

Dear participants,

The IGF officially got underway today with the UN Secretary-General's opening message and Japanese Prime Minister keynote.

In case you missed it, here are some highlights for Monday 9th October:

The day in numbers

2.6 billion people are still offline, mostly in the Global South and vulnerable communities.

Photo of the Day



Japanese Prime Minister delivers his opening remarks at the Forum.

For more photos, please visit: [IGF-Internet Governance Forum's albums | Flickr](#)

Quote of the Day

“We need to work together to close the connectivity and digital governance gap, and to re-enforce a human rights, human-centered approach to digital cooperation. We need to keep harnessing digital technologies enabled by the internet to help deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, take climate action and build a better world.”

United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

Highlights:

Opening press release: Leveraging benefits of rapid advances in artificial intelligence and digitalisation, while mitigating risks underpins UN Forum on Internet Governance

Against a backdrop of growing geopolitical tensions, proliferating crises and widening inequalities, the challenges facing the global community in reaching the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are vast. With the Internet holding a critical role in navigating these complexities, the 18th UN Internet Governance Forum (IGF) got underway in Kyoto, Japan today under the overarching theme, 'The Internet We Want – Empowering All People'. Read more [here](#).

Global Digital Compact

The Secretary-General also highlighted in his video message to the Forum, the importance of the UN Global Digital Compact which aims to set out principles, objectives and actions to secure a human-centred digital future and will be taken up at the Summit of the Future next year: "Governments, the private sector and civil society must come together regularly to ensure that the commitments enshrined in the Compact are followed up."

Artificial Intelligence High-level Panel

Artificial intelligence (AI) is widespread and increasingly impacting lives. It is difficult to think of a sector that is not already affected and may not be transformed by its rapid development and scope, including growth in productivity, and the consequences of abrupt changes arising from this in economy, society and culture. Delivering his keynote speech in the High-level Session on Artificial Intelligence, the Japanese Prime Minister underscored the need for a wide range of stakeholders to play their roles in development of AI and the need to strike a balance between promotion and regulation. He highlighted the Hiroshima AI process which includes support for strengthening AI development.

This was followed by Maria Ressa, Vice-Chair of the UN Secretary-General appointed IGF Leadership Panel, CEO and President of Rappler and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate who highlighted a 10-point action plan launched at the 2022 Nobel Peace Summit. This involved three buckets: The first, to stop surveillance for profit with the aim of 'giving us back our lives'; two, to stop code bias, noting if you are a woman or LGBTQ+ you are further marginalised in the virtual world; and, third, journalism as an antidote to tyranny.

Key links:

- IGF website: <https://www.intgovforum.org/en>
- Programme: <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/schedule>
- Follow live and on demand: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uck0zf4ol0IsJLh1owvUQSfQ>
- IGF Village: <https://intgovforum.org/en/igf-village-2023>

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