



Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism

Together for a Better Online World

GIFCT Independent Advisory Committee:
INTERIM TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose of the IAC

The Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism (GIFCT) Independent Advisory Committee (“the IAC”) has been convened to provide guidance and assess progress relating to the work of GIFCT, following the establishment of GIFCT as an independent non-governmental organization. These draft Terms of Reference set out the IAC’s mandate, structure and operations and will be incorporated, as appropriate, into GIFCT’s other structures and processes. The intention is that while a small, international group, the IAC will supplement GIFCT’s broader multi-stakeholder engagement, while allowing for more focused discussion of key issues.

Administrative support

GIFCT will provide administrative support to the IAC via a secretariat, including logistical assistance for IAC meetings.

Mandate of the IAC

The IAC’s mandate is to identify and recommend priorities and key focus areas to further GIFCT’s mission and pillars of work, and assess progress against these recommendations and GIFCT’s mission.

To fulfil this mandate, the IAC will:

- Be chaired by an individual who is neither a representative of a company nor Government;
- Reflect the diverse range of stakeholders engaged in GIFCT’s work and those affected by terrorism and violent extremism;
- Provide expertise and guidance on the evolution of the terrorist and violent extremist threat, and the varying global responses;
- Ensure that GIFCT’s work is aligned with international human rights laws and principles, as respecting, promoting and defending human rights and a free and open internet are essential to the furtherance of GIFCT’s work;
- Evaluate the role and impact of GIFCT’s membership criteria;

- Promote transparency in GIFCT’s work;
- Provide accountability for GIFCT’s work in line with the IAC’s recommendations and GIFCT’s strategic pillars;
- Provide guidance and recommendations relating to the operation of GIFCT’s working groups, including potential resource implications for participants;
- Produce an annual report, detailing:
 - The upcoming year’s recommended strategic priorities for GIFCT
 - An assessment of GIFCT’s progress in addressing the previous year’s priorities
 - New potential key areas of focus that will advance GIFCT’s mission, and
 - Highlights of the IAC’s and individual members’ involvement in the working groups (as applicable)
- Identify potential new members of the IAC.

NOTE: While the general operating model of consensus is favored for the IAC (See, below), the IAC is not expected to produce unanimous recommendations or positions. Moreover, it is free to highlight varying perspectives of its membership, as appropriate.

Meeting cadence and attendance

- The IAC will meet quarterly.
- Virtual meetings will be used where appropriate and at least one IAC meeting will take place in-person, alongside the GIFCT Annual Multi-Stakeholder Summit.
- IAC members are expected to attend and fully participate in all meetings.
- In the event of an absence, IAC members are encouraged to identify a designee for listening and observation purposes only. The designee is expected to maintain confidentiality and report back to the IAC member only. Should any formal votes be taken, the IAC’s member’s designee is not permitted to vote. Proxy voting will be allowed at the Chair’s discretion.

Responsibilities of the IAC Chair

- The Chair will provide leadership for the IAC and represent the IAC as a non-voting member of GIFCT's Operating Board.
- The Chair's duties include: setting the agenda for IAC meetings; facilitating decision-making where required; liaising with the Executive Director directly and on behalf of the IAC; liaising with GIFCT member companies, and any other duties outlined in this document or agreed to by the IAC.
- The Chair will also be responsible for ensuring that any potential work streams or issues identified by the IAC are evaluated for their resource requirements to ensure appropriate resources are available.
- Decisions by the IAC will be made by consensus. In exceptional cases where consensus is not possible, the Chair may move for a vote of the full Committee membership. In the case of a tie, the Chair will cast the deciding vote.

NOTE on Conflicts of Interest: There may be instances where the IAC discusses an issue in which IAC members or the organisations they represent have a direct or indirect financial interest or other significant interest. IAC members should declare this interest at the start of an IAC meeting and recuse themselves from discussion on any specific recommendations in which they have an interest. The individual's declaration and any recusal will be noted in the meeting minutes. In no event shall IAC members vote on recommendations in which they have a direct financial or other significant interest.

Responsibilities of the GIFCT Operating Board with respect to the IAC:

- The GIFCT Operating Board will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate secretariat support is available to the chair.
- The GIFCT Operating Board will cover the costs of participating in the IAC for non-Governmental members, where formally requested by a member.
- The Operating Board will provide time for civil society members to discuss the work of GIFCT directly with the Operating Board.

IAC membership:

- IAC members will serve for a period of no more than three years¹.
- Where an IAC member wishes to no longer remain a member, he or she may resign from the IAC by notifying the Chair in writing.
- Governmental IAC members must represent Governments that are members of the Freedom Online Coalition.
- The IAC composition will be such that at no time will Government representative seats constitute a majority of total IAC member seats.
- The IAC will make recommendations in its first (and relevant subsequent) annual report on further criteria for membership of the IAC. In the interim, the Chair may, in agreement with the GIFCT Operating Board, appoint interim members for a period not to exceed 12 months.

NOTE: The IAC's recommendation will be sought to consider how best to provide for a staged rotation of members in the coming years which may result in some members serving shorter terms of membership.

IAC Members will be expected to:

- Support the mission of GIFCT in disrupting terrorists' and violent extremists' abuse of the internet
- Contribute to informing GIFCT's organizational priorities and assess organizational performance
- Participate, support and substantively contribute to specific projects as outlined by the various GIFCT Working Groups, where appropriate
- Contribute to the Multi-Stakeholder Summit's understanding of the global threat of terrorism and violent extremism both on and offline and what is needed for an effective, holistic, international response
- Participate in the GIFCT Annual Multi-Stakeholder Summit
- Attend and actively engage in IAC meetings

¹ This process will be managed to ensure that there is a small degree of rotation every year, rather than wholesale rotation every three years.

The initial members of the IAC will be:

The Government of Canada
The Government of France
The Government of Japan
The Government of Kenya (TBC)
The Government of New Zealand
The Government of the United Kingdom
The Government of the United States of America

The European Commission
The United Nations Counter Terrorism Executive Directorate

A minimum of 12 civil society representatives.