



**WSIS
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Session Outcome Document

From local to global Internet governance

ISOC France

Thursday 9 July 11:00-11:45 CEST

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2026/Agenda/Session/393>

In the framework of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Forum, which was held in Geneva from 6 to 10 July 2026 under the auspices of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), UNESCO, UNDP and UNCTAD, with the support of the Swiss Confederation, the Internet Society (ISOC) France organized a round table dedicated to Internet governance and its evolution across several national and regional contexts.

This session, entrusted by Nicolas Chagny, President of the Internet Society France, to Sébastien Bachollet, Honorary President, was held on July 9, 2026 and brought together:

- **Sébastien Bachollet** (France), chair of the session — a look back at the birth of IGF France
- **Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong** (Chad) — IGF Chad and the African Sub-Regional IGF
- **Olivier Crépin-Leblond** (United Kingdom) — the British IGF and EuroDIG
- **Kyoko Yoshinaga** (Japan) — The Evolution of Internet Governance in Japan

The exchanges, organized around several national and regional experiences, addressed how artificial intelligence can contribute to strengthening the multi-stakeholder approach to Internet governance, before a time of open dialogue with the room and online participants.

Governance that must be built from the bottom up

In his opening remarks, Sébastien Bachollet recalled that Internet governance must be built "from the bottom up". He explained that while the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was born out of the 2003 World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva and then in 2005 in Tunis, he personally would have preferred local initiatives to precede the global forum — a vision that he said had gradually become a reality through the proliferation of national and regional IGFs.

He retraced several milestones in this history:

- In 2018, France hosted the World Forum in Paris, at the UNESCO premises.
- The IGF France has been held under this name since 2014, and has become the meeting place for the various players in Internet governance in France, bringing together the presidents of the regulatory authorities (CNIL, Arcep, CSA, etc.) and the ministers in charge of digital affairs, with the participation of international organizations such as the Internet Society Monde Monde, ICANN, EURALO and UNESCO.
- In addition, the organizers of the IGF (including the Internet Society France and Afnic) have set up the Digital Future Workshops, which punctuate the year to produce proposals that feed into the debates of national, regional and global forums. Organized for four years in a small village in the Nièvre region, these Workshops bring together local, national and global actors around topics such as AI, the Internet and democracy, or the functioning of the Internet.
- Sébastien Bachollet also recalled the French precedent in this area: from 2002 to 2008, an event was held under the name of EGENI, supported by the Internet Society France, Cigref, Medef and the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with the support of Afnic.
- Finally, he mentioned that IGF France strives to organize activities related to the Arts at each of its events.

More information: igf-france.fr

Contrasting national and regional experiences

In Chad, a forum that has become a space for dialogue between citizens and authorities

Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong presented the experience of the National Forum of Chad, created in 2014 to bring together actors who previously worked in isolation. The first national forum, held in 2015, brought together more than 700 participants from government, academia, civil society, youth and women.

According to him, the forum has become a real space for dialogue between citizens and authorities, with discussions including the high cost of the internet, its quality, cybersecurity and digital policies, and the recommendations made are then forwarded to the government. He also said that this forum has enabled Chad to strengthen its presence in African and international bodies, such as the African IGF and ICANN, and insisted on the need to develop digital skills through Internet governance schools and training for young people.

More information: igf.td

United Kingdom: stable funding and renewal challenges

Olivier Crépin-Leblond presented the UK Internet Governance Forum, created in 2007. He explained that its main advantage is stable funding, but that this sometimes limits the diversity of partners; He insisted on the need to renew the members of the organising committee, to improve the diversity of profiles and to better represent the whole of British society.

He then described the functioning of EuroDIG, the European Internet Governance Forum, which relies entirely on the participation of the community: the topics are proposed, grouped and then selected by the participants themselves, with the Board of Directors focusing mainly on the administrative, legal and financial aspects. He stressed that the main difficulties of EuroDIG are funding, the mobilisation of volunteers and the maintenance of a truly multi-stakeholder model.

More information: ukigf.org.uk

Japan, from Internet Governance to Artificial Intelligence Governance

Kyoko Yoshinaga traced the evolution of digital governance in Japan, from the early days of the Internet to the current challenges of artificial intelligence. A lawyer specializing in public policy, she explained that laws are no longer enough to regulate digital technologies that evolve much faster than legislative processes.

It has shown that modern governance is based on a combination of regulations, voluntary standards, public-private cooperation and civil society participation. She pointed out that the challenges posed by AI — disinformation, deepfakes, cybersecurity, privacy — are similar to those faced with the internet, but on a much larger scale. It concluded that AI can improve governance through machine translation, public consultation analysis, and decision support, but that it should never replace the multi-stakeholder process.

Exchanges with the audience

Discussions with participants in the room and online focused on:

- the governance of the African IGF and its development (igf.africa) ;
- protecting children online;
- digital education and the history of the Internet (isoc.fr — [Education and training](#));
- the importance of Youth IGFs;
- the difficulties of financing and mobilizing volunteers.

Conclusions

The speakers agreed on several key ideas:

- Internet governance must remain multi-stakeholder, involving States, the private sector, civil society, researchers and the technical community;
- national IGFs are essential to escalate citizens' needs to the regional and global levels;
- there is a need to strengthen youth participation, foster multilingualism and maintain an open Internet while protecting users, especially children;
- Artificial intelligence must support governance processes, without ever replacing human participation.