGFSAs General Assembly, the available funding has been allocated to 21 initiatives, 6 Regional IGF, 8 National IGFs, and 5 Youth IGF initiatives across all continents.

### Supporting Multistakeholder Internet governance

IGFSAs partnerships IGFSAs support funding 2023 - Contribution to the IGF Trust Fund. The IGFSAs contributed 15,000 USD to the IGF Trust Fund and provided funding to enhance the accessibility of the IGF, amongst other for live-captioning for MAG meetings

### Supporting Multistakeholder Internet governance



Supporting Multistakeholder Internet governance Cameroon hosted the 2023 edition of the Central Africa IGF in conjunction with the Cameroon IGF from 30 August to 1 September 2023 in Yaoundé under the theme ‘Digital inclusion and connectivity of Central African countries - for what Internet governance?’. <https://mag-fgi.cm/>, [https://twitter.com/ac\\_fgi](https://twitter.com/ac_fgi)



European stakeholders gathered from 9 to 21 June 2023 in the Finnish city of Tampere for the 2023 European Dialogue on Internet Governance ‘Internet in troubled times: risks, resilience, hope. EuroDIG 2023’. <https://www.eurodig.org>



SEEDIG 8 was held on 6-7 November 2023 in Zagreb, Croatia, organized under the overarching theme ‘Digital Beyond Borders: Regional Synergy for Community Advancement’. <https://seedig.net/>



The seventh Central Asian Internet Governance Forum (CAIGF) took place on 10 November, 2023 in the city of Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan. The forum aimed to discuss the digital future of Central Asia, the challenges and opportunities of the digital era, and the creation of conditions for all stakeholders in the region to benefit from digital technologies.



Members of the Pacific IGF community gathered on 28 and 29 August 2023 in Brisbane, Australia, and online to exchange views on the question ‘Is the Pacific13 ready to tackle the challenges of an evolving internet - exploring AI and emerging technologies, cybersecurity, privacy, digital trust and internet regulations.’ PaCiGF was colocated with the APriGF capacity building program and Net Thing 2023. <https://www.aprigf.au/programs>

## IGFSA support funding 2023 - National IGF Initiatives supported by IGFSA



Armenia IGF - The 8th meeting of the Armenia IGF was held in a hybrid format on 3 November 2023.



Belarus IGF - Minsk, 15 November 2023

The Belarus IGF gathered on 15 November in Minsk to discuss internet governance on 15 November 2023 in Minsk.



Moldova IGF - Chisinau, 27-28 April 2023

The Moldova Internet Governance Forum (MIFG) convened in Chisinau. Key topics: Resilience of Digital Government; Internet Governance under the Pressure of the Crises; Resilience and security of digital

infrastructure, Ethical issues in the Digital Environment, Strengthening Digital Safety Capacity of Civil Society



Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF - Sarajevo, 2 October 2023

The IGF Bosnia and Herzegovina was first organised in 2015 and convened in 2016 and 2017. After a 5-year gap, BH IGF 2023 gathered stakeholders to discuss Internet Governance and Human Rights, Cybersecurity, freedom of expression & media and denial of genocide and war crimes narratives online; and violence against women and marginalized through information and communication technologies (ICTs).  
www.bhigf.ba Logo Colombia IGF - 21-23 November 2023



Tanzania IGF - Dar El Salaam, 31 August 2023

The 10th edition of the Tanzania Internet Governance Forum (TzIGF) discussed the Digital Gender Gap, Artificial Intelligence, opportunities of Blockchain technology in Agricultural Supply Chains, Digital Inclusion of People with Disabilities, Metaverse, Cybersecurity Skills Gaps among Social Network Users, an Human Rights in the Digital World



Colombia IGF - 21-23 November 2023



Liberia IGF - Monrovia, 21-23 June 2023



Mauritius IGF - Port Louis, 18-19 August 2023

'Data Governance in Mauritius' was the central theme of IGF Mauritius. Stakeholders explored the topic that intersects the different dynamics of technology, policy and society.



Uganda IGF - Kampala, 24 August 2023

The Uganda Internet Governance Forum (UIGF) 2023 'The Internet We Want - Empowering Ugandans' convened on 24 August 2023 in Kampala

## IGFSA support funding 2023 - Youth Initiatives



Youth IGF Benin  
<https://youthigblenin.am.bj/>  
 20 May, Abomey- Calavi, Benin

The Benin Youth IGF gathered for the first time on 20 May, with as objective to ‘Contribute to the establishment and sustainable maintenance of a trusted and secure cybernetic space for more opportunities for the benefit of young people.’



YouthLACIGF wants to create a space for the growing community of young people in Latin America and the Caribbean with an interest in issues related to internet governance. After three online editions due to the pandemic, participants from different countries in the region met on 28-30 August in Cartagena de Indias, Columbia.



For the first time in the country a Cambodia Youth IGF was organised on 23 and 24 September in Phnom Penh, to raise the awareness of youth on Internet governance discourse and to encourage the young generation to have more active engagement in policy discussion and the decision-making process.



The 6th edition of Youth IGF India annual forum was held on 28th September 2023 at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Guwahati, Assam.



On 21 November 2023, for the second time, a Youth IGF Colombia was organised on the day before the country’s annual IGF meeting.



On 6 July 2023, the Ghana Youth Internet Governance Forum convened in Accra as pre-event to the national IGF meeting



# IGFSA Financial Report 2022-2023

Membership dues	975 USD
Contributions & sponsorships	100,000 USD
Project allocations	
UN-IGF Trust Fund	15,000 USD
NRIs and youth IGFs	42,500 USD
Accessibility IGFs	5,000 USD
administrative	20,000 USD





**Internet  
Governance  
Forum  
Support  
Association**

[info@igfsa.org](mailto:info@igfsa.org)

IGFSA Secretary  
[sec@igfsa.asia](mailto:sec@igfsa.asia)

IGFSA  
The Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA)  
World Trade Centre II  
CP 228  
CH- 1215 Geneva Airport