

Commonwealth Internet Governance Forum seeks to encourage greater participation from Commonwealth member states on policy issues and discussions related to Internet Governance, with a view to coming up with informed solutions or the pooling of good practice to address their needs more directly.

## Objectives

To promote awareness of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) amongst policy makers and stakeholders from industry, civil society and academia in Commonwealth member countries.



To establish IGF links around the Commonwealth with the particular aim of securing the engagement of those Commonwealth member countries which have not previously participated in the Internet Governance Forum.

To foster links between Commonwealth national and regional IGFs and the identify areas of common concern such as affordable and secure access for all.

To provide a forum for stakeholders from Commonwealth member countries to discuss and formulate Commonwealth-wide policies, best practice and position papers to be tabled at the IGF in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 16 -18 November 2009.

To inform national positions on public policy issues for the good governance of the Internet and provide a forum for Commonwealth members to enable them to work towards formulating Commonwealth wide policies or positions to be tabled at the IGF.

## Anticipated outcomes

- Increased participation by stakeholders from Commonwealth member countries in the 2009 Internet Governance Forum in Sharm el Sheikh.
- Informed multi-stakeholder discussion on issues relating to Internet governance which will assist Commonwealth member countries in the development of their policy-making process, initiatives, resources and skills.
- Promotion within the Commonwealth of active national and regional Internet governance initiatives and partnerships for sharing expertise, resources and best practice.
- Working towards an agreed Commonwealth position on the future of the IGF after 2010.

## Activities

In order to achieve these objectives three aspects of the Commonwealth IGF have to be established with sufficient funding to support the activities of a Secretariat, which will coordinate activities, carry out consultations and facilitate participation of key individuals from Commonwealth countries in IGF fora by awarding travel bursaries. The initiative will be promoted by the key partners, at international meetings and events.



### 1. Preliminary Consultations & Engagement

The aim of the preliminary consultations is to kick start the identification of active stakeholders, involved in IG from Commonwealth countries in order to establish the key issues that of concern to member countries. The focus of the consultations will be on **secure and affordable access for all** and will follow the priority areas as laid out by the IGF, that is:

- Managing critical Internet resources;
- Security, openness and privacy;
- Access and diversity;
- Emerging issues: Impact of Social Networks.

This is a preparatory exercise leading up to the Internet Governance meeting at Sharm el Sheikh in November 2009 to provide a basis for more focussed discussions on identifying the key common issues that are of concern to the Commonwealth.

Commonwealth IGF partners will be engaging with their own networks at the meetings identified to identify champions to bring on broad new partners and resources and to gauge interest.

### 2. Travel Bursaries

In order to support potential champions from various Commonwealth regions to engage in the process, the project will be awarding bursaries to cover the travel costs of attending Sharm el-Sheikh.

### 3. IGF in Sharm el Sheikh:

There will be an information stand promoting Commonwealth IGF and best practice at the IGF village in Sharm El Sheikh.

There will also be an Open session dedicated to a series of short presentations and interactive panel discussions, chaired by the Commonwealth Secretariat.

The purpose of the Commonwealth Open Session at the IGF in Sharm el Sheikh is to:

- provide a forum for stakeholders from Commonwealth member countries to share and disseminate information about Internet initiatives relevant to the IGF overarching themes, with particular emphasis on capacity building;
- to exchange views on the opportunity provided by the global IGF to formulate Commonwealth-wide policies, best practice and position papers at the IGF in Sharm El Sheikh and subsequently in the run up to the Vilnius IGF in 2010;
- to formulate a Commonwealth position on the future of the IGF.

## 4. Online Resource Base & Discussion Forum

An online resource base which provides information on the resources on internet governance available in the Commonwealth can be developed once there is a critical mass of contributions. This resource base would include key organisations and champions on internet governance and related issues. This will serve as the basis for a knowledge repository for policy makers and representatives from various stakeholder groups.

The activities at Sharm el Sheikh and the results of the consultations leading up to it will provide a basis for indentifying areas of interest, and needs from within the Commonwealth.

Further consultations and research in the subsequent weeks will build on the feedback gathered thus far to identify what the priority areas and concerns of Commonwealth countries are.

The Commonwealth IGF aims to submit their findings and recommendations as a report to the IGF Open Consultation sessions of May 2010 in Geneva.

## Commonwealth member countries

Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, The Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Cameroon, Canada, Cyprus, Dominica, Fiji (suspended), The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lesotho, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Malta, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nauru, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Swaziland, Tonga, Tanzania, Trinidad and Tobago, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Kingdom, Vanuatu and Zambia.



## Key partners

- British Foreign and Commonwealth Office
- Commonwealth Secretariat
- COMNET-IT
- Department of Business, Innovation and Skills, United Kingdom
- DiploFoundation
- Industrie Canada
- KICTANet
- Ministry of Mining and Telecommunications, Jamaica
- NOMINET

## Meetings & Consultations

The partners have identified a number of meeting and events to hold informal consultations and promote the Commonwealth IGF and have met with enthusiastic support.

March 2009	ICANN Meeting of the Governmental Advisory Committee; Mexico City, Mexico
June 2009	Submission to IFG Secretariat for Open Session of Internet Governance Forum 2009; Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt
June 2009	ICANN Informal Meeting of the Governmental Advisory Committee; Sydney, Australia
August 2009	5th Caribbean Internet Governance Forum; St Kitts & Nevis
September 2009	East African Internet Governance Forum Meeting; Nairobi, Kenya IGF Secretariat Informal Meeting in Preparation for IGF 2009 Briefing for Diplomatic Representatives for Commonwealth Countries; Geneva, Switzerland
October 2009	ICANN Meeting of the Governmental Advisory Committee; Seoul, Korea Planning Meeting of Commonwealth IGF Secretariat Briefing for Diplomatic Representatives for Commonwealth Countries; London, UK
November 2009	4th Internet Governance Forum Meeting; Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting; Trinidad and Tobago
April 2010	Online Consultations & Directory
March 2010	ICANN Nairobi

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