



Representing the ecosystem of Internet -Bharat Model

CCAIOI Newsletter

Nov- Dec 2022

Highlights of Nov-Dec

Our warmest greetings for a Happy and Prosperous 2023!

In this last edition of the year, we will update on the IGF2022, India IGF 2022, India's #G20 Presidency along with key digital policies being discussed #IndianTelecomBill, #DPDB Bill 2022, besides updates on #cybersecurity #cyberattacks #content policy #privacy #geopolitics #onlinegaming in India, #Trai #ICANN #APNIC, #Internet Society and more.

India takes on the G20 Presidency

[India has taken over the G-20 Presidency](#) from 1 December, under the theme “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” or “One Earth · One Family · One Future”. India's G20 priorities are: Green Development, Climate Finance & life; Accelerated, Inclusive & Resilient Growth; Accelerating progress on SDGs; Technological Transformation & Digital Public Infrastructure; Multilateral Institutions for the 21st century and Women-led development

During the 17th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit held in Bali between 15 and 16 November, the [leaders pledged](#) to advance digital transformation by develop digital skills and digital literacy, digitizing the economy and providing access to digital technologies. At the meeting Prime Minister Modi reiterated that among India will [focus on bridging the digital divide](#) and ensure the benefits of digital technologies and transformation reach everyone

The Indian Telecom Bill - What's next?

As per media reports, the updated version of the Indian Telecom Bill will be out soon. The Minister of Communication Ashwini Vaishnav has stated that the bill will be finalized in 5-6 months. We hope that the concerns outlined by the community will be addressed in the updated version.

The draft [Indian Telecommunication Bill, 2022](#) which was open for [public consultation](#) by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) till 20 November, as per [reports](#) has received 900 submissions. This Bill which aims to create a comprehensive legal framework governing telecommunication will be replacing the existing Indian Telegraph Act, 1885, the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1933 and the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act, 1950.

Concerns have been raised on the over encompassing definition of Telecommunications, attempt to include OTTs providing communication services under licensing regime, increased state control, expanded scope of lawful interception, attempt to circumvent the end-to-end encryption models, dilution of the role of the TRAI.

CCAIOI had organized a stakeholder discussion “**Demystifying the Indian Telecommunication Bill 2022**”, on the topic and report is available [in this link](#). The submission of CCAIOI can be viewed using [this link](#).

Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 – What more is needed?

The Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY) released the much awaited [Digital Personal Data Protection Bill 2022](#) for public consultation. This is the fourth iteration of the draft Data Protection Law. The bill is open for public consultation till 2 January 2023. In this context MeitY organized a stakeholder consultation “Digital India Dialogue” on the bill on 23 December which was chaired by Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the Minister of State MeitY and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

CCAOI’s take on the Bill

The bill has been drafted in lucid and easy to understand language, reducing the complex terminologies while retaining the fundamentals. It has narrowed the focus, removed the requirements of data localization, which in turn will reduce compliance burden and ensure level playing field between players in the market, enhanced the grievance redressal process for data principals, proposed a digital Data Protection Board, incorporated an alternative dispute resolution mechanism, introduced huge penalties including monetary penalties (upto \$30.6 million) for non-compliance and removed criminal provisions.

However, the Bill has granted **wider exemptions to the government’s processing activities** from the earlier version. It has removed the previous terms of ‘just, fair, reasonable & proportionate’ procedure for exemption on case-to-case. This version has provided a blanket exemption for certain fiduciaries including exempting data retention requirements. It is suggested that the terms ‘just, fair, reasonable & proportionate’ be reintroduced into the bill for validating any exemptions on a case to case basis.

In terms of the Rights of Data Principals, the **privacy rights have been diluted from the previous versions**. The right to data portability, right to be forgotten, right to object to processing of data by a particular Data Fiduciary processing should be reintroduced into the bill along with the right to obtain fair compensation by data principals. Prior to processing the personal data, Data Fiduciaries should provide information to the Data Principal in a clear and transparent manner about how the data will be processed with whom the data will be shared.

While the concept of ‘**Deemed Consent**’ has been introduced to address issues of consent fatigue of individuals allowing processing of data without explicit consent of an individual, there is a need for creating safeguards to protect the rights of individuals in scenarios such as employers processing data, areas of credit scoring and recovery of loans.

On issues related to **children and their data**, the bill defined any one below the aged of 18 years as a child. However, there is a need to adopt a graded approach in defining the age of a child along with adopting a graded approach towards the consent framework.

On **Cross border data flow** while the bill states that the government after assessing factors will notify the countries where data transfer will be allowed. However, for business clarity and continuity, it is important to list the countries where the data can be transferred. This is because till the time India does not notify the countries post assessment where data can be transferred, all existing transfers by data fiduciaries will become non-compliant. Additionally, since alternative transfer instruments like model contracts or certifications have not been provisioned, this may create a challenge. Further, experience points that any kind of bi-lateral agreements within countries will take time to be formulated. What happens till then?

For the **Data Protection Board** to function as an independent body, no provision has been laid to scrutinize the appointment and selection process and all the powers related to appointment that lie with the Central Government. To ensure the independence of the board, the structure of the Board should be in place along with a mandate to ensure transparency and accountability of its processes. Additionally adequate procedural safeguards should be in place to ensure the complete independence of the Board in the bill itself.

In various sections of the Bill the term “as may be prescribed” has been used. We hope there will be adequate public consultations in a transparent and open manner before these provisions are finalized in future.

Spotlight: Online Indian gaming Industry: What it needs!

The online gaming industry has been growing exponentially in India and expected to contribute to the Indian digital economy. To address the present regulatory uncertainty and to protect users, an inter-ministerial panel had been set up, which submitted their report and recommendations ([Reuters](#)). A separate regulatory body under MeitY had been set up to frame the rules to govern the growing online gaming Industry. We covered it in our last newsletter. The draft is expected to be out soon.

CCAOI’s expectations from the draft bill:

For the nascent gaming industry to grow and scale up, regulatory certainty is a must. Clearly defined rules that protect user interest while allowing industry, especially homegrown startups to flourish, is necessary. The games of skill and chance should be clearly defined, so that unscrupulous actors can be weeded out.

Any regulation that comes in should be principle-based, promoting technology standards in order to ensure user rights and privacy especially of children are protected, platforms are accountable and there is effective grievance redressal systems. Self-regulatory organisations (SROs) can play a pivotal role in supporting the government by providing technical expertise and support for compliance, monitoring and implementation of the rules.

Issue based updates:

Cybersecurity: Cyber-attacks continue to Surge

The rise in cyber and ransomware attacks continues.

The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Delhi [suffered a cyberattack](#) where five of its physical servers (as per the government) were compromised. As a result, the eHospital application that manages appointments, stores medical records and hosts reports from diagnostic tests carried out at the facility stopped functioning. Work is still on to restore and retrieve the systems completely. It was reported that the purported group behind a cyberattack had demanded 30 bitcoins as ransom for restoring the system. However, government has denied any such demands and [stated](#) that the probes point towards the attack originating from China

NordVPN [research](#) revealed that of the five million people whose identities were stolen, 600 thousand were from India and their stolen data was [sold on bot markets for 490 INR on average](#).

[Hackers released 6 zipped files of customer data](#) stolen from Australian insurer Medibank on the dark web.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) [has charged](#) 8 social influencers in a \$100 million stock manipulation scheme which was being promoted by them on Discord and Twitter.

The Cybercrime Ad Hoc Committee has [published](#) a consolidated negotiating document.

Anti-Trust

Regulators across the world continue to express concern over the power of Bigtech and are tightening their reigns against them.

A parliamentary panel in India has [asked the government to act early to address ‘monopolistic threat’](#) of Big Tech in the digital ad business market space. The panel called creating a separate digital competition act.

A French court has fined [Apple 1 million euros for its abusive practices in the App Store](#).

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) regulator in the UK has [launched an investigation](#) on the dominance of Apple and Google in the mobile space.

[EU has warned Meta](#) that it is abusing EU antitrust laws in the online classified advertising and abusing its dominant position.

Microsoft is [seeking to settle an EU antitrust concern](#) related to business practices over Teams which was raised by Slack

Privacy and Data Protection

For cross border data flow between the EU and the US while complying to the concerns raised by the Court of Justice in EU, the [European Commission initiated the process to adopt an adequacy decision](#) for the EU-U.S. Data Privacy Framework,

The OCED members have agreed to a landmark [Declaration on Government Access to Personal Data Held by Private Sector Entities](#) that aims to [safeguard privacy in law enforcement and national security data access](#).

[China has issued new guidelines for data management](#) for taking advantage of the country's data and promote the digital economy.

BigTech continue to be fined for violations of privacy. In one of the biggest privacy settlements, [Google in the USA will pay US\\$391.5 million](#) for adopting misleading location tracking practices between 2014 and 2020. In the USA, [Fortnite makers of "Epic Games"](#) will make a settlement of \$520 million for violating the privacy of children's data. French privacy regulator [CNIL has fined Iliad's telecom 'Free' business 300,000 euros](#) for failing to protect privacy of users. In the EU the Court of Justice [ruled that Google](#) must remove data from online search results if users can prove it is inaccurate.

Content Policy

The [EU's Digital Service Act came into force](#) on 16 November.

In India, the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) along with the Department of Consumer Affairs [released](#) a new framework for 'safeguarding and protecting consumer interest from fake and deceptive reviews in e-commerce' called the Indian Standard (IS) 19000:2022 "[Online Consumer Reviews — Principles and Requirements for their Collection, Moderation and Publication](#)," which will be applicable to online platforms that publish consumer reviews and initially applicable on a voluntary basis.

Singapore Parliament [passed a law](#) requiring Social media companies to block harmful content within hours. In case the platform does not take down the content, Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) can direct internet providers to block access of the content to users in Singapore. Noncompliance may lead to a maximum fine of SGD 1 million.

Vietnam has [tightened their content regulation policy](#) by reducing the take down time of "false" content in social media platforms to 24 hours from the earlier 48 hours.

Facial Recognition Technology (FRT)

FRT continues to be implemented worldwide. In India, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has launched the Facial Recognition Technology-based [Digi-Yatra project](#) in Delhi, Bengaluru, Varanasi.

Italy has [banned facial recognition techniques](#) except to fight cybercrime.

Cryptocurrency

Cryptocurrency continues to be a concern for most global regulators and the crypto exchange [FTX collapse](#) has heightened the caution. Germany has called for [global regulation of crypto industry](#). It is reported that the G20 nations are working to build [policy consensus on crypto assets](#)

In India, crypto companies have [formed a new advocacy group](#) called Bharat Web3 Association (BWA). It may be mentioned that the previous advocacy group Blockchain and Crypto Assets Council (BACC) that was housed under IAMA was disbanded in July

Gig Workers

Ubers food delivery platform in Spain has [agreed to pay severance to 4,400 riders for firing them in 2021](#).

Other Updates:

- China has [reduced fines for a range of online ride-hailing service](#) violations for licensed online operators.
- FCC in the US plans to [launch a new space bureau](#) for addressing the growing number of satellite launches.
- China has officially launched [a trade dispute case at the WTO disputing the U.S. chip export curbs](#).

Other Updates from India

Reserve Bank of India (RBI), has begun a [pilot on the digital rupee](#) (₹) in the wholesale segment, that will be conducted in a few locations with closed user groups comprising customers and merchants.

Google announced it will now [support UPI Autopay for recurring payments for subscriptions](#).

IGF 2022 Update

The 17 Internet Governance Forum (IGF2023) was held in hybrid mode in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia between 28 November – 2 December under the overarching theme **Resilient Internet for a Shared Sustainable and Common Future**. The event was developed under five sub themes [Connecting All People and Safeguarding Human Rights](#) ; [Avoiding Internet Fragmentation](#) ; [Governing Data and Protecting Privacy](#) ; [Enabling Safety, Security and Accountability](#); [Addressing Advanced Technologies, including AI](#), in line with the UN Secretary General's Global Digital Compact.

5,120 participants from 170 countries attended over 300 sessions this year. Apart from the thematic tracks, there were IGF High-Level Leaders Track, IGF Youth Track, IGF Parliamentary Track and IGF Intersessional Work.

As expected, the Global Digital Compact was much discussed this year along with the role IGF can play in the process. AI Governance processes, practical aspects of Data Governance, concerns related to Internet Governance, erosion of human rights, addressing digital divide through inclusive measures were discussed.

To know more, do read the [Diplo](#) reports, [IGF2022 Draft Summary report](#) and [IGF 2022 Outputs](#).

Further as a part of the IGF Stocktaking process, the IGF invites [comments](#) from stakeholder till 16 January 2023.

The list of MAG members for 2023 has been [announced](#). CCAOI Director Amrita Choudhury will be serving her third term as MAG member this year.

Second Edition of India IGF (IIGF 2022)

The Second India IGF (IIGF2022) was successfully organized between the 9 -11 December in a hybrid mode. The overall theme this year was '**India Internet Governance Forum: Leveraging Techade for Empowering Bharat**'. The five sub themes this year were: Fostering Digital Innovation towards economic progress; Public Digital Platforms; Reaching the unreached; Building Trust, Resilience, Safety & Security, and Internet Regulation

Besides the opening and the closing sessions which were online, there were 2 High Level Panels, 2 Main Panels, 5 Fireside chats, 17 Workshops and 3 Showcase sessions. For viewing the sessions, please click [here](#) and choose the session you wish to view.

Tripti Sinha, ICANN Board Chair spoke at the opening along with Asha Nangia, Scientist, MeitY spoke in the opening along with the Chair of IIGF Anil Jain and Vice Chairs T.V. Ramachandran and Jaijit Bhattacharya

The Rajeev Chandrasekhar, the Minister of State MeitY and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship spoke at the closing ceremony elucidating the initiatives and plans of the government to create a safe, trusted cyberspace to empower each citizen of the country. The other speakers at the closing were, Dr. Vint Cerf, Chair IGF Leadership Panel, N. G. Subramaniam, COO, TCS, Dilsher Malhi, Founder, Zupee, Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary, MeitY and Paul Mitchell, IGF Chair.

The sponsors for this year's event were BIF, Meta, NIXI and Zupee. The report on the key takeaways of IIGF2022 will be released soon.



Pic: From the Closing Ceremony of IIGF2022

IIGF is organized by a multistakeholder coordination committee with the support of several committees. The list of committee members can be viewed [here](#).

CCAOI @IIGF2022

While CCAOI Director Amrita Choudhury is part of the Coordination Committee and co-led the Theme Committee, responsible for selecting the theme for the year, session content and plan, CCAOI organized a roundtable discussion [Secured Technologies for Empowering Bharat and Safe Internet](#). Panelist Dr Sarayu

Natarajan, Aapti Institute, Rajnesh Singh, Internet Society and Amol Kulkarni, CUTS International, deliberated on how regulations should be framed so that secured technologies can facilitate the digital India and other government initiatives and how secured technologies can help to ensure even the people from the remotest part of India or bottom of the pyramid can use digital technologies for empowering their lives and uplifting their economic conditions.

Few key takeaways from the session were:

- There is a **need to prioritise security** in the online world.
- Studies reveal **consumers even in the remote parts of the country want secured communication**. People at the bottom of the pyramid are more vulnerable from the threats online. Women for example are more vulnerable online. New people can be disenfranchised from the online threats.
- **Secured technologies such as end to end encryptions play a crucial role in securing the Internet**, making information secure and trustworthy. This helps to build trust online, which is essential to create an inclusive and empowered digital economy in India. It is therefore in the interest of the nation to promote secured technologies such as end to end encryption, as it not only keeps information secure but also enables innovation and plays a critical role in the national security.
- There is a **need to explore alternative ways to address genuine concerns of law enforcement agencies** related to hate speech, unlawful content, security issues, etc.
- **Policies should be facilitative by design and nature** and not hindering and should aim to create an enabling environment.
- Before drafting any regulation, **comprehensive study should be undertaken for identifying any unintended harms** that can be caused by the proposed regulation. Example of Internet Society's Internet Impact Brief was shared in this regard.
- **Security by design and privacy by design should be hardcoded** into any regulation being drafted.
- There is a need to **adopt a multistakeholder approach** when regulations are being drafted related to security and privacy of users.

ICANN Updates

Goran Marby, President and CEO of ICANN announced [stepping down](#) from his role at ICANN after six years. Sally Costerton, ICANN Senior Advisor to the President and Senior Vice President, Global Stakeholder Engagement will be the interim President and CEO.

Between November and December, launched the [Root Zone Management System Upgrade](#) and the [New RFC Annotations Project](#); published the [IDN Implementation Guidelines Version 4.1](#) and the [FY23 Q1 Unaudited Financial Results](#); delivered the [Operational Design Assessment of SubPro Recommendations to Board](#); completed [Completes Initial Evaluation of DNS Security Recommendations](#); obtained the [New Trademark Clearinghouse \(TMCH-CA\) Certificate](#); announced the [NextGen@ICANN76 Participants](#) and [ICANN76 Fellows](#); restarted the [Community Regional Outreach Program for FY23](#). Besides ICANN77 Fellowship applications were invited, there was a [Call for Expressions of Interest for Independent Adviser to the ICANN Board Audit Committee](#) and a call for volunteers [Plan for Changing the Root Zone DNSSEC Algorithm](#).

During this period ICANN has started an [ICANN for Beginners](#) for help guide newcomers to ICANN and its community.

ICANN and Universal Acceptance Steering Group [announced that inaugural UA day](#) will be held on 28 March

In terms of [Community Awards](#), Bukola Oronti from Nigeria as the recipient of the [Tarek Kamel Fellowship Recognition](#) Award while Bendjedid Rachad Sanoussi, was selected as the first recipient of the Paul Muchene Fellow Award.

Webinars were conducted on ICANN's Draft ICANN FY24 Plans, updating the Root Zone Management System (RZMS), New gTLD SubPro ODA and the ICANN Grant Program Implementation Update Webinar

Open for Public Comments

- [Final Report on Specific Curative Rights Protections for IGOs](#) by 16 Jan
- [Initial Report on the ccNSO PDP Review Mechanism](#) by 24 January
- [Draft FY24–28 Operating & Financial Plan and FY24 Operating Plan & Budget](#) by 14 February

Opportunity:

- [Proposals are invited](#) from the ICANN community to conduct UA days events. Last date to apply is 31 January
- Nominations are invited for [ICANN Community Excellence Award](#) till 28 March.

South Asia Update

Nitin Wali has been appointed as the Senior Director of Stakeholder Engagement for the South Asia region, covering Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

APNIC Updates

The APNIC Foundation [announced](#) the inaugural round of ISIF Asia IPv6 Deployment grant recipients, who would be supported as part of the Infrastructure program. These four organizations are : [BOOM! Inc.](#), Microneisa; [Tonga Communication Corporation](#) ; [National Institute of Technology Karnataka](#) in partnership with [India Internet Engineering Society \(IIESoc\)](#) and [Universitas Islam Indonesia](#) in partnership with the [Indonesia Network Information Centre \(IDNIC\)](#).

The APNIC EC [published their response](#) to the APNIC Survey 2022 which is conducted every two years to assess APNIC's performance, understand the changing needs of Members, and help set priorities for the coming period.

Further APNIC [announced an increase in the membership fees](#) and released and updated [Code of Conduct](#) for nominees in APNIC Executive Council (EC) elections and the [due diligence procedures](#) for evaluating the eligibility of EC nominees.

For more updates read the [APNIC blogs](#).

ISOC Updates

George Sadowsky was [honored with the 2022 Jonathan B. Postel Service Award](#)

ISOC released [Action Plan 2023](#) themed “Our Internet, Our Future: Protecting the Internet for Today and Tomorrow”. The action plan has three areas of action:

- Strengthening the Internet -This includes Extending Encryption; Securing Global Routing; Sharing Cutting Edge Knowledge at the NDSS Symposium; Protecting the Internet from Fragmentation; Helping Shape Legal Precedent in Alignment with Our mission.
- Growing the Internet- This includes, Connecting the Unconnected; Fostering Sustainable Peering Infrastructure; Enabling Sustainable Technical Communities; Measuring the Internet
- Empowering People to take Action-This includes, Empowering Internet Champions to Defend the Internet; Securing Resources for Growth and Greater Impact; Recognizing Internet Champions.

ISOC released a paper [Perspectives on Low Earth Orbit Satellites](#) for Internet Access.

TRAI Updates

TRAI has formed a [joint committee with members](#) from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to look at the issue of phishing and cyber frauds arising out of unsolicited commercial communication (UCC).

TRAI is seeking recommendations on setting up a legal framework for OTT apps that provide messaging services, based on the request of the Department of Telecom. A public consultation is [expected](#) to be announced soon to discuss regulations for internet-based calling, messaging and entertainment apps.

The regulator is debating whether [broadcasting OTTs such as Netflix and Amazon should be regulated separately](#) and plans to come up with a consultation paper on the same.

Between November and Decembers, TRAI issued recommendations on [Improving Telecom Connectivity/ Infrastructure in far-flung areas of Himachal Pradesh](#); [Licensing Framework for Establishing and Operating Satellite Earth Station Gateway \(SESG\)](#); [use of street furniture for small cell and aerial fiber deployment](#) and on [Regulatory Framework for Promoting Data Economy Through Establishment of Data Centres, Content Delivery Networks, and Interconnect Exchanges in India](#).

During this period TRAI issued the [Telecom Tariff \(69th Amendment\) Order, 2022](#) that is related to tariffs for SMS and Cell Broadcast alerts disseminated through Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) platform during disasters/non-disasters; and notified the [Amendments to the Regulatory Framework for Broadcasting and Cable Services](#)

In terms of telecom statistics released, the telecom subscription data as of [31 October 2022](#) stands at 1170.45 million telephone subscribers and 829.41 million broadband subscribers. While there has been a decline in telephone subscribers by 0.12% from September, there has been a growth in the Broadband subscribers by 0.64% from previous month.

The [Indian Telecom Services Performance Indicator Report for the Quarter ending June, 2022](#) reveal that the number of telephone subscribers in India increased from 1,166.93 million at the end of Mar-22 to 1,172.96 million at the end of Jun-22 (growth of 0.52% over the previous quarter), total number of Internet subscribers increased from 824.89 million in Mar-22 to 836.86 million in Jun-22 (quarterly growth rate of 1.45%). Of which the broadband Internet subscriber base increased by 1.60% from 788.30 million at the end of Mar-22 to 800.94 million at the end of Jun-22.

Consultation Papers currently open for Public Comments:

- [Introduction of Calling Name Presentation \(CNAP\) in Telecommunication Networks](#) is open for comments till 17 January and counter comments by 31 January.
- [Data Communication Services Between Aircraft and Ground Stations Provided by Organizations Other Than Airports Authority of India](#) is open for comments till 9 January and counter comments by 23 January.

Other Updates

Reports:

- UNESCO has published a research produced by the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) [The Chilling: Global trends in online violence against women journalists](#) that highlights the growing trend of online violence - from doxxing to death threats faced by women journalists.
- Meta has released its report titled "[Threat Report on the Surveillance-for-Hire Industry](#)". This is their second report and accounts the action taken by the company against commercial spyware vendors. In the

Indian context, Meta removed a network of 40 accounts belonging to India-based CyberRoot Risk Advisory.

- The [Global Network Index Report 2022](#) has been released.
- The Quantum Hub has released “[A Framework for Intermediary Classification in India](#)”
- SFLC has published a report on [Internet Shutdowns in India in 2022](#).

Events:

- [Web Summit](#) was held from 1-4 November in Lisbon, Portugal
- [IETF 115](#) meeting took place between 5 -11 November in London, United Kingdom
- The World Radiocommunication Conference was held at the UAE's Dubai World Trade Centre between 20 November and 15 December 2023.

Upcoming Events & Opportunities

Current & Upcoming Events

- The Pacific Telecommunication Council (PTC) Annual Conference will be held 15 to 18 January 2023 in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- The 2023 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting, themed ‘Cooperation in a Fragmented World’, will be held from 16 - 20 January.
- APRICOT 2023, will be held in Manila, Philippines, from 20 February to 2 March 2023.
- ICANN76 Community Forum will be held in Cancún, Mexico from 11–16 March 2023

Opportunities

- [Inputs sought](#) on the IGF Stocktaking process, till 16 January 2023.
- Inputs sought on the Global Digital Compact. The UN Secretariat, through the Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Technology, has launched a [public consultation inviting views and suggestion](#) on the [Global Digital Compact](#) (GDC). Views should be focused on two specific aspects (a) core principles that governments, companies, civil society organisations, and other stakeholders should adhere to; and (b) key commitments, pledges, or actions that should be taken by stakeholders. The last date to submit suggestions is 31 March 2022.

It may be mentioned that the UN Secretary-General in this report [Our Common Agenda](#) released in 2021 proposed a Global Digital Compact to be agreed at the Summit of the Future in September 2023 through a technology track that would involve all stakeholders. GDC is expected to “outline shared principles for an open, free and secure digital future for all” and would cover topics.

Down Memory Lane 2022

To look back at the key digital policy developments of 2022, we share the links of the our 2022 Newsletters ([Jan](#), [Feb](#), [Mar](#), [Apr](#), [May-Jun](#), [Jul](#), [Aug](#), [Sep-Oct](#))