



PARLIAMENT
OF KENYA



Inter-Parliamentary Union

Internet Governance Forum 2026 | Parliamentary Track

Governing the Internet in the Age of Intelligence: Our Shared Responsibility

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

CONTEXT

As a multi-stakeholder platform, the United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF) brings together over 10,000 participants each year, facilitating the discussion of public policy issues pertaining to digital technologies on and off the internet.

This year, Kenya is hosting the [21st Internet Governance Forum](#) (IGF 2026), to be held on **14-18 December 2026 in Nairobi**, under the overarching theme ***Governing the Internet in the Age of Intelligence: Our Shared Responsibility***.

Since 2019, the IGF has actively involved MPs from around the world, providing an important platform for exchanging views and strengthening digital cooperation both within the parliamentary community and with representatives from the private sector, the technical community and civil society, including youth and academia. Through a dedicated Parliamentary Track, and in collaboration with numerous IGF partners, the Forum organizes a set of activities in the lead-up to and at the annual IGF meeting.

The Parliamentary Track at IGF 2026 takes place on 16–17 December. It is jointly organized by the IGF Secretariat, which is hosted within the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, by the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and by the host country's parliament, in this case the Parliament of Kenya. The IGF welcomes the participation of all interested MPs and parliamentary staff, especially those working in relevant parliamentary committees or on digital affairs and internet policy issues.

TOPICAL OVERVIEW OF THE PARLIAMENTARY TRACK

Under the overarching theme *Governing the Internet in the Age of Intelligence: Our Shared Responsibility*, the Parliamentary Track at IGF 2026 will focus on two key themes in which parliaments have a central role:

- “Rule-takers or rule-makers?": Digital sovereignty, digital inclusion and shared responsibilities
- “Growing up in the age of AI": Protecting children online

Through legislation and international cooperation, parliaments can ensure digital policy serves national interests and citizens' needs while contributing to a coherent, rules-based global governance system. This responsibility extends to protecting the youngest generation growing up amid AI, as parliaments must enact forward-looking legislation addressing algorithmic harms and data exploitation, while safeguarding children's rights to access and participate online, and holding platforms and AI developers accountable for child safety online.

The Parliamentary Track at IGF 2026 will pursue the following aims:

- Build on the outcomes of the Parliamentary Track at previous global and regional IGFs
- Foster rich conversations through multi-stakeholder panels
- Identify parliamentary priorities and ways to build capacity and take action on these priorities

OUTPUT

The key messages that emerge from the Parliamentary Track discussions will be captured in an action-oriented document that will serve as one of the formal outputs of IGF 2026.

The Parliamentary Track output document will be circulated to all parliaments and incorporated into the IGF summary report, which will inform UN Member States and IGF stakeholders.

Parliamentary Track output documents from previous IGFs can be accessed [here](#) under “Quick Links”.

PARTICIPATION

Parliamentarians and their staff attending in person must register via the dedicated [IGF 2026 INDICO registration platform](#). Upon approval of their registration request, they will receive a digital badge.

Participants attending online can join sessions via Zoom. Details will be published in the IGF 2026 scheduling app. Please visit the [IGF website](#) and the [host country's IGF 2026 website](#) for more information.

As well as participating in the IGF Parliamentary Track, MPs are also encouraged to explore and actively take part in other IGF sessions.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

PARLIAMENTARY TRACK	
Day 1 – Wednesday 16 December 2026	
“Rule-takers or rule-makers?”: Digital sovereignty, digital inclusion and shared responsibilities	
09:00–09:30	Arrival and welcome coffee
09:30–09:45	IGF Parliamentary Track: Welcome and introduction Participants will be welcomed to the 8th IGF Parliamentary Track and the 21st IGF. The introductory remarks will set out expectations for the Parliamentary Track at IGF 2026 and inform attendees about how to best engage in IGF processes.
09:45–11:15	Harnessing AI for development and building national capacity on AI Artificial intelligence offers significant potential to accelerate national development, but realizing this potential requires a clear vision and strategy, articulated through public engagement, and deliberate capacity-building for key stakeholders. This session provides examples of how AI can contribute to a country’s development, and explores how parliaments can support the skills, infrastructure and institutions needed to harness AI effectively, with particular attention to data governance as the foundation for responsible, secure and equitable AI deployment across public services and the economy. It will examine the role parliaments must play in both articulating national strategies and supporting ‘AI readiness’ across society.
11:15–11:30	Coffee break
11:30–13:00	Unpacking the concept of digital sovereignty This session continues the discussion on national capacity for AI, and notes that digital sovereignty means different things to different countries, from control over data and infrastructure to independence in technology standards and platform regulation. This session unpacks the concept, examining what meaningful digital sovereignty looks like in practice, the tensions it can create with global interoperability, and how parliaments can pursue it without isolating their citizens from the wider internet.
13:00–14:00	Lunch break
14:00–15:30	Emerging legal frameworks on AI As AI systems grow more powerful, legislators worldwide are developing new legal frameworks to govern their development and use. This session reviews emerging approaches to AI regulation, balancing innovation with protection, and examines what parliamentary action is needed to address extreme AI risks, including establishing red lines, oversight mechanisms and safeguards to keep pace with rapidly advancing technology.

15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:30	The current state and future prospects for international AI governance This session takes stock of the current status and priorities for international AI governance, from UN-led initiatives to multilateral standard-setting efforts. Serving as the day's wrap-up, it reflects on the role parliaments can play in shaping the future of AI, identifying priorities and next steps for national and international action.
Day 2 – Thursday 17 December 2026 "Growing up in the age of AI": Protecting children online	
09:30–11:00	What do we know about the impact of AI on children? AI-driven platforms are reshaping childhood in profound ways, from personalized learning tools to algorithmic content recommendation. This session examines what research tells us about AI's impact on children, with a focus on children's mental health and education. Experts will share evidence on both risks and opportunities to help parliamentarians ground policy discussions in the latest findings.
11:00-11:30	Coffee break
11:30–13:00	The role of the private sector in child safety online Technology companies play a central role in shaping children's online safety, through platform design, content moderation and age-verification tools. This session examines corporate responsibilities for child safety online and explores the pros and cons of social-media bans as a policy response, discussing what accountability mechanisms and industry commitments can meaningfully protect children, and considering ways to advance digital safety by design for children.
13:00–14:00	Lunch break
14:00–15:30	Parliamentary action on AI, human rights and child rights This closing session for Day 2 examines how AI intersects with human rights and children's rights, and takes a close look at the UN's AI Child Safety Pledge as a voluntary industry commitment. Serving as the day's wrap-up, it charts pathways for parliamentary action to protect children online, translating commitments into binding legislative safeguards and oversight.
15:30-16:00	Coffee break
16:00-17:30	Priorities for parliamentary action, in follow-up to the Parliamentary Track at IGF 2026 This concluding session brings together parliamentarians to consolidate the key messages and priorities emerging from the two days of discussion. Participants will review and adopt the Parliamentary Track's output document, identifying concrete follow-up actions parliaments can take to advance digital sovereignty, inclusion and child online safety in the year ahead.