Frequently Asked Questions

- **What is the Internet Governance Forum (IGF)?**
  The IGF brings various people and stakeholder groups to the table as equals to exchange information and share good policies and practices relating to the Internet and digital technologies. While the IGF may not have decision-making mandates, it informs and inspires those who do. It facilitates an exchange of knowledge on how to maximize Internet opportunities and address risks and challenges.
  The IGF also gives stakeholders from all countries, including developing countries, the opportunity to engage in the debate on Internet governance and it contributes to capacity building, allowing these stakeholders to build knowledge and skills that will facilitate their participation in existing Internet governance institutions and arrangements.

- **Who participates at the IGF?**
  The IGF welcomes organisations and individuals from diverse relevant expertise and geographical areas around the world. The meeting is open to all World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) accredited entities, as well as other institutions and individuals with proven expertise and experience in matters related to Internet governance.

- **Why is the IGF important?**
  The IGF has over the years identified a wide range of key issues to be addressed by the international community and has shaped policy decisions related to the Internet and technologies throughout the world. Its importance lies in its unique ability to facilitate discourse between governments, intergovernmental organisations, private companies, the technical community and civil society organisations that deal with or are interested in public policy issues related to Internet governance.

- **Why is this year's IGF of particular significance?**

The theme of the 17th Internet Governance Forum is **Resilient Internet for a Shared Sustainable and Common Future**. As the world faces unprecedented challenges, digital technologies have become increasingly critical to advancing socio-economic development. At the same time, the misuse of the Internet has given rise to cybercrimes, misinformation and disinformation and deepening inequalities.

In our Common Agenda, the UN Secretary-General calls for a new Global Digital Compact that will present a global framework for an open, secure and resilient Internet and this Compact will be agreed on at the Summit of the Future in 2024.

The deliberations of the Forum are guided by five themes drawn from the Global Digital Compact:

- Connecting All People and Safeguarding Human Rights
- Avoiding Internet Fragmentation
- Governing Data and Protecting Privacy
- Enabling Safety, Security and Accountability
- Addressing Advanced Technologies, including AI

- **What are the expected outcomes of the IGF?**
  Some significant impacts are:
    - Enhanced cooperation and collaboration among key organizations and stakeholders dealing with different Internet governance and technology issues Increased opportunity to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet
    - Strengthened capacities of all countries, especially developing countries and their stakeholders, to participate effectively in Internet governance arrangements
    - Increased multilingualism and multiculturalism on the Internet

  ▪ Mapped multistakeholder and multilateral efforts on public policy issues related to the Internet

The Dynamic Coalitions of the IGF stand as an example of its successful efforts towards having continuous, expert, multistakeholder discussions on various issues pertaining to the Internet and Internet governance. Issues taken up by the Dynamic Coalitions include innovative approaches to connecting the unconnected, IoT, network neutrality, platform responsibility, blockchain technologies, community connectivity, core Internet values, gender and Internet governance.

- **How are countries selected to host the IGF**
  It is in the spirit of the IGF to engage and include all countries. Like any other UN meetings, a host country agreement is signed between the UN (administered through UN DESA) and the host country. If the meeting is held at a UN duty station in the host country, a simpler Memorandum of Understanding is used.

  The host countries for the past 16 meetings of the IGF are:

  - 2006: Athens, Greece
  - 2007: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
  - 2008: Hyderabad, India
  - 2009: Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt
  - 2010: Vilnius, Lithuania
  - 2011: Nairobi, Kenya
  - 2012: Baku, Azerbaijan
  - 2013: Bali, Indonesia
  - 2014: Istanbul, Turkey
  - 2015: João Pessoa, Brazil
  - 2016: Jalisco, Mexico
  - 2017: Geneva, Switzerland
  - 2018: Paris, France

- 2019: Berlin, Germany

- 2020: hosted virtually by the UN

- 2021: Katowice, Poland

- 2022: Ethiopia

- 2023: Japan

• **How did the Internet Governance Forum begin?**

Internet governance was one of the most controversial issues at the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and at the subsequent WSIS+10 review by the General Assembly in the wake of the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015. Recognising that any Internet governance approach should be inclusive and responsive, the WSIS mandated the UN Secretary-General of the United Nations to convene the Global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) for multistakeholder policy dialogue. The convening of the IGF was announced by the Secretary on 18 July 2006.

More information about the IGF can be found on its website:
https://www.intgovforum.org/en