



ARAB IGF

MENOG 11, Amman

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Agenda

- The international IGF
- National and regional IGFs
- Arab IGF
 - Mission
 - Structure
 - Format
 - First meeting
 - How to participate
 - Why it's important

The IGF

- A key outcome of the 2nd phase of WSIS, Tunis 2005
- A forum for public policy dialogue on Internet Governance
- Initial mandate for a 5-year term; renewed in 2010 for another term
- Annual meetings take place since 2006
- Geneva-based secretariat
- Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee to plan for the annual meetings
- Open consultations twice a year on taking stock and planning

IGF 2012

- Will take place in Baku, Azerbaijan, 6-9 November
- Overall theme is: *“Internet Governance for sustainable human, economic and social development”*
- Main themes:
 - Access and diversity
 - Security, openness and privacy
 - Managing critical Internet resources
 - Internet Governance for development
 - Emerging issues
 - Taking stock and the way forward

National & Regional IGFs

- Reflect the success of the international IGF
- Independent bodies, created in a bottom-up manner
- Follow the IGF practice of open, inclusive, and multi-stakeholder participation
- Encourage national and regional engagement in Internet Governance processes
- Issue regular reports and present on progress made at the international IGF meetings
- List of national and regional IGFs:
<http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/igf-initiatives>



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ARAB INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

Background

- 2008: ESCWA initiated the Arab Dialogue on Internet Governance
- 2009-2010: Consultations among Arab stakeholders
- 2011: Arab Ministers' Council invited League of Arab States and ESCWA to do further consultations on the desirability of establishing an Arab IGF
- 2012: Final round of consultation took place in Beirut with 60 participants representing all stakeholders; consensus reached on establishing an Arab IGF; outcome was blessed by Arab Ministers' Council

Mission

- Discuss Internet public policy issues, including emerging issues, and make recommendations where appropriate
- Facilitate the exchange of information and best practices across the Arab Internet community
- Contribute to capacity building in Internet Governance in the region and work towards improving active participation of Arab stakeholders in international Internet Governance processes
- Strive to build consensus on regional priorities and to respond to Arab countries' needs in relation to Internet Governance
- Engage with other regional and international fora

Structure

- Arab Multistakholder Advisory Group (AMAG)
<http://igfarab.org/index.php/advisory-committee/members-of-the-committee>
- Secretariat: Hosted by NTRA, Egypt
<http://www.igfarab.org/secretariat@igfarab.org>

Format

- Inclusive of all stakeholders, in line with WSIS principles
- Non-binding discussion forum
- Flexible, decentralized structure
- Various sources of voluntary funding

First Meeting

- Kuwait, 9-11 October 2012
- Host: Kuwait Information Technology Society (KITS)
- Preparatory process: Two open consultations and MAG meetings took place in Cairo in May/Sep 2012 with remote participation
- Overall theme: “A better Internet for A Better Arab World”
- Main themes:
 - Access
 - Content
 - Security and privacy
 - Openness
 - Managing CIR
 - Youth

First Meeting

- Main Sessions
 - Access and Content
 - Openness and Freedom of Expression
 - Critical Internet Resources
 - Security and Privacy
 - Youth
 - Taking Stock and Way Forward

First Meeting

- Workshops
 - Practicing Online Freedom of Expression in the Arab World & the Challenge of Content Filtering
 - Domain Names Industry in the Arab World
 - Internet Exchange Points (IXP) in the Arab world
 - Key Issues In Implementing e-Accessibility for People with a Disability
 - Internet Governance Multi-stakeholder model in the Arab World : Opportunities and Challenges
 - Moving to IPv6: Governance and Technical Challenges
 - The Impact of Social Media on the Democratization Process in the Arab Region
 - Towards a New Sustainable Internet Economy
 - Social Media for Entrepreneurs
 - Youth Driving our Future Technologies and Businesses
 - Extending Regulation to Digital Cyberspace
 - Policy Requirements for Women Empowerment Over the Internet
 - Empowering Youth Using Social Networking to Participate in the Community Development

How to participate

- If you can't be in Kuwait this week, you can participate remotely
- For future meetings, you may:
 - Apply to be on the MAG
 - Participate in open consultations (physical or remote)
 - Submit a workshop proposal
 - Apply for a fellowship
 - Sponsor and activity
 - Host one of the future meetings

Why it's important

- The only open forum for ALL stakeholders in the region to come together and discuss Internet policy issues
- Stimulate engagement in Internet Governance issues at national level
- Develop capacities in areas pertaining to Internet Governance
- Exposure to other regional and international Internet related bodies



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Get Engaged!