IGF2020
Thematic overview

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The IGF is a global multistakeholder platform of the United Nations for the discussion of public policy issues pertaining to the development of Internet.

In Poland, from 2 - 6 November 2020, more than 3000 participants are expected from 150 different countries. With more than 200 sessions for stakeholders around the world belonging to governments, civil society, technical community, academia and the private sector, the Forum represents the main worldwide event of global discussion on IG.

In the IGF2020 latest webinar, the session dedicated to the Forum thematic overview was particularly interesting. Based on community input received during various sessions related to IGF in recent months, the MAG (Multistakeholder Advisory Group) agreed on some main thematic tracks.

With respect to the IGF2019, two additional themes were identified - climate change and environmental sustainability and the digital economy - as important issues to be dealt with in 2020. Therefore, the IGF 2020 programme will be structured in four main thematic tracks: Data, Environment, Inclusion and Trust.

1. Data

The track will focus on discussion regarding the challenge of ensuring the benefits of the data to contribute to inclusive development while protecting the rights of people. Internet and ICT bring an international dimension to the discussion around data. The generation, collection, storage and transfer of data, including personal data, have enabled new social, cultural, and economic opportunities. But, at the same time, the massive collection, transfer and processing of data pose challenges as regards privacy, freedom of expression and the exercise of human rights.

2. Environment

The track aims to understand the relation between the use of Internet and digital technologies to preserve the environment and the threats to its sustainability. ICT can help monitor the environment, but, at the same time, there is a need to identify the cases in which the development and use of Internet, its devices and services, may have heavy environmental impacts (e.g. energy use and carbon emissions and other negative consequences).

3. Inclusion

The track aims to engage the IG community on the issues and solutions for the achievement of an equitable and inclusive Internet. Many people still do not have access to Internet due to reasons such as gender, disability, digital literacy, affordability, etc. This track will offer the occasion for a wider discussion on the achievement of an inclusive Information Society. This ensures that everyone's voice is heard and treated equally in the decision-making processes and also in the participation in the digital economy.

4. Trust

The track will provide the opportunity to discuss strategies and best practices for protecting both systems and users, along with the roles and responsibilities of governments, industry and other stakeholders. In this context, trust relates to the security, stability, and resilience of the infrastructure, of systems and devices, and also to the need for people to be safe and secure. The track will also consider the relationship between security and people's freedoms and rights, attempting to find a balance, given the growing threats to the global Internet and Internet users.

Besides being at the centre of current global discussions and of political processes, this is evidence that some of these themes have nowadays become particularly relevant, also for the domain name sector, owing to the Covid-19 emergency.