

**INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM
NATIONAL, (SUB)REGIONAL AND YOUTH IGF INITIATIVES
- Virtual Meeting IV | 31 May 2021 at 15:00 UTC -**

SUMMARY REPORT

Action Items

- i. IGF Secretariat to consult with the NRIs that did not respond to the IGF 2021 NRIs Call for Thematic Issues, to gather more inputs and communicate updated analysis to the NRIs mailing list (deadline: 4 June).
- ii. IGF Secretariat to create working groups among the NRIs that did respond to the Call, to refine the submitted inputs toward issue-oriented topics which could be the focus of up to six NRIs collaborative sessions (issue call on 4 June).
- iii. IGF Secretariat to call for forming a working group to support planning the NRIs main session in an open, collaborative manner (issue call on 4 June). Topics for both types of sessions to be finalized by 17 June.
- iv. IGF Secretariat to share the NRIs brochure to help to inform parliaments (and governments) and invite for comments.
NRIs to respond to it by 8 June.
- v. IGF Secretariat to work with the MAG Chair and advance the concept of the IGF 2021 Preparatory Phase with concrete implementation steps for cooperating with the NRIs, and to submit to the NRIs for consideration. Deadline to be confirmed.
- vi. IGF Secretariat to send a full update package on the NRIs landscape (schedule of confirmed and tentative meetings and infographics).
- vii. Next NRIs meeting's agenda to focus on NRIs funding and planning of the NRIs coordination session.

About

1. The 4th virtual meeting of the National, Sub-regional, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) of the IGF 2021 preparatory cycle, took place on 31 May 2021 at 15:00 UTC.
2. The meeting was hosted by the IGF Secretariat's NRIs Focal Point. The final, adopted version of the Agenda is attached to this document as Annex A1 and a list of meeting participants as Annex A2. The list of meeting inputs is annexed as Annex A3.

Summary of key points

1. The Host welcomed participants to the fourth planning meeting of the 16th IGF preparatory cycle and invited everyone to post introductions into the chat.
2. It was reminded that the goal of the meeting is to look at the preliminary analysis of the IGF 2021 NRIs Call for thematic inputs and agree on the next steps; as well as to review the briefing materials for engagement of parliamentarians and governments and explore possibilities of synergies between the NRIs and the IGF 2021 preparatory phase.

Update on funding

3. The meeting opened with a quick update from the Chairman of the IGF Support Association (IGFSA), who confirmed that the NRIs funding process is re-activated and eligible NRIs can apply for it. One officer from the ISOC Foundation in charge of the NRIs grants also joined the call, noting that the Foundation also provides grants to the NRIs. Both organizations underlined that the funding is provided on the basis of the IGF Secretariat's confirmation of the recognition status of the NRI. The IGF Secretariat also responded to several queries on the status of the Call for NRIs grants issued in March this year, noting that the process is under the review of the UN's Grants Committee and that updates are expected to be communicated in the next two weeks.
4. A community member of the IGF Dynamic Coalitions network also followed up with a suggestion that the NRIs could discuss their sustainability and in-kind support, in addition to financial donations. Given the amount of attention the initial update on funding has triggered, it was **agreed** that the next NRIs meeting will focus on the funding of NRIs. The above-mentioned organizations and persons will be invited to this meeting to further advance the discussion.

NRIs Call for thematic inputs: preliminary results

5. The Host presented the first results of the NRIs responses to the Call for thematic inputs, reminding that the goals of the Call were to gather inputs across the NRIs to define concrete issue-oriented topics for the NRIs sessions at the IGF 2021 (main session, up to six collaborative sessions and the coordination session). The analysis of the submissions is annexed to this report (Annex 3a). The host emphasized the following points, to help to steer the group toward defining the next steps:
 - The call could have benefited from a higher number of submissions (38 out of 135 NRIs responded), especially from the Eastern European and the Asia Pacific regions;
 - The received number of submissions are broad and because of that, challenging for defining concrete issues the sessions could focus on.
6. After several inputs, followed by the Gambia IGF in particularly, the **next steps** were endorsed by the group:
 - The NRIs Focal Point will reach out to the NRIs which did not respond to the Call, to invite them to submit inputs on the basis of their 2020 annual agendas. Of help could be the analysis already done for 2020 and 2019 NRIs discussion policy priorities gathered in the [NRIs Compendium](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/nris-compendium)¹. It is expected to have these direct exchanges concluded by the end of this week (**4 June**). Shortly after, the updated set of analysis will be communicated to the NRIs list.
 - On the basis of the so far submitted responses, a matrix of possible working groups composed of NRIs with a similar mutual thematic interest, will be created. These working groups would then work on further narrowing down the thematic areas to a concrete policy issue as a possible final topic of up to six collaborative sessions.
 - For the NRIs main session, it was agreed that a call for forming a working group will be issued. The tasks of this group would be to look carefully into the received submissions and produced analysis, and to suggest a concrete issue-oriented topic as the discussion subject

¹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/nris-compendium>

of the main session. It was suggested to have the group continue working also on developing the session's format toward the 16th IGF in Katowice, 6-10 December.

- Up to six working groups for the collaborative sessions and a call for a working group to plan the NRIs main session will be communicated to the NRIs mailing lists by **Friday 4 June**.
 - As noted above, the goal for all groups is to try to define a concrete issue-oriented topic for all NRIs sessions in the timeline which mirrors the one of the MAG workshops evaluation. This would mean that the topics and organizing teams would need to be finalised by **17 June, 23:59 UTC**.
7. In the interest of time, the NRIs Focal Point suggested that the inputs received for shaping the agenda for the NRIs Coordination Session are to be discussed at the next meeting. No objections were raised to this proposal.

Briefing parliaments and governments on the NRIs

8. Participants were reminded that a few weeks ago, the NRIs requested the Secretariat to develop a briefing material that could help the engagement of parliaments and governments. The Host reminded the participants that a developed draft brochure was shared through the NRIs mailing list and invited them to provide feedback in the next seven days, to hopefully conclude on its design and content. It was also informed that the brochure was discussed in a bilateral meeting with the member of the Italian Parliament who serves on the IGF 2021 MAG and is engaged in the national IGF of Italy, as well as with the Italian IGF coordinator. Both confirmed that the brochure is useful and fits the purpose. NRIs were also encouraged to work on engaging with parliaments through their existing contacts and inviting them to their meetings as speakers. Finally, all participants were encouraged to candidly approach the NRIs Focal Point if they feel more materials need to be developed, in addition to the brochure.
9. It was agreed that the brochure will be shared over the NRIs mailing list and comments invited to come in within the next seven days.
10. There was a proposal from the Bangladesh IGF for the NRIs to support forming of a Parliamentary Caucus, that would serve to *"sensitize parliamentarians on Internet governance and the role that they play in different processes; underscore the cross-cutting role of parliamentarians in the promotion and uses of IGF values and actions; illustrate the role of government in IG for development initiatives/interventions; and provide a reference to best practices."* It was suggested to bring this idea to the attention of all NRIs for their consideration and further advice from the network.

IGF 2021 Preparatory Phase

11. Participants moved to review the structure of the IGF 2021 Preparatory Phase, endorsed by the MAG.
12. The NRIs Focal Point presented the structure, attached to this report as Annex 3b. After it, the NRIs engaged in discussing the possibility of hosting a session on a concrete policy question in the framework of the IGF 2021 Preparatory Phase between July and the 16th IGF meeting in December. It was added that the outputs of this session would directly feed into the [IGF 2021 Guide on Issues and Policy Questions](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-guide-to-issues-and-policy-questions)², in addition to the benefits of the session creating a valuable opportunity for the broader community to hear about perspectives from different countries and regions on a matter of

² <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2021-guide-to-issues-and-policy-questions>

global importance. The Tanzania IGF coordinator followed up by noting that the strategic collaboration with the IGF 2021 should include members of parliaments. As an example of the topic which could be of interest for all NRIs, access to the Internet was pointed out. It was elaborated on the topic in the context of the pricing of the spectrum. Some NRIs added several additional aspects the topic could address, recognising its global importance. The MAG Chair joined the discussion noting that the IGF 2021 issue areas contain a [policy question](#) that directly corresponds to the proposal presented: *“Challenges and solutions in regulating spectrum: What are the relevant regulatory issues that require attention when it comes to enabling broader access to spectrum in order to stimulate dissemination of affordable and quality access at the community level?”*³.

13. It was agreed that the concept note for the IGF 2021 Preparatory Phase will be advanced to reflect the practical implementation of the possible cooperation model with NRIs, based on the discussions from this call. The advanced note will be put up for the consideration of the NRIs. The timeline will be agreed upon via the NRIs mailing list.

Update on the NRIs landscape

14. The NRIs Focal Point informed that the NRIs network now counts 137 officially recognized NRIs, after having the [national IGF of Greece](#)⁴ and [sub-regional IGF of Southeast Asia](#)⁵ recognized and listed on its website.
15. It was further updated that so far 48 NRIs confirmed the exact dates of their onsite or hybrid meetings, while the West African IGF and EuroDIG informed to host the meeting fully online. The NRIs Focal Point committed to send a complete update on the NRIs, containing: calendar of all NRIs confirmed and tentatively confirmed meetings; and updated package on the NRIs infographics; as well as gathered practices on the NRIs formats of hosting the meetings in 2021.

Next Steps

3. A full summary report will be sent to the NRIs mailing list with outlined action items.
4. *Next meeting*: Next meeting will be hosted in mid-June. A doodle poll will be sent one week before the proposed meeting options.
5. For any suggestions or questions regarding the Report, kindly contact the IGF Secretariat, NRIs Focal Point at: anja.gengo@un.org.

ANNEX A1

AGENDA: Virtual Meeting IV

1. Welcome and introductions
2. NRIs Call for thematic inputs: preliminary results and next steps
3. IGF 2021 preparatory phase and NRIs engagement
4. Approving NRIs brochure for briefing of parliaments
5. How does the NRIs landscape look like for 2021? Update from the Secretariat
6. AoB

³ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/universal-access-and-meaningful-connectivity>

⁴ <https://igfgreece.eu/>

⁵ <https://seaigf.id/>

ANNEX A2**MEETING PARTICIPANTS** *(in alphabetical order⁶):*

1. Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong, Chad IGF
2. Abdias Zambrano, Panama IGF
3. Aleksandar Icokaev, North Macedonian IGF
4. Alexei Marciuc, Moldova IGF
5. Amir Mokabberi, Iran
6. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
7. Anriette Esterhuysen, IGF MAG Chair
8. Artem Goriainov, Central Asian IGF
9. Barrack Otieno, Kenya IGF
10. Beatriz Rossi Corrales, Uruguay IGF
11. Ben Rachad Sanoussi, Ghana IGF
12. Brittany (Bee) Piovesan, ISOC Foundation
13. Carlos Alberto Afonso, Brazil IGF
14. Cristina Morales, Honduras IGF
15. Eileen Cejas, Argentina Youth IGF, Youth LACIGF, YCIG
16. Everton T. Rodrigues, Brazil IGF
17. Fanny Salyou, Ivory Coast IGF
18. Fotjon Kosta, Albania IGF
19. Giacomo Mazzone, Italian IGF, EuroDIG
20. Igonor Oshoke, Nigeria IGF
21. Jennifer Chung, APriGF, IGFSA
22. Jennifer Lopez, Panama IGF
23. José Félix Hernandez, Spain IGF
24. Juan Pajaro Velasquez, Youth SIG
25. Judith Hellerstein, IGF-USA
26. June Parris, Barbados IGF
27. K. Mohan Raidu, ISOC Chapter India
28. Karen Landa, UNESCO
29. Mahendranath Busgopaul, Mauritius IGF
30. Markus Kummer, IGFSA
31. Mary Uduma, Nigeria IGF, West African IGF
32. Michel TCHONANG LINZE, Central African IGF
33. Mohammad Abdul Haque Anu, Bangladesh IGF
34. Muriel Alapini, Benin IGF
35. Nazar Nicholas, Tanzania IGF
36. Nigel Cassimire, Caribbean IGF
37. Obed Sindy, Haiti IGF
38. Olatokunboh Oyeleye, Nigeria IGF
39. Olga Kyrlyiuk, SEEDIG
40. Pierre-Jean Darres, Quebec IGF
41. Poncelet Ileleji, The Gambia IGF, West African IGF
42. Rakotondrainibe Harimino Lalatiana, Madagascar IGF
43. Rita Wehbé, UN ESCWA
44. Roberto Zambrana, Bolivia IGF
45. Sandra Hoferichter, EuroDIG Secretariat
46. Shin Yamasaki

⁶ Names indicated as participants identified in the Zoom online participation tool.

47. Sivasubramanian Muthusamy, IGF Dynamic Coalition Network (DC CIV)
48. Stephanie Teeuwen, The Netherlands IGF
49. Taiwo Peter Akinremi, South African IGF
50. Titti Cassa, Italy IGF
51. Vinicius W. O. Santos, Brazil IGF
52. Vrikson Acosta
53. Wisdom Donkor, Ghana IGF
54. YingChu Chen, APriGF
55. Zeina Bou Harb, Lebanon IGF and Arab IGF

ANNEX A3

MEETING INPUTS

- a) First preliminary results of the NRIs Call for Topics: slides 2-5
https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/4874/2558
- b) IGF 2021 Preparatory Phase – overview: slide 6-8
https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/4874/2558
- c) Update on the NRIs landscape – slide 11-13
https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/4874/2558