

MEDIA ADVISORY

Over 1,000 participants to attend Internet Governance Forum, Rio de Janeiro, 12 - 15 November 2007

New York/Geneva/Rio de Janeiro, 25 October – Well over 1,000 representatives from government, the private sector and civil society, as well as the academic and technical communities, are expected to gather in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, for the second meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), taking place from 12 to 15 November 2007.

Participants will hold interactive discussions on a wide range of issues related to Internet governance. Among the topics up for discussion are freedom of expression, cybercrime, security, privacy, open standards, cost of access, multilingualism and diversity, measures against child pornography and protecting children from exploitation. The four-day United Nations conference, hosted by the Brazilian government, will take place at the Windsor Barra hotel, located in Rio de Janeiro's Barra da Tijuca district.

Vint Cerf and Bob Kahn, two of the founding fathers of the Internet and co-inventors of the TCP/IP protocols, will be attending. Delegates from more than 70 countries have registered for the meeting, as well as private-sector participants such as Alcatel-Lucent, Cisco Systems, France Telecom, Google, IBM, Intel, Microsoft, Nokia Siemens, Sun Microsystems, Verizon and Yahoo. Civil society participants include Amnesty International, the Association for Progressive Communication, Save the Children and the World Press Freedom Committee, among others.

The Brazilian Minister of Science and Technology, Sérgio Rezende, will chair the meeting. Also attending are the Co-chairmen of the Advisory Group tasked with the preparation of the Forum, Nitin Desai, the UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser for Internet Governance, and Hadil da Rocha Vianna, Director for Scientific and Technological Affairs at the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Markus Kummer, the IGF Secretariat's Executive Coordinator, will serve as the Secretary of the meeting.

This multi-stakeholder gathering provides a unique opportunity for participants to share information, experiences and best practice, thus helping to create a better understanding of how the Internet can be used to its full potential for the benefit of all peoples. The Forum's broad mandate allows participants to discuss any policy issue related to Internet governance, including the possible uses and abuses of the Internet. The IGF is an innovative open platform for policy dialogue and not a traditional negotiating body.

"Internet Governance for Development" will be the overall theme. The meeting will consist of five main sessions structured along the following themes:

Critical Internet Resources – Infrastructure and the management of critical resources such as domain name system and Internet protocol addresses.

Access - Internet connectivity: policy and cost.

Diversity - Promoting multilingualism and local content

Openness - Freedom of expression; free flow of information; empowerment and access to knowledge

Security - Creating trust and confidence through collaboration

Additionally, the issue of capacity building will be focused on as a cross-cutting priority.

The main sessions of the meeting will be webcast and can be viewed at <http://www.un.org/webcast> and <http://www.intgovforum.org>.

The IGF will also provide a platform for interested stakeholder groups to organize their own events to discuss specific issues, to share best practices or to present their activities.

The “Dynamic Coalitions” created at last year’s inaugural IGF meeting in Athens will gather and further develop their proposals. These multi-stakeholder coalitions address issues such as privacy, open standards, access and connectivity, linguistic diversity, spam, access to knowledge, freedom of expression and an “Internet Bill of Rights”.

Fact sheets on the meeting will be sent out starting 29 October.

Media accreditation: Representatives of the media – written press, photo, radio and television – will need to be accredited to cover the meeting. You must complete an application form for the conference, which can be downloaded by clicking [here](#). Your completed form, together with a letter of assignment on official letterhead from your editor or bureau chief, and two forms of photo ID (passport, official national press pass, work ID), should be sent to:

(for pre-accreditation – up to 7 November 2007)

UN Office at Geneva, Information Service,
Room C323, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Fax: (+41) 22 917 00 73 or 917 00 31
Tel: (+41) 22 917 2313
Email: cfegli@unog.ch

(on-site accreditation – from 8 November 2007)

Contact address, phone and fax will be published on the website of the Meeting

The Information Service does not acknowledge receipt of requests for media accreditation. You may call to check the status of your request.

Additional Information: For further information about the IGF, please visit <http://www.intgovforum.org> (official UN website) or <http://www.igfbrazil2007.br/> (host country website)

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