



# Internet Society

## Accessibility Standing Group

### **Internet Society Accessibility Framework (Version 1.2)**

Over one billion people, roughly one in seven of us globally, have some kind of permanent disability. The Internet Society strives to lead by example in ensuring that its content products, services, policies and programs all embrace accessibility.

This focus on accessibility for persons with disabilities, within and beyond the Internet Society community of individual and organization members, chapters, learners, and Special Interest Groups, is critical in enhancing digital inclusion on the Internet and in helping the Internet Society to deliver on its stated vision, 'The Internet is for Everyone'.

The high level objectives for the Internet Society's work on accessibility can be set out as follows:

#### **1. Build a Culture of Accessibility**

The Internet Society and the Internet Society Accessibility Standing Group, made up of invested Internet Society community members, will work together to promote the development of a culture that reflects diversity, equality, and inclusivity. Working collaboratively, these groups will champion actions and ideas to embed accessibility best practice across the organization.

Practical considerations that may help us build a culture of accessibility include:

- Agree a regular cadence of interaction between the internal accessibility working group on accessibility and the Internet Society Accessibility Standing Group
- Create an accessible content training module for staff, as part of the wider content training offering
- Develop a disability and digital inclusion awareness toolkit for staff
- Develop disability and digital inclusion awareness training for staff
- Identify "Accessibility Champions" amongst Internet Society staff
- Include representatives from the disability community as keynote speakers at Internet Society-sponsored meetings and events

- Demonstrate the innovative ways people with disabilities use the Internet through disability showcase events at Internet Society-sponsored meetings
- Encourage the employment of staff with disabilities
- Incorporate an accessibility impact assessment in policy development as well as Internet Society processes and practices
- Undertake a staff survey of accessibility awareness and practice
- Encourage and support research initiatives on digital inclusion in all regions. Identify potential barriers to inclusion, especially for those with invisible or less recognised disabilities

## **2. Ensure Minimal Barriers to Participation and Engagement With Internet Society Content, Services, Processes and Practices**

The Internet Society and the Internet Society Accessibility Standing Group will work together to encourage the organization and community to adopt approaches that help make interaction with the Internet Society across its content and operations more accessible to more people. Ideas for consideration in this respect include:

- Produce all Internet Society content, whether online or physical, with accessibility in mind from the outset.
  - *Examples are good colour contrast with appropriate fonts in an adequate size, and the captioning of videos*
- Develop an Internet Society policy, or set of guidelines, on web accessibility
- Develop and maintain Internet Society web content according to internationally recognised W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) v2.1 Level AA, or other guidelines that may supercede them.
- Adapt/adopt other existing accessibility meeting guidelines
- Consider the use case for real-time captioning and other facilities on request such as sign language interpreters and Braille materials at physical meetings
- Use of accessible tools for web conferencing, LMS and collaboration platforms
- Encourage the use of internationally recognized accessibility standards within the Internet Society and across its partner organizations, particularly for multistakeholder events

Final note:

Internet Society to consider all types of disabilities when creating any content or hosting any event; the inclusion strategies should not be limited to a few types of disabilities,

therefore joint consultation with the Accessibility Standing Group and other stakeholders is highly recommended.

*Drafted by ISOC Accessibility Standing Group (5th June 2022) Revised by ISOC staff (October 2022)*