Youth IGF Nepal 2023

SUMMARY REPORT

SUPPORTED BY

Message From Anja Genjo, NRI Coordinator, UN IGF Secretariat
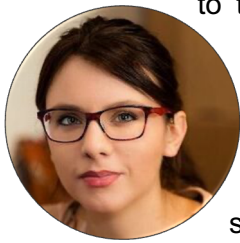
As we gather at the 2023 Youth Nepal Internet Governance Forum, I want to express my gratitude to the multistakeholder organizing committee for their commitment to an open, inclusive, and bottom-up process. The challenges and opportunities presented by the Internet require collective action and the involvement of the younger generation. By equipping our youth with digital expertise and empowering them to participate in decision-making processes, we can address the evolving obstacles brought about by digitalization. Together, let us strive for a safe, secure, resilient, and sustainable online environment that upholds human rights. I am confident that the valuable discussions and outputs generated during this forum will contribute to the broader IGF processes and advance our goal of empowering all people and fostering good governance of the Internet.

About youth IGF Nepal

Youth Internet Governance Forum (yIGF) Nepal is a youth Initiative which was formally recognized by UN IGF Secretariat in December 2021 and has been actively engaged to encourage and involve young people in the substantive discussion on the Issues of Internet Governance. Within a year of establishment we have successfully organized various capacity building activities that includes youth IGF Nepal Annual Event 2022, youth IGF Asia Pacific, Digital Freedom Summit 2022, High-Level panel on Internet Regulation in Nepal, Online Child Safety Workshop for School Teachers and Parents.

This year youth IGF Nepal brought together more than 90 young representatives from various stakeholder groups to join the one-day capacity building program. It addressed topics such as strengthening youth engagement in internet governance, ensuring internet safety, formulating youth-centric policies, and promoting secure internet usage through workshops and discussions.

Program Schedule

Time	Activities
09:30 - 10:00 AM	Registration and networking
10:00 - 11:00 AM	Opening plenary Chief Guest: Pursottam Khanal, Chairman Nepal Telecommunication Authority Keynote Speech: Michael Croft, UNESCO Representative to Nepal Special Guest: Anja Genjo, NRI Coordinator, UN IGF Secretariat Guests: Birendra Kumar Mishra, Chair, Nepal IGF Babu Ram Aryal, Chair, Digital Freedom Coalition Ashirwad Tripathy, Vice-Chair Asia Pacific regional IGF (APrIGF)

Time	Activities
11:00 - 11: 15 AM	Coffee Break
11:15 - 11:30 AM	Background about Internet Governance and yIGF Nepal
11:30 - 12:15 PM	Panel Discussion: Youth Perspectives Unleashed: Navigating the presence of youths in Internet Governance Spaces and their role for better digital future
12:15 - 12:30 PM	How Not to be Victim Online – Suyash Nepal
12:30 - 01:15 PM	Youth at the Digital Crossroads: Shaping Policies for an Inclusive Internet
01:15 - 02:15 PM	Lunch
2:15 - 02:30 PM	Flash Talk
2:30 - 3:15 PM	Youth in the Digital Frontier: Unlocking Opportunities in Global Internet Governance
03:15 - 04:15 PM	Human Rights in Digital Age: Multi Stakeholder roleplay session
04:00 - 04:30 PM	Birds of Feathers & Experience Sharing
04:30 - 05:15 PM	Closing Ceremony Leadership Handover Closing Chair: Deepa Bhattarai Closing Guest: Er. Dipesh Bista (CEO, e-governance commission)
07:00 - 09:00 PM	Dinner

Opening Plenary:

The event commenced with the Opening Plenary, featuring notable guests such as Pursotam Khanal, Chairman of the Nepal Telecommunication Authority as the Chief Guest, and Michael Croft, UNESCO Representative to Nepal as the Keynote Speaker. They delivered impactful speeches highlighting the importance of a secure Internet for youth. Anja Genjo, NRI Coordinator from the UN IGF Secretariat, attended as a special guest and commended the Youth IGF Nepal team for their remarkable work. Additional guests, including Babu Ram Aryal, Chair of the Digital Freedom Coalition, and Birendra Kumar Mishra, Chair of the Nepal IGF, Ashirwad Tripathy, ViceChair of APrIGF contributed valuable insights to the discussions.

Youth Perspectives Unleashed: Navigating the Presence of Youths in Internet Governance Spaces and Their Role for a Better Digital Future
A panel discussion titled "Youth Perspectives Unleashed: Navigating the Presence of Youths in Internet Governance Spaces and Their Role for a Better Digital Future" featured youth speakers from Nepal, India, South Korea, Myanmar, and Nigeria. They shared their perspectives and experiences in Internet governance, fostering an exchange of ideas and exploring the role of youth in shaping the digital landscape. The panel discussion was moderated by Bibek Silwal.

An awareness presentation on **"How Not to be a Victim Online?"** was delivered by Suyash Nepal, enlightening participants about online safety and cybersecurity. The presentation aimed to equip attendees with knowledge and strategies to navigate the digital world securely.

Youth at the Digital Crossroads: Shaping Policies for an Inclusive Internet
The 45-minute session commenced with a brief introduction of the panelists, each possessing rich expertise and experience in their respective domains. This panel was comprised of renowned speakers in their respective fields, Mr. Ismaran Duwadi, CEO/Co-Founder of Code Himalya, Mr. Sandesh Shrestha, Joint Attorney at the Office of Attorney General, Ms. Priyanka Jha, Vice-Chair of Media Action Nepal and Mr. Ajaya Siwakoti, Central Committee Member of Nepali Congress and this session was moderated by Adv. Mamta Siwakoti.

The moderator skillfully steered the conversation, covering diverse aspects such as the digital divide, misinformation and disinformation, weaknesses in existing policies, the impact of technological advancements, and the role of political parties in shaping the digital landscape.

Mr. Ismaran Duwadi, drawing from his entrepreneurial journey, highlighted the immense potential of the IT sector in Nepal and the need for government support and subsidies to foster growth. He emphasized the challenges faced by emerging IT companies, including taxation issues and the requirement to use Nepali servers, hindering their competitiveness in the Indian market.

Additionally, he emphasized the importance of updating the IT curriculum in educational institutions to align with industry demands.

Mr. Sandesh Shrestha, with his legal expertise, shed light on the existing cybersecurity laws in Nepal, pointing out the need for comprehensive regulations that address the complexities of the digital landscape. He stressed the importance of strengthening investigation infrastructure, establishing dedicated cyber bureaus, and expanding the jurisdiction of courts to ensure accessible justice for cybercrime cases across Nepal.

Ms. Priyanka Jha, representing the civil society, highlighted the pressing issue of the digital divide in Nepal, encompassing gender, economic, and geographical disparities. She emphasized the need for public-private partnerships to bridge this divide and advocated for policies that address the socio-economic factors contributing to the digital divide. She also emphasized the importance of balancing freedom of expression with combating misinformation and disinformation, stressing the need for digital literacy and education to foster a thriving democracy.

Mr. Ajaya Siwakoti, speaking on behalf of the Nepali Congress, discussed how issues such as digital divide, digital literacy, and AI are actively deliberated in the party's policymaking meetings.

He expressed concerns about the potential impact of AI on employment and emphasized the party's commitment to enacting policies that strike a balance between protecting individuals from misinformation and upholding freedom of expression.

Youth in the Digital Frontier: Unlocking Opportunities in Global Internet Governance

The session titled "Youth in the Digital Frontier: Unlocking Opportunities in Global Internet Governance" was expertly moderated by Ashirwad Tripathy. The panel featured esteemed speakers including Prof Salma Abbasi, the visionary Founder and CEO of eWorldwide Group; Amrita Choudhary, a prominent tech policy expert and Chair APRALO; Roshan Pokharel, an esteemed academic and Internet Governance researcher; Veronica Piccolo, the inspiring Chair of ISOC Youth SG; and Sarah Lake, the dedicated Community Engagement Manager at the Internet Society. The session addressed the importance of youth participation in shaping the global Internet governance landscape. Prof Salma Abbasi emphasized the need for building human digital resilience and highlighted key factors to consider. Amrita Choudhary discussed the opportunities available for youth in internet organizations such as ICANN, IGF, and APNIC, including fellowship and capacity-building programs. Sarah Lake introduced the Internet Society's Vision and Mission and encouraged youth to join as members. Veronica Piccolo shared her experience as a youth in the global Internet governance ecosystem, highlighting the activities of the ISOC Youth SG. Roshan Pokharel provided insights on how newcomers can participate and contribute to effecting change. The session concluded with Q&A and closing remarks from the speakers, emphasizing the importance of unity through understanding, respect, and engagement.

Human Rights in the Digital Age: Multi-Stakeholder Roleplay Session

The thought-provoking session titled "Human Rights in the Digital Age: Multi-Stakeholder Roleplay Session" was facilitated by Surendra Tiwari, Sadikshya Silwal, Sanjina Kshitri, and Kabita Rai. Through a roleplay exercise, participants were actively engaged in exploring the importance of safeguarding human rights in the digital realm and the significance of a multistakeholder approach in addressing human rights challenges online.

The 'Human Rights in Digital Age: Multi-Stakeholder Role-play Session' provided participants with an immersive experience exploring the complexities of digital rights in today's world. Through presentations, role-playing, and group discussions, the session examined the significance of digital rights and their relevance to youth. The selected topic of 'Social Media Platform Registration in Nepal' sparked lively discussions among participants representing different stakeholders. The session emphasized the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration in addressing digital rights issues effectively. Overall, the session fostered an engaging environment that enlightened participants on digital rights while showcasing the power of collective action in safeguarding these fundamental rights.

Closing Ceremony

The Closing Ceremony, which marked the end of the event, included the leadership handover from the current Chair, Deepa Bhattarai, representing Youth IGF Nepal, to the incoming Chair, Ananda Gautam. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Er. Dipesh Bista, CEO of the eGovernance Commission, as the closing guest. Additionally, the newly appointed Vice President, Surendra Tiwari, was also acknowledged for his role and contributions to the organization. The ceremony provided a platform to recognize and appreciate the efforts of the outgoing and incoming leadership, reinforcing the importance of youth engagement in shaping the future of Internet governance. The outgoing Chair, Deepa Bhattarai expressed gratitude to all the contributors and supporting organizations for their unwavering commitment to the program and extended best wishes for a successful term to the new leadership.

The program received extensive support and collaboration from various organizations, including the United Nations Internet Governance Forum Secretariat, Nepal Telecommunications Authority, Internet Society Foundation, Nepal Telecom, Code Himalaya, Presidential Business School, Insight Technology, Internet Governance Institute, Digital Rights Nepal, Imperial Law Associates, Nepal Internet Foundation, and others. Their collective efforts greatly contributed to the success of the program and its mission to empower youth in the realm of internet governance.

Registered Participants

S.N	Full Name	Gender	Age	Address	Affiliated organization	Stakeholder
1	Sadichchha Silwal	Female	25	Kmc-31, Baneswor	Digital Rights Nepal	Civil Society
2	Sanjina Kshetri	Female	24	Kathmandu.	Digital Rights Nepal	Civil Society
3	Rachana Khatri	Female	17	Bhainsepati Lalitpur	Nepal Commerce Campus	Student/End-User
4	Rajesh K C	Male	29	Bhainsepati Llitpur	Hub Remit Pvt.Ltd	Private Sector
5	Rishi Prasad Subedi	Male	35	Godawari Lalitpur	Worldlink Communication Ltd	Private Sector
6	Kopil Khati	Male	23	Kathmandu, Gongabu	Atlantic International College	Academia
7	Suresh Bhandari	Male	34	Melung Rural Municipality Dolakha	Melung Rural Municipality	Government
8	Rita Thapa	Female	31	Gulmi	Tribhuvan University	Student/End-User
9	Shiva Khadka	Male	25	Ba.Na.Pa-09, Baglung	Tribhuvan University	Student/End-User
10	Sumit Dhakal	Male	26	Bharatpur Chitwan	Technology Sewa Pvt Ltd	Private Sector
11	Rupesh Mainali	Male	27	Koteshowar Kathmandu	Nepal College Of Information Technology(NCIT)	Student/End-User
12	Sanjaya Ghising	Male	29	Kathmandu	Prime Bank	Private Sector
13	Chakra Bahadur Mahat	Male	25	Ktm 7	Youth Igf Nepal	Private Sector
14	Abatawaran	Male	23	Kathmandu	Student	Student/End-User
15	Anoop Phago	Male	32	Buddhanagar-10, Kathmandu	Blackboard Nepal	Private Sector
16	Anish Adhikari	Male	28	Kirtipur-01, Kathmandu Nepal	Tribhuvan University	Student/End-User
17	Ganga Kandel	Female	23	Tulsipur-5,Dang	Open Knowledge Nepal	Private Sector
18	Mahima Pradhan	Female	23	Chundevi, Bhaktapur	Body & Data	Academia
19	Nuva Rai	Female	25	Anamnagar	Body&Data	Civil Society
20	Manika Budhathoki	Female	22	Koteshwor, Kathmandu	None	Student/End-User
21	Sapana Kc	Female	22	Kathmandu Baneshor	Nepal Law Campus	Student/End-User
22	Soniya Adhikari	Female	21	Buddhanagar, Kathmandu	Nepal Law Campus	Student/End-User
23	Sristi Sharma	Female	21	Siddhartha Chok,Pokhara	School Of Health And Allied Science,Pu	Government
24	Samiksha Kafle	Female	19	Waling-2 ,Syangja	SHAS,Pou	Student/End-User
25	Pema Yangkyi Gurung	Female	24	Boudha	Drokpo Nepal	Civil Society

S.N	Full Name	Gender	Age	Address	Affiliated organization	Stakeholder
26	Binu Tumbapo Limbu	Female	22	Pokhara-30 , Kaski	School Of Health And Allied Science, Pokhara University	Civil Society
27	Insang Limbu	Male	22	Koteshwor	KCT(Kathmandu College Of Technology)	Student/End-User
28	Bibishika Khanal	Female	20	Sukedhara, Kathmandu	Center To Assist And Protect Child Rights Of Nepal (CAPCRON)	Civil Society
29	Reya Shreya Rai	Female	24	Sukedhara, Kathmandu	National Indigenous Women Forum	Civil Society
30	Binaya Lamichhane	Male	22	Banasthali Raniban, Kathmandu	Nepal Law Campus	Student/End-User
31	Bipul Raj Pandey	Male	28	Main Road, Biratnagar - 08,Koshi Province	Freelancer	Technical
32	Jenisha Magar	Female	20	Kageshwari Manohara-9, Kathmandu, Bagmati	Nepal Law Campus & Nepal Manpower Pvt.Ltd.	Student/End-User
33	Babita Tamang	Female	22	Lazimpat, Kathmandu	Nepal Law Campus	Student/End-User
34	Aasun Kumar Bhandari	Male	22	Kapan, Kathmandu	Nepal Law Campus	Student/End-User
35	Apekshya Adhikari	Female	24	New Naikap, 14 Kathmandu Nepal	China Communication Service International	Technical
36	Garima Bista	Female	22	Gairidhara, Kathmandu	Nepal Law Campus	Student/End-User
37	Rajarshi Sharma	Male	42	M-Net , Royal Arcade , B.Baruah Road, Ulubari	Mukand Infotel Pvt Ltd	Technical
38	Deepshikha Khadka	Female	22	Bhartpur, Dang	Ambikeswori Youth Network	Student/End-User
39	Avinash Kumar Singh	Male	33	Syuchatar, Nagarjun-10, Kathmandu	Nepal Police	Government
40	Amrit Khati Chhetri	Male	33	Mhepi, Kathmandu	Neesum Technology	Private Sector
41	Jeevan Bhusal	Male	17	Pokhara-5,Nepal	Gandaki Province Representative NABN, Secretary (Local And School Child Forum)	Student/End-User
42	Nirmala Bhusal	Female	24	Kathmandu	Icash, Nepal	Technical
43	Muktinath Poudel	Male	20	Kathmandu, Nepal	Presidential Business School/ Westcliff University	Student/End-User
44	Aashika Bhandari	Female	20	Balkot Biruwa	G17	Academia
45	Dhawa Lama Gole	Male	27	Kirtipur	Tu	Student/End-User

S.N	Full Name	Gender	Age	Address	Affiliated organization	Stakeholder
46	Chhabin Rawat	Male	22	Tulsipur, Dang	Rapti Babai Camous	Student/End-User
47	Dikshant Bikram Thapa	Male	20	Imadol Lalitpur	Kathmandu University	Student/End-User
48	Bibek Bhattarai	Male	27	Vyas	Tu	Student/End-User
49	Aayush Bashyal	Male	20	Putalisadak	Thapathali	Student/End-User
50	Sarthak Neupane	Male	19	Dhulikhel	Kathamdu University	Student/End-User
51	Alok Poddar Baishya	Male	22	Bhimsengola, Kathmandu	Federation Of Computer Association Nepal	Student/End-User
52	Nitesh Chaulagai	Male	25	Bagmati-10	None	Student/End-User
53	Ashmita Khulal	Female	17	Satdobato	Nepaleseteens	Student/End-User
54	Shitashma Pokharel	Female	23	Sanepa	Tribhuvan University	Academia
55	Susmita Adhikari	Female	20	Lokanthali, Bhaktapur	K And K International College	Student/End-User
56	Anisa B.K.	Female	21	Budhanilkantha	K&K International College	Student/End-User
57	Anita Panthi	Female	25	Koteshwor	Special Economic Zone Authority	Government
58	Pema Yangkyi Gurung	Female	24	Boudha	Drokpo Nepal	Civil Society
59	Manika Budhathoki	Female	21	Koteshwor, Kathmandu	Dear Asian Youth Kathmandu	Student/End-User
60	Debaki Rijal	Female	18	Basundhara	Canvas International College	Student/End-User
61	Roshan Bhandari	Male	26	Kalanki	Vsgroup	Private Sector
62	Arvin Ghimire	Male	15	Balkumari Lalitpur	Gems School	Student/End-User
63	Kishor Gaire	Male	28	Bardaghat-04,Nawalparasi	Guras-Nepal	Civil Society
64	Reeya Chhetri	Female	19	Sanepa, Lalitpur	Presidential Business School	Student/End-User
65	Sangeeta Rawal	Female	28	Surkhet	VS Group	Private Sector
66	Puja Bhattarai	Female	21	Kathmandu, Kritipur	Lord Buddha Education Foundation	Academia
67	Simran Rijal	Female	25	Samakhusi, Kathmandu	Presidential Business School	Student/End-User
68	Reenjen Dorje Tamang	Male	24	Jorpati, Kathmandu, Nepal	National Child Rights Council	Government
69	Aman Kumar Sah	Male	19	Baneshwor,Kathmandu,Nepal	Creators Community	Student/End-User

S.N	Full Name	Gender	Age	Address	Affiliated organization	Stakeholder
70	Sandeep Shrestha	Male	27	Lalitpur	Agrobotics Nepal Pvt. Ltd.	Private Sector
71	Ryu Shrestha	Male	24	Minbhawan	Presidential Business School	Student/End-User
72	Rohit Adhikari	Male	24	Kirtipur	Computer Association Of Nepal (CAN)	Student/End-User
73	Samaya Mahate	Male	20	Pepsicola, Kathmandu	Presidential Business School	Student/End-User
74	Rabina Kc	Female	24	Lokanthali Bhaktapur	Digital Law And Policy Centre	Academia
75	Bhumika Bhandari	Female	21	Gokarna	Trichandra Multiple Campus	Student/End-User
76	Kanchan Shrestha	Female	20	Dilibazar	K&K International College	Student/End-User
77	Jiwan Kumar Rawal	Male	25	Surkhet	VS Group	Private Sector
78	Kritika Adhikari	Female	21	Nayathimi, Bhaktapur	Nepal Law Campus	Student/End-User
79	Roshan Lamichhane	Prefer not to say	28	Kalanki	Presidential Business School	Student/End-User
80	Kanchan Shrestha	Female	20	Dilibazar	K&K International College	Student/End-User
81	Sagar Limbu	Male	30	Kathmandu	Code Himalaya	Private Sector
82	Ranjan Khanal	Male	26	Balaju, Kathmandu	Code Himalaya	Private Sector
83	Subin Shrestha	Male	22	Kathmandu	Insight Technology Pvt. Ltd	Technical
84	Shreeju Khadka	Female	21	Baluwatar	Kathmandu School Of Law	Student/End-User
85	Rubina Dahal	Female	23	Kalanki, Kathmandu	Nepal Law Campus	Student/End-User
86	Bhumika Bhandari	Female	21	Gokarna	Trichandra Multiple Campus	Student/End-User
87	Deebas Lamgade	Male	24	Samakhusi	Insight Technology	Student/End-User
88	Anil Poudyal	Male	25	Chandragiri-06	Bidhee Pvt. Ltd.	Private Sector
89	Suman K Sharma	Male	36	Nagarjun-09, Kathmandu	Insight Technology Pvt. Ltd.	Private Sector
90	Rikesh Poudel	Male	22	Thimi, Bhaktapur	Kathmandu School Of Law	Student/End-User
91	Suresh Kansakar	Male	39	Kathmandu	Code Himalaya	Private Sector
92	Arish Nepal	Male	27	Kathmandu	Mobile Finance Technology	Private Sector
93	Pramod K Lamsal	Male	31	Dhumbarahi	Insight Technology Pvt. Ltd.	Private Sector
94	Shashank Ghimire	Male	22	Basundhara, Kathmandu	Insight Technology Private Limited	Technical

S.N	Full Name	Gender	Age	Address	Affiliated organization	Stakeholder
95	Kumar Tiwari	Male	23	Kirtipur, Kathmandu	Insight Technology Pvt. Ltd.	Private Sector
96	Anuj Sedhai	Male	24	Manamaiju, Kathmandu	Insight Technology Pvt. Ltd.	Technical
97	Bimal Pokharel	Male	25	Dhapasi, Kathmandu	Mobile Finance Technology Pvt Ltd	Technical
98	Krijen Shahi	Male	24	Chasan Tole	Mobile Finance Technology Pvt Ltd	Technical
99	Sandesh Sapkota	Male	24	Baglung - 03, Baglung	Inhured International	Civil Society
100	Dinesh Bhattarai	Male	28	Mid Baneshwor Kathmandu	Zeal Engineering Solution Pvt.Ltd.	Private Sector
101	Michael Croft	Male			UNESCO	Intergovernmental Organization
102	Purusottam Khanal	Male			Nepal Telecom Authority	Government
103	Birendra Kumar Mishra	Male			Nepal IGF	Civil Society
104	Mamta Siwakoti	Male			Digital Lawyer	Civil Society
105	Aakriti Kharel	Female			UNESCO	Intergovernmental Organization