

The UN IGF 2021 in Poland

Due to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus pandemic, the 15th IGF 2020 was held entirely virtually and not stationary in Poland, as previously planned.

Following that, Poland will organize **the 16th edition of the UN IGF 2021 at the International Congress Centre in Katowice, on 6-10 December 2021.**

High Representative of the Prime Minister for European Digital Policy and the Republic of Poland Plenipotentiary for UN IGF 2021 is **Mr Krzysztof Szubert** who also represents Poland as IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) Host Country Co-Chair, and, on behalf of the Prime Minister, is responsible for organising the IGF in Poland.

IGF is an international initiative that aims to initiate and facilitate global discussion about the development of the digital space and about the most current and urgent issues related to its functioning. IGF 2021 in Katowice will make the entire international digital environment meet in one place.

The event, organised since 2006 under the auspices of the United Nations (UN Internet Governance Forum), gathers representatives of five environments (business, political, scientific, non-governmental and technical), who share an interest in electronic media, digital economy, accessibility, cybersecurity, human rights on the Internet or media education. Every year, it is attended by approx. 5,000 participants from more than 100 countries around the world. Previous conferences were organised, among others, in Germany (2019), France (2018), Switzerland (2017), Mexico (2016), Brazil (2015), Turkey (2014), Indonesia (2013), Azerbaijan (2012), Kenya (2011), and Lithuania (2010). In 2020, due to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus pandemic, the 15th UN international digital summit – IGF 2020 was held entirely virtually.

The slogan of the digital summit in Poland is **Internet United** – free, indivisible, shared Internet.

The website of the event, updated on an ongoing basis, is available at www.igf2021.pl. In social media communication, a dedicated account has been created on Twitter [@igf_2021](https://twitter.com/igf_2021)

POLAND – AMBASSADOR OF THE FREE INTERNET

The fact that Poland is organising such a prestigious event first of all reflects the consistent path of the Polish government towards a free, indivisible and common Internet.

Open, free and indivisible internet, in which users can enjoy their rights without compromising their privacy, is an idea that has guided the Polish government in the discussion on the digital space management for a long time. Promoting the idea of online freedom was the reason behind the establishment of a national Internet governance discussion forum, operating in various forms for several years.

HIGH LEVEL COMPONENT

During the December (2021) summit, together with UN DESA, we are planning a High Level component, involving, inter alia, UN digitisation ministers and parliamentarians. We plan the participation of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland, the President of the Republic

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of Poland, the Secretary General of the United Nations, representatives of the European Commission, representatives of business, social, scientific and technical organisations.

A parliamentary session is planned for the UN IGF 2021. Separate invitations will be extended to Members of Parliaments dealing with digital affairs in countries.

Official invitations to Ministers and Parliamentarians of the UN countries will be sent in the first half of 2021, jointly by the Polish side and UN DESA. The preferred level of High-Level meetings will be a Minister or a Deputy Minister responsible for digitalization of country.

UN international digital summit – IGF 2021 to be the IGF of YOUTH

As the host country Poland attaches particular importance to the "IGF of Youth" format and wants IGF 2021 to be an event involving young people in particular. It is they who create the global Internet environment and who are the future leaders of the global discussion about the future of digital space.

One of the important events accompanying the IGF will be the international competition for young people announced by Poland in the spring of 2021 under the working title: "MY INTERNET OF THE FUTURE". We anticipate 3 categories of works: graphic visualization (any technique); max. 30" video (any technique, the English language version is obligatory); verbal utterance in English (max. 350 words, any technique).

IGF AGENDA AND SCOPE

IGF is organised in the form of workshops, panels, discussions and other accompanying events from all over the global online environment.

Proposals for events can be submitted directly to UN DESA. These proposals will be assessed by a specially appointed team. Details of the call will be available at <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/>.

CONTACT WITH THE ORGANISER

The government administration body authorised to organise the event is the Chancellery of the Prime Minister.