



POLAND

THE HEART OF GLOBAL
DEBATE ON THE FUTURE
OF THE INTERNET

16th UN Internet Governance Forum – IGF 2021
Katowice, 6 – 10 December 2021



The organisation of the 16th UN Internet Governance Forum – IGF 2021 was entrusted to the Chancellery of the Prime Minister and the United Nations

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WELCOME TO KATOWICE



POLAND – THE HEART OF GLOBAL DEBATE ON THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET

We have been trying to get this opportunity for several years, and we finally succeeded! The UN has appreciated our efforts in the international arena, and the 16th UN Internet Governance Forum – IGF 2021 will take place in Poland. It will be attended by thousands of eminent guests – ministers and heads of international organisations, representatives

of businesses, including the largest and best-known Internet companies, as well as NGO activists and academics, theoreticians and practitioners. On 6 - 10 December 2021, the entire international Internet community will gather in one place, in Poland.



Organising such a prestigious event is not only a great honour, but also a proof that Poland is becoming an increasingly important player in the global efforts to ensure an open and united Internet. See you in Katowice in December 2021!

Mateusz Morawiecki
Prime Minister of the Republic of Poland

INTERNET UNITED

The UN Internet Governance Forum – IGF 2021 will be a place of debate about the future of Internet platforms. The headline and the theme of this year's conference is Internet United – this is where global issues and best practices concerning the digital space will be discussed.

The IGF has been organised annually since 2006. To date, it has been held in Germany, France, Switzerland, Mexico, Brazil, Turkey, Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Kenya, Lithuania, Egypt, India and Greece. It's time for Poland!



We need an Internet Governance Forum that is responsive, relevant and impactful. We need it to be a place where governments, companies, technical experts and civil society from all parts of the world come together, share ideas, debate solutions and agree on common standards and principles.

António Guterres
UN Secretary-General



More than ever, we need to harness the Internet to realize the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – leaving no one behind or offline. We need to extend global partnership to bridge the digital divides. And we need to continue advancing digital transformation for people, peace, planet and prosperity. Meeting under the theme Internet United, IGF 2021 is where these issues will be addressed, actions taken and initiatives launched.

Liu Zhenmin
UN Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs



IGF 2021 in Katowice is a great opportunity for parliamentarians from around the world to meet and give attention to the needs of Internet users. We will discuss, among others, legislative solutions responding to the challenges of the digital world. Together, we can shape the future.

Elżbieta Witek
Marshal of the Sejm of the Republic of Poland



The digital transformation we are living today knows no borders. Everywhere, we see the same questions: how will digital tools change our lives? Can we trust digital technologies? Questions that need a collective, united response. This is why the discussions in Katowice are so important: more than just shaping the governance of Internet, they are about shaping the world we wish to live in.

Margrethe Vestager
Executive Vice President of the European Commission for A Europe Fit for the Digital Age



IGF 2021 – WHERE DECISIONS ON THE FUTURE OF THE INTERNET ARE MADE

During the COVID-19 crisis, the Internet proved to be helpful in organising our lives to the extent that we would never foresee before. This has only confirmed its enormous value to all of us. We are functioning in a digital world where we need freedom, openness and security.

We want the Polish Internet community to be actively involved in this event. During the UN Internet Governance Forum – IGF 2021, every participant will have an opportunity to express their opinion on the future of the Internet. You also can influence this debate!



Katowice – a city and a hub of innovation and new technologies – will be the place where the key decisions concerning the future of the Internet – its development and further operation – will be made. Many seem to think that these issues do not concern them, but they could not be more wrong. The issues discussed in Katowice will concern all users of the Internet.

Janusz Cieszyński
Secretary of State for Digital Affairs at the Chancellery of the Prime Minister, Government Plenipotentiary for Cybersecurity

EVERYBODY IS INVITED

What will make this year's IGF stand out from its previous editions is the involvement of young Internet users in debates and decision-making. In Katowice, they will have an opportunity to speak up and be heard.

We want the IGF 2021 to be an important event for the representatives of youth from all over the world – people who largely make up the global Internet community. That is why the Youth IGF Summit will be one of the events accompanying the main IGF 2021.

Admission to the IGF 2021 will be free of charge. Anyone is welcome to attend, ask questions and bring up their issues in debates.

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The global pandemic has accelerated the process of digitalisation of individual areas of economic, political and social life. Naturally, this process requires adequate funding and the involvement of the younger generation. These are strategic elements of growth – and the topics we will be talking about in connection with the theme of this year's IGF 2021 – Internet United.

Krzysztof Szubert
High Representative of the Prime Minister for European Digital Policy, Republic of Poland Plenipotentiary for UN IGF 2021