The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a global conference that invites all to contribute to the future of the Internet. Launched almost a decade ago, the IGF provides a unique annual opportunity to build relationships and share ideas and experiences about proven approaches to key Internet issues.

In September, the ninth annual IGF meeting was held in Istanbul, Turkey under the umbrella theme: “Connecting Continents for Enhanced Multistakeholder Internet Governance”. And it became clear that the Internet Society’s fundamental goal—to cultivate a connected, borderless, permission-less Internet that creates opportunity for all—is more urgent now than ever.

This year, the Internet community demonstrated its capacity to produce tangible outcomes within multistakeholder collaboration frameworks. IGF 2014 invited the community to aggressively tackle known challenges with new collaborative processes designed to turn dialogue into action.

Among these new processes were the Best Practice Forums, created to help develop tangible solutions to some of the most difficult challenges confronting the Internet today. During the weeks leading up to IGF 2014, experts from government, business, civil society, and the academic and technical communities worked through open mailing lists and online virtual meetings to present a series of IGF Best Practices on CERTs, Online Child Protection, and other critical issues for resolution—the first time a forum of the kind was held at an IGF meeting.

Inviting important voices to the dialogue
2014 was a critical year in addressing the significant challenges for the global Internet. The Internet Society’s IGF Ambassadors programme ensures that the next generation of Internet leaders and influencers have visibility and a voice—and are equipped to drive the outcomes so important to all of us and the billions yet to come online.

This year’s accomplished leaders worked around the globe and across disciplines. As policy makers, technologists, academics, journalists, activists, and businesspersons, they represented the passion, interests, and voices of their communities.

Sergio Alves Jr. (Brazil)
Ankush Bagotra (India)
Ysabel Briceno (Venezuela)
Carlos Raul Gutierrez (Costa Rica)
Mehmet Bedii Kaya (Turkey)
Ivan R. Mendez (Venezuela)
Towela Nyirenda-Jere (Malawi)
Seun Ojedoji (Nigeria)
Alexandra Permyakova (Russian Federation)
Shreedee Rayamajhi (Nepal)
George Salama (Egypt)
Fedor Smimov (Russian Federation)

Together, we can secure the future of the Internet Governance Forum by continuing to build a shared voice, forge a collective path and focus on a common goal: to preserve this important Forum for neutral, inclusive, global collaboration and debate.
Celebrating **KEY IGF 2014 Accomplishments**

- A statement requesting renewal of the Internet Governance Forum mandate, and its lengthening to 10 years, was drafted and sent to the United Nations.

- The African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms was launched. This pan-African initiative promotes Human Rights standards and openness principles in Internet-policy making across the continent.

- The IGF Community issued a statement addressed to the Human Rights Council calling for greater ties between the two processes, in a multistakeholder approach to human rights issues.

- The launch of the Internet Governance Forum Support Association offered a new funding channel for the long-term sustainability and growth of the IGF to help it reach its full potential.

With an exceptionally high level of participation—nearly 3500 participants, including 1000 joining remotely—IGF 2014 attracted leaders and stakeholders from all regions and stakeholder groups.

As the IGF evolves, it will offer all Internet users a chance to be actively engaged in ongoing dialogues that shape the Internet’s future.