

# GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH 2017

*Internet governance from the edges:  
National and regional IGFs in their own words*



GISWatch 2017  
SPECIAL EDITION

# **Internet governance from the edges: National and regional IGFs in their own words**

Global Information Society Watch 2017 Special edition  
Internet governance from the edges: National and regional IGFs in their own words

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Global Information Society Watch 2017 special edition:  
Internet governance from the edges: NRIs in their own words

Disclaimer: The views expressed in survey responses are not necessarily the views of APC or of its members.

This report is a special companion edition to Global Information Society Watch 2017: National and Regional Internet Governance Forum Initiatives (NRIs), which can be downloaded from <https://www.giswatch.org/2017-local-and-regional-internet-governance-forums-igfs>

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## Preface

*The first edition of Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch) focused on participation in internet governance processes. Published in 2007, it came to the conclusion that effective participation was still out of reach if you were from the global South, or from civil society. Still in its infancy at that point, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF), mandated to ensure the participation of all stakeholders, was the one platform which people believed could actually achieve this goal.*

*Barriers to participation in the IGF proved difficult to overcome. Unless you made use of remote participation, attending an IGF involved expensive air travel and local costs in the host country. For many people in civil society and from small businesses, and governments with limited travel budgets, actually getting there remained elusive.*

*The global nature of the IGF's agenda also served as a barrier to participation in some respects. You could attend an IGF, and learn a huge amount, but at the end of the four days feel that none of the issues which are most pertinent in your local context were really discussed. National and Regional IGF Initiatives (NRIs) emerged, in large part, to address these barriers. From being somewhat marginal at the outset – with their organisers having to submit workshop proposals to get exposure at a global IGF – over the years NRIs have become integral to the IGF process, gaining recognition and support.*

*Their rise, and relevance, is still subject to debate. Some commentators view them as a distraction. Others feel that they have become the domains of the individual personalities who drive the process of organising them. But some say that they are the only really effective way of developing partnership and solutions to address local internet policy-related problems.*

*Some feel that they need to build more institutional capacity to be sustainable. Others feel that they should only be organised in response to clear and strong local demand.*

*Whatever your perspective, it is no longer possible to view the IGF and the evolution of internet governance without also considering the role and impact of NRIs. It is in this context that APC is publishing two editions of GISWatch that focus on NRIs this year. One is the annual GISWatch report, which provides critical and analytical perspectives, primarily from civil society actors, in 40 countries. The other is this publication, Internet governance from the edges: National and regional IGFs in their own words.*

*It is precisely to counterbalance what are largely “outsider” views in the main edition of GISWatch that we wanted this companion edition to capture the origin stories, achievements and challenges of NRIs in their own words. Their struggles should not be taken for granted. Behind each NRI are people who have worked extremely hard, dedicating time, most often on a voluntary basis, or on top of already demanding jobs, to convince people to participate, and, particularly challenging, to provide financial support.*

*Like the global IGF, most NRIs are still learning, trying to be stronger, find their feet, gain legitimacy, and achieve effectively balanced stakeholder participation and debate. They face huge constraints – financial, but also often political. Each has its own dynamics and will follow its own path and will hopefully benefit from the support provided by the IGF Secretariat and the NRI community.*

*Their achievements and efforts deserve respect and appreciation, and this volume is dedicated to every person who has played a role in catalysing or organising an NRI.*

# Overview

National and Regional Internet Governance Forum Initiatives (NRIs)<sup>1</sup> emerged in response to the success of the first two global Internet Governance Forums (IGFs) held in Athens in 2006 and Rio de Janeiro in 2007, respectively. The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,<sup>2</sup> the outcome document of the final phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), alongside the call for the creation of the Internet Governance Forum, served as the foundations for the model of bottom-up, multistakeholder internet governance.

The first NRIs were set up in 2007 and 2008, and there are now close to a hundred initiatives, comprising national, sub-national, regional and youth initiatives, which organise autonomously. Many of them cooperate with the IGF Secretariat, hosted by the United Nations Division for Social and Economic Affairs (UNDESA). The importance of NRIs has increased throughout the years, as they have grown in number and their work has expanded in scope. They have acquired such relevance within the IGF that an NRI session was included in the IGF 2016 and 2017 main sessions agendas.

NRIs aim to bring the perspectives of their respective communities to the global IGF, reflect the agenda of the global IGF in their local NRI events, and facilitate multistakeholder discussion around key issues in internet governance. The baseline principles for their organisation are captured in an “NRIs Toolkit”<sup>3</sup> developed by the IGF Secretariat in collaboration with NRIs themselves, and include an “open and transparent, inclusive, bottom-up, multistakeholder, and non-commercial” approach to internet governance. The materials gathered in this report provide precious insight into this approach and bring forth some of the challenges involved in maintaining it.

As mentioned in the preface, this year, APC has taken the initiative to compile two editions of Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch) focused on NRIs. While the main 2017 GISWatch “annual report” provides independent and analytical

perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance broadly, the present companion edition, *Internet governance from the edges: National and regional IGFs in their own words*, aims to give voice and visibility to the stories of each NRI, share their experiences and achievements, and highlight their perspectives on internet governance. The compilation of their inputs was undertaken by APC, with the support of the IGF Secretariat, which contributed to ensure the accuracy of factual information.

## Methodology

The perspectives that are presented in this volume were gathered by means of an online questionnaire that was circulated on the NRI mailing list and among NRI contact points and coordinators contacted individually, and was publicised on the APC homepage.

It comprised 10 open-ended questions, centred around three themes: NRI founding stories and their development from inception up to the present; internal governance, members, stakeholders and activities; and their perspectives on their role in internet governance at the national, regional and global level.<sup>4</sup> Although the survey was circulated in English, respondents were given the option to submit responses in French and Spanish, the translation of which was undertaken by APC staff. These inputs were gathered over a period of three months, from September to November 2017, and any that underwent substantial changes during editing were sent back to their respective authors for approval before publication. Proofreading was guided by the choice to privilege authenticity in the style and tone of each testimony, but at times slight alterations were needed for the sake of legibility and clarity.

A total of 30 responses were received, 27 of which appear in the report, resulting in roughly a third of the current estimated number of existing NRIs being represented here. One response was omitted because the acronym NRI had been misunderstood as “Networked Readiness Index” and did not appear to be relevant to the purpose of this volume. In the case of two initiatives, the Mauritius IGF and Cameroon IGF, two responses were submitted

1 <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-regional-and-national-initiatives>

2 <https://www.itu.int/net/wsis/docs2/tunis/off/6rev1.html>

3 <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/nris-toolkit-how-to-start-your-igf-initiative>.

4 See Appendix 1.

by different people. In the former case, it was possible to contact the authors who agreed on a single testimony; this however was not possible in the latter case, as one response had been submitted anonymously and could therefore not be included. The responses submitted by each NRI vary in length and detail, highlighting differences in organisation, engagement and perspectives among NRIs. These testimonies, contributed by both official and unofficial initiatives, offer insight into the reality of local internet governance, its challenges and outcomes, and it is interesting to contrast them against the principles which inspire their activity.

### **NRI founding stories and development**

The circumstances of the origin of each initiative vary significantly. The earliest initiatives often emerged out of pre-existing initiatives. Often they have been established with the support of civil society organisations and international or regional institutions engaged in internet governance or of actors that deal directly with technical matters like top-level domain name and number management and internet service provision. Others, interestingly, were inspired by the activities of their regional NRIs, started after 2008, or by other national IGFs in their region, or were created after having hosted a global IGF or other internet-related events or initiatives. Governments were present in the foundation of some NRIs, but were most often accompanied by other stakeholder groups.

Despite the diversity in their origins, the objectives and agenda of each NRI do not vary substantially. Themes that recurred most often in the survey responses were privacy and data protection, cybersecurity, the sharing economy – topics that will be included in the NRI session at the 2017 global IGF, highlighting the continuity from NRIs to the global meeting. Most of the topics addressed by NRIs involve the policy level of internet governance; with the exception of exchange points and questions related to telecommunications infrastructure, NRIs deal only marginally with technical matters, and their area of interest can be broadly framed within the realm of human rights and economic development.

### **NRI outreach and internal governance**

The main difficulties in the development of the NRIs reported in the questionnaires are related to the novelty and informality of their organisational structure, which are often perceived as obstacles in the pursuit of recognition and legitimacy in their respective contexts. Despite some dramatic cases, like the withdrawal of funding experienced in one

case, funding instability and difficulties in involving all stakeholder groups seem to progressively be resolved through sustained engagement with the community, which also ensures attendance and participation in the annual local forums. Although the formalisation of the secretariats and working groups and the development of set organisational structures and mechanisms has been a contentious process in the development of NRIs – sometimes leading to takeovers or to the capturing of funds by one stakeholder group – the majority of the survey responses gathered depicted it as a way to stabilise the functioning of NRIs, which are often run on a solely voluntary basis. The development of a local ecosystem of internet governance involving the various actors in a community, in order to acquire relevance and recognition, seems to be the ambition of the majority of NRIs.

It is hard to assess, however, how national specificities emerge in each context: although reported procedures for the choice of topics were most often consistent with a bottom-up approach, their similarity across the globe highlights certain trends in agenda setting, such as marked interest in fake news, artificial intelligence (AI) or other currently “hot” topics worldwide. These potentially fail to acknowledge local needs and interests, reducing this decentralised approach to internet governance to a simple channelling of global issues to local communities, which is a tendency that emerges in particular among newer NRIs.

This poses a series of challenges, at the level of both the global IGF and the NRIs, to the inclusiveness of the internet governance process. The first challenge concerns language barriers: unlike other bodies affiliated with the United Nations, the official language of the IGF, which also is used to communicate on the NRI mailing list and with the Secretariat, is only English, despite the fact that many NRIs work in different languages. Although English is broadly understood and spoken, the testimonies gathered recorded highly variable written proficiency, raising questions about how difficulties in expression hinder the representation of some stakeholders and NRIs in the processes of internet governance.

The second challenge concerns the visibility and accessibility of the NRIs: many initiatives are hard to reach and do not have a particularly strong online presence, whether through websites or on social media, which renders them rather unapproachable, raising questions about stakeholder participation. For this purpose, a directory has been included at the end of this volume, with updated contact points and websites for each NRI.

A specific question was dedicated to gender equality within NRIs, and although it appears to be accepted as a relevant concern, it seems to be unevenly addressed between countries/regions. Many answered affirmatively to the questions, “Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?”, but failed to provide any detail on how they did this. A number of initiatives reported interesting attempts to secure equal participation and to empower women in dealing with ICTs. Some implemented procedures to ensure equal representation in the selection of speakers in the forum, in the working groups and among overall participants; others set up specific events like TECHgirls in Taiwan or the WOMEN IGF in the DRC, some of which have been presented at the IGF Best Practice Forum on Gender.

Finally, the most significant challenge experienced by NRIs derives from the actual implementation of the multistakeholder model of governance, which for some NRIs that rely primarily on governmental participation or civil society engagement is difficult to apply. This presents problems of equal participation, in terms of capacity to provide substantial contributions, as well as in terms of ability to take part in the internal governance and funding for each NRI. As highlighted by David Souter in his thematic report in the GISWatch 2017 annual report, although the baseline principles for NRIs are not contentious within the IGF community, “what they mean in practice might be differently interpreted by different stakeholders and in different countries.”<sup>5</sup> In some places, it is virtually impossible to set up an NRI without extensive government or intergovernmental organisation involvement or even leadership; in others it is, on the contrary, very difficult to attract the attention of the government. Private sector involvement is often mentioned only as a source of funding but is limited to international tech corporations, with scarce representation of local small and medium enterprises, except for the presence of internet service providers and telecom industries, although those can be counted as representatives of the technical community. The implementation of the multistakeholder model of governance is often reported as one of the greatest difficulties encountered by NRIs, as it can hinder an NRI’s legitimacy in its regional or national context and even give rise to marked opposition.

A second problem linked to the multistakeholder approach concerns the lack of substantial diversity among stakeholders, despite their belonging to different stakeholder groups. The gathering of like-minded people results in a similarity in perspectives that might explain the absence of controversial issues reported in almost half of the survey responses, despite the significant controversy that some of the subjects addressed currently provoke. This undoubtedly weakens the incisiveness of NRI contributions at the global IGF and the capacity of the forum itself to serve as the locus of discussion on public policy issues relating to the internet.

### The role of NRIs within internet governance processes at the national, regional and global level

In several responses to the survey question on this theme, concerns were expressed that the role of NRIs in encouraging locally relevant debate is limited by the mere channelling of perspectives encountered at the global IGF. Others, however, highlighted the role of NRIs at the regional level, encouraging the formation of other NRIs and disseminating best practices of particular relevance to the local context. The role of regional initiatives was often highlighted as one of mediation and as an important mechanism of coordination, with regional institutions as well as with the annual global IGF.

Perspectives expressed about the future role of NRIs in internet governance processes focused on the cooperation among initiatives and actors at the different levels of internet governance and on the establishment of stable structures and mechanisms internally. This can be complemented by building capacity, for example, through schools of internet governance or best practice forums at regional level, allowing the specific needs of each NRI to emerge, and by ensuring wider representation, so that voices outside of the IGF choir can be heard.

Hopefully, the background provided here will help guide the reader through each testimony with a critical eye, providing insight into the key challenges that NRIs have encountered and the solutions they have found throughout their development and their establishment in the panorama of internet governance.

5 Souter, D. (2017). NRIs: Role, impact and inclusiveness. In Finlay (Ed.), *Global Information Society Watch 2017: National and Regional Internet Governance Forum Initiatives (NRIs)*. <https://www.giswatch.org/2017-national-and-regional-internet-governance-forums>

# Africa



**Benin IGF**

**Malawi IGF**

**Cameroon IGF**

**Mauritius IGF**

**Congo IGF**  
(in formation)

**Namibia IGF**

**DRC IGF**

**Nigeria IGF**

# BENIN IGF

## Benin

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI? What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

It all started with the participation of Mr. Kossi Amessinou in the West African Internet Governance Forum in 2011 in Nigeria. As he came back from the forum, he set up the initiative to hold a national forum on the governance of the internet during the internet week in Benin. At the end of this forum, he set up a committee, presided by Yaovi Atohoun and Nelly Kwende. In the next forum the staff chair will be moved to Jacques Hougbo and Karine Gbaguidi. In 2014, the forum selected a committee presided by Karine Gbaguidi and Franck Kouyami. Then in 2015, the informal team became a legally recognised association presided by the same team for two years. In 2017, the board was renewed and presided by Franck Kouyami and Kossi Amessinou with a mandate of two years. The objective of the creation of the association is to facilitate the exchanges with the actors, and the government in particular. The forum is recognised and considered by public authorities at all levels.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

The informal status of the team was hard to manage. Governments do not take informal teams under consideration. Informal life was overcome by the creation of an association. During its informal life, the IGF did not have a bank account and relied on intermediaries for the covering of the expenses of activities. The association currently has a bank account and the activities are carried out without difficulties.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

We will continue the plea to maintain the contacts between the actors of the national internet ecosystem in Benin. We will open the national debate annually to the problems that are tackled at global level. The idea is to observe world issues locally. More and

more, we are confronted with the challenge of opening the association to activities to raise awareness about the use and security of the internet beyond the forum, which has become statutory.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

All the target groups are implicated in the national IGF in Benin. There are students, unemployed people, ICT professionals, academics, civil servants, the national private sector, the government, official and national associations for the promotion of ICT. The groups of actors participate collectively and individually in activities of the association. It is all volunteer-based.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

No difficulty in the cohabitation and the exchanges between actors was noted since 2012. It is true that debates are often passionate, but without break-ups.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

We do not discriminate on gender but encourage massive participation.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

Details about the activities of the Benin Internet Governance Forum can be found in the 2017 report<sup>1</sup> and communique.<sup>2</sup>

1 [https://www.giswatch.org/sites/default/files/images/rapport\\_fgi\\_2017.doc](https://www.giswatch.org/sites/default/files/images/rapport_fgi_2017.doc)

2 [https://www.giswatch.org/sites/default/files/images/communique\\_final-2017.pdf](https://www.giswatch.org/sites/default/files/images/communique_final-2017.pdf)

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*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

Managing the BJ exchange point was a difficult subject. Some believe it should be a more accessible national resource through the annual cost of its provision. But others believe that we must work towards the profitability of the sale of the BJ exchange point. There is often a difficult limit to draw between the protection of personal data and of national security, which brings to the filtering of the users.

## **Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance**

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*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

Proposals are dynamic. At national level, we have contributed to the drastic reduction of internet access cost in Benin. At regional level, we contributed

to the provision of shared-rent infrastructure to reduce the cost of internet access. At global level, the debate is still too oriented in favour of the profit of rich countries.

---

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

The IGF Secretariat allows the world to know what is done in Benin. We are grateful for that. We live in a world of mutual learning. We learn from others and are certain to bring new elements to others as well.

# CAMEROON IGF

## Cameroon

Agence Nationale des Technologies de l'Information et de la Communication (ANTIC) •  
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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The country was part of the two phases (2003 and 2005) of the World Summit on the Information Society that paved the way to the Internet Governance Forum. Cameroon firstly organised in 2012 the sub-regional Central Africa IGF in Douala with the aim to have a view on the state of internet processes within the six countries in Central Africa. Cameroon started its first national IGF in August 2013 with the objective of a view on internet processes with respect to laws, rules, infrastructures, operators, intermediaries and users.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

The governmental ICT Agency (ANTIC) took the lead, inviting other partners to join the organising committee, but took hand over the calendar and each articulation of it. On the other hand civil society organisations were not well organised to play a key role.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

Involving more civil society organisations and other partners in the organising committee. Setting up a real national secretariat in charge of the whole organisation.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

- The National ICT Agency (ANTIC), a government institution, as the main organiser
- The Ministry of Telecommunication sharing laws, rules and government strategic plans

- Civil society organisations involved in panel discussions or/and proposed topics
- The technical community (ISOC) sharing the ongoing technical processes
- The private sectors like operators, mostly as funders.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

As the main organiser is the government, the multistakeholder approach is not yet a reality. Other stakeholders are not taking part fully when the government institution keeps control over the calendar, the agenda, the budget, the date and the venue.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI?  
Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

As the multistakeholder approach is not taken under account in the setting up of the organising committee, gender balance, measured in terms of the number of women taking part on the committee, is not achieved. We as civil society organisation take care during the selection of presentations that gender balance be observed.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

The last forum took place on 17-30 June 2017 in Kribi, a seaside area city here in Cameroon. The topics chosen concerned:

- A brief history of the IGF
- Environment of legislation in term of laws and rules
- Internet rights and duties
- Rights in regard to the “African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms”
- Internet and education
- Internet and critical resources

- The challenge of the IPv6 process
- Cloud computing and its challenges for Cameroon
- Internet and security
- Internet and cyber crime
- Cameroon's national strategy plan 2020.

The outcomes were:

- Process of knowing legislation
- Awareness on what to do and what is forbidden
- Familiarisation with African Declaration in terms of rights and freedoms
- The benefits for enterprises to set up IPv6 in term of opportunity space
- Advice on how to be secure online
- Awareness on the digital strategic national plan.

*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

We suppose that for what concerns national actuality, there is the talk about the internet shutdown, but strategically the government removed it from the agenda, saying or proclaiming that it is for security reasons. As is known, the internet was shut down in two regions (Anglophone) for three months due to political disapprobation or contestation.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

At the level of my country: Public awareness on internet issues and challenges to overcome in terms of protecting rights and taking over internet in the development of my country.

Regionally: Working hand in hand with other African countries to advocate for common views and involving the African Union on internet matters in the continent.

Globally: To care about the recommendations provided as outcomes during global IGF, and seeing that these recommendations can be followed at national and regional level.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

Towards other national IGFs in Africa especially:

- Looking at what is done at different levels of governance
- Ensuring that recommendations are implemented
- Sharing the challenges to overcome.

Towards the IGF:

- Ensuring relevant issues are raised at national level
- Implementing recommendations according to national contexts
- Raising recommendations at global level.

Toward the IGF Secretariat:

- Asking help for Cameroon to set up its own IGF Secretariat
- Having a look over the IGF calendar at different levels, in order to harmonise them at national, regional and global level.

## CONGO IGF (in formation)

### Republic of Congo

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### NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The founding of our initiative comes from global inspiration. In our process we are helped by the IGF Academy (set up by iRights and APC). Our inspiration comes from all those countries who do have their initiatives and who are fighting for human rights in cyberspace. The objectives of our national initiatives are to enforce freedom of expression online, children's and women's safety online but also all other subjects related to the use of internet in our country.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

We are still developing and most of our difficulties are related to fundraising.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

All the organising committee is working for an inclusive IGF.

### NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

We are still working on it, but as civil society members we are lucky to have the government with us. Their contribution with respect to the other stakeholders will be clarified in the coming and first national IGF.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

Not for the time being.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI?  
Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

No response was provided to this question.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

We are still working on the first forum.

*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

No.

### Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

No response was provided to this question.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

No response was provided to this question.

## DRC IGF

Democratic Republic of Congo

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### NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

In 2007, CAFEC (Centre Africain d'Echange Culturel) organised the first Internet Governance Forum for Civil Society with financial support from UNDP. Since 2008, CAFEC has taken steps to ensure that the government, through the Ministry in charge of ICT, is involved in enabling the private sector to participate and provide the necessary financial resources for the organisation of a national forum on governance of the internet. It was only in 2016 that this multistakeholder consultation framework was officially recognised by this Ministry in charge of ICT. Currently in 2017, we are working closely with the firm's experts to materialise the first edition of this national forum on internet governance (DRC IGF). The objective is to create a multistakeholder exchange space for harmonious development of the internet in the DRC. In 2013, CAFEC and SJS (Si Jeunesse Savait) organised the Central Africa Internet Governance Forum.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

The difficulties encountered were multiple:

- The repeated change of the ministries with their cabinet
- The lack of political will and incompetence of executives in the ministerial cabinet
- Greed and the positioning struggle to drive and derive the advantages associated with this platform
- Lack of collaboration between institutions
- The disinterestedness of the private sector and universities
- The lack of a coherent policy on ICT, etc.

Nevertheless, all these difficulties allowed us to evaluate the journey in order to resume the steps that ultimately led, in 2017, to an involvement of the Ministry in charge of ICT and mobilisation of the private sector.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

We have a three-year mandate: from 2017 to 2020 and we have decided to re-establish our collaboration with universities, start-ups and local communities that need our expertise. We have taken the option of setting up local incubators according to the interests of each community and working in synergy with international partners who respond to the concerns identified for the benefit of these communities. This is the case with the University of Syracuse in the USA.

### NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

At the present stage, we have as actors involved:

- The government through its Ministry of ICT
- The private sector, represented by the Federation of DRC Companies
- The universities
- Civil society
- The Youth DRC IGF.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

With regard to the multistakeholder approach, we decided to set up a DRC Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) coordinated by the Executive Secretariat. The DRC MAG is made up of members from government, public and private companies, universities and NGOs, including youth. In total for 2017, we have 65 members. The Executive Secretariat is made up of six people from civil society, public companies, universities and ISOC DRC.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

Within the Executive Secretariat there are three women: one is responsible for communication; another of finance and administration; and a third for gender and ICT. We have planned a specific programme for the involvement of women in the dynamics of internet governance, notably by creating WOMEN DRC IGF.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

We are still working on organising our first edition of the IGF. The date will be launched at the right time.

*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

Indeed, we had problems such as:

- What institution would accept to become the leader of the DRC IGF?
- The participation of the private sector was conditioned by the involvement of the government
- Inadequacy of basic texts such as the Geneva Plan of Action and the Tunis Agenda
- The disinterestedness of public sector actors
- Lack of motivation from the private sector and universities
- Political cleavages within political decision makers.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

At the national level, from 2007 until today, with modesty, I have always played the leading role for the national forum on internet governance to become a reality. However, during the course of this, I also organised training in some universities, some schools on different topics according to the concerns raised by users. I am often consulted by the Ministry in charge of ICT and some civil society organisations. At the African level, I had to organise the sub-regional Central Africa IGF in 2013. I participated in several seminars organised by the ITU and the ECA. At the global level, I am a member of ICANN/AFRALO, a member of the Civil Society Caucus on Internet Governance and I regularly participate in the global IGF.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

I work closely with the IGF Secretariat in Geneva while working with other regional and international NRIs.

# MALAWI IGF

## Malawi

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The Malawi IGF was inspired by the trend of countries in the Africa region that had established national IGFs and received the NEPAD E-Africa programme funding that allowed us to launch our IGF in 2014 with the following objectives.

The overall objective of the Malawi Internet Governance Forum (Mw-IGF) is to establish a multistakeholder process that will shape the development of Malawi's internet economy.

Specific objectives are:

- To increase awareness and build capacity on internet governance issues amongst stakeholders in Malawi.
- To facilitate the participation of a broad range of Malawian stakeholders in regional and global internet governance and ensure that national concerns are taken into account.
- To shape and inform national policy on development of the internet and ICTs.
- To contribute to strengthening the multistakeholder dialogue model for internet governance in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region and Africa.
- To provide a consultative and participatory platform for multistakeholder discussions and dialogue on internet governance issues.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

Since its establishment in 2014 the Malawi IGF has faced a number of challenges which made it difficult to hold annual meetings. We are still in the learning process since our inception and still experiencing challenges ranging from adequate funding to stakeholder involvement.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

The future plans are that we need more outreach and engagement with the stakeholders so that they can appreciate the importance of the local IGF.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

We have people representing all sectors, and they have been very helpful in session and discussion proposals, as well as playing key roles in ensuring that the various organisations they represent support the local IGF.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

We did not experience any challenge with this because when we reached out to all they accepted our invitation.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

Striking a gender balance has always remained a challenge and we do have measures to encourage gender balance and we work with the Ministry of Gender, Women and Children to ensure the issue of gender imbalance over time becomes addressed.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

Our 2017 forum was organised through the multi-stakeholder approach whereby all representatives of all sectors were involved in meetings to prepare for the forum and they proposed various topics which were later incorporated into the final

programme. The number one challenge we faced was the issue of finance and locally we only managed to find one organisation which financed the activity. The rest of the finances came from the Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA) and AFRINIC.

The agenda was as follows:

- Registration
- Session 1: Opening ceremony
- Group photo and coffee break
- Session 2: Introductions and adoption of agenda
- Session 3: Internet Infrastructure Development
- Session 4. IXP- Local Content-Promoting Local Innovation (Panel Session)
- AFRINIC Presentation
- Session 5: Cyber Security – Malawi E-Legislation and How It Relates to the Internet End Users
- Lunch
- Session 6: Internet Applications (panel discussion)
- Session 7: Malawi Internet Governance
- Coffee break
- Session 6: Closing ceremony

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*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

So far the only controversial ones have been the high costs of internet besides government through World Bank bringing in international fibre backbone which promised to lower access cost to the internet by 70%.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

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*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

At country level we are playing a very good role and I think strong NRIs make for strong regional processes. Globally too, in our region we need more to be done to strengthen and promote the initiatives.

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*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

Since we are just new, our position would be that of learning from other well established NRIs and to follow good practices until we are mature enough.

# MAURITIUS IGF

## Mauritius

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI? What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

Mauritius IGF, founded in 2017, came at the right moment when the coalition of non-state actors decided to take forward the upcoming issues related to the internet. The objectives were:

- To advance internet governance issues in Mauritius through a multistakeholder framework as well as facilitating partnerships and coalitions that deliver coordinated domestic responses, initiatives, and synergies.
- To increase awareness and build capacity development on internet governance issues in Mauritius so as to ensure informed dialogue on policy and related matters between all stakeholders.
- To establish a coordinated and coherent framework for dealing with internet governance issues in Mauritius.
- To facilitate the participation of a broad range of stakeholders in internet governance issues.
- To ensure that Mauritius views are represented in the region and at the global IGF.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

The concept of Mauritius IGF was welcomed by all stakeholders and several meetings were held prior to its establishment. Stakeholders including civil society, the corporate sector and technicians also brought their input. The difficulties encountered were minor or can be easily considered as none.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

Mauritius IGF is already set for paving the way of ICT field in the future. The annual meeting scheduled in November 2017 will bring in a set of new ideas that will be taken forward in the future for the benefit of all stakeholders.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

Mauritius IGF has its own governance policy and also its anti-corruption policy. All members commit themselves to abide by these policies.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

Each stakeholder has one voice and the question of participation at a less equal level does not arise.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

Gender balance is a must in our NRI. The fact is that several stakeholder programmes focus on advocacy towards ensuring Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region, and young women and girls are the most targeted audience.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

The first forum was organised on 16 November 2017. The forum had a keynote speaker from AF-RINIC Ltd, diplomatic representatives, members of parliament and other key personalities in the sector. The forum was divided into three plenary sessions. The forum was financed by the Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA) and a private sector in Mauritius that has internet governance high on its agenda.

*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

The role of service providers in ensuring that they play a more active role and the voice of youth.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

Mauritius IGF is positioned to become the pioneer in the ICT field insofar as non state actors are concerned. We will endeavour to play an important role at the regional level as well given that we already have a strong network of NGOs working in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and Indian Ocean region.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

We are provided with the proper and appropriate guidelines to be a responsible actor as NRI and also to be on the same wave-length with other NRIs. This is facilitated by the IGF Secretariat.

# NAMIBIA IGF

## Namibia

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

Namibia is one of the few South African Development Community (SADC) countries that had not joined the international internet governance community, which was unacceptable. Also, we recognised that there are several benefits attached to being part of formalised internet governance structures. These include capacity building and networking opportunities. The main objectives of the Namibia IGF (NamIGF) are to:

- Raise awareness, promote improved understanding and build capacity on internet governance issues amongst Namibian stakeholders and their respective communities.
- Organise and host an annual multistakeholder and democratic platform for engagement and knowledge building on internet governance-related issues in Namibia, and beyond.
- Influence the development and implementation of national policies related to the internet, and broadly, information and communication technology (ICT).
- Facilitate multistakeholder participation by Namibian representatives at continental and global internet governance platforms.
- Contribute to the strengthening of multistakeholder engagement on internet governance in the SADC and African Union (AU).

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

The Ministry of Information and Communication Technology (MICT) approached the ACTION Coalition (a group of civil society organisations engaged in issues related to freedom of expression and access to information), indicating its intention of establishing a national IGF. They noted however that they did not want to lead it, just to participate as a stakeholder. Thus, the MICT initiated the NRI and called the first meeting of

relevant internet governance stakeholders. Frederico was elected chairperson of the Working Group. There are no notable difficulties, except maybe that only a few of the Working Group members did all the work required for organising and hosting the inaugural NamIGF.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

We aim to make a definitive impact on internet governance-related fields in Namibia and beyond, and this includes:

- Discussing public policy issues related to key elements of internet governance in order to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the internet in Namibia.
- Facilitating the exchange of information and best practices, and making full use of the expertise of the academic, media, human rights and free expression, legal, public and ICT sectors.
- Making recommendations on how to accelerate the availability and affordability of the internet in Namibia
- Identifying, highlighting and discussing emerging internet governance issues with stakeholders and the general public, and where appropriate, making recommendations.
- Building the capacity of stakeholders on internet governance, fully drawing on local, continental and international sources of knowledge and expertise.
- Facilitating solution and consensus building on internet governance issues that are of particular concern to end-users.
- Publishing its proceedings.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

We have a diverse group of people engaged in the Working Group, which includes:

- Government representation in the form of MICT staff
- Civil society organisations representation, in the form of Internet Society (ISOC) and ACTION members
- Academia, in the form of lecturers from the Namibia University of Science and Technology
- The private sector, in the form technical experts from Telecom Namibia and ICT companies.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

Yes, there was very little active participation by most of the Working Group members. Most of the work was left to a small group of members. However, we ensured that all members were updated on developments through a mailing list.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

Since the Working Group criteria was mainly focused on the area of work, there was no gender balance requirement. We did however achieve gender balance as institutions and organisations assigned women and men to represent them on the Working Group. At the moment, gender representation is more or less equal.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

Our inaugural forum was organised by the Working Group, which was also responsible for fundraising. We had a basket-funding model, i.e. there were a number of funders, such as fesmedia Africa, Namibia Media Trust, MICT and UNESCO, the Internet

Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA) and AFRINIC. We decided that our first forum would mainly focus on information sharing regarding the internet in Namibia, thus we had a diverse range of speakers on issue-based panels, i.e. infrastructure, access, women and girls, digital economy, etc.

*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

No controversial issues.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

It is important that we understand all the factors that impact on the internet in Namibia and beyond, and through that find ways of influencing policy and implementation. We also want to collaborate with relevant stakeholders to ensure that internet governance knowledge is not limited to a select group of people and institutions. The youth is a critical stakeholder and we will most certainly ensure that they partake and that we build their capacity in internet governance.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF secretariat?*

The NamIGF story is unique to the African context. We are proof that government, civil society and the private sector can work together for a better internet. We hope to share our story to motivate other countries to apply the multistakeholder approach. We also want to foreground our commitment to free expression.

# NIGERIA IGF

## Nigeria

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The Nigeria IGF (NIGF) was established as a true multistakeholder forum in 2012 by the catalyst Mary Uduma who was then president of Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NIRA), which manages the .ng ccTLD [country code top-level domain]. She invited stakeholders who participated in the WSIS process in 2005, the Steering Committee members who in 2008 organised the first ever government-led debate on the outcomes of the WSIS, and had been active in the ICT industry, as well as the Nigerian internet community. Mrs. Uduma invited the government and its agencies, the private sector, civil society, academia as well as the technical community to form an Organising Committee in 2012. The invitation was responded to by the stakeholders, including funding of the forum. The inspiration was to develop and consolidate Nigeria's position in the global internet governance process and to debate from a local perspective. The main objective of NIGF was to mirror it with the IGF and to create a platform for stakeholders to debate on burning issues of internet governance and on the internet ecosystem in Nigeria. The NIGF is aimed at providing a sustainable national forum and structure that engages industry, government, lawmakers, academia, civil society and all stakeholders in a strategic national debate on internet governance. It is a platform for national dialogue on internet governance.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

Since we started with a collaborative effort of the government, civil society, the country code top level domain name managers and other stakeholder groups, the NIGF received the endorsement of those groups and a NIGF-MAG (Multistakeholder Advisory Group) was formed for the annual organisation of the forum. Of particular mention is the endorsement of the Honourable Minister of Communication Technology and the Agencies under the Ministry. The Youth Track was introduced in 2013 and was

allotted a full day as a pre-event to the NIGF. In 2017, we introduced pre-event training for law enforcement agents. We were faced with legitimacy questions by government officials since it organically evolved without initiation from the government. At one point, one of our major funders withdrew funding, questioning the legitimacy of the forum.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

We have 20 people in the NIGF-MAG that prepares and organises the annual forum. We invite high-level government officials and high network individuals to chair the forum and deliver keynote speeches with official pronouncements. A report of the forum with tangible recommendations is submitted to the stakeholders for policy implementation. We are currently putting the structures in place and developing MOU with the funders. We hope to run a school of internet governance for Nigeria.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

Stakeholders from traditional multistakeholder groups of the IGF are involved in NIGF (the government, the technical community, civil society, academia and the private sector group). They contribute both in cash and kind to the organisation of the forum. The Secretariat of NIGF is hosted by NIRA.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

The private sector stakeholder group has not been participating fully. We have more government and civil society participation than from the private sector. We have a near absence of academia.

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*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

Yes, we do.

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*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

The NIGF 2017 had the theme. “Internet: Connecting, Shaping and Empowering the People”. The report and communiqué are posted at [www.nigf.org.ng](http://www.nigf.org.ng).

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*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

We do as much as possible not to raise controversial topics during the forum. The only one was about the hosting of the Secretariat of NIGF. This was due to the fact that two government agencies were disagreeing with each other as to who should host the Secretariat. The stakeholders resolved to have the Secretariat hosted by a neutral body, in this NIRA.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

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*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

The NIGF process plays the role of bringing together stakeholder groups to dialogue on IG issues and to gather input to contribute to the IG process globally, and at sub-regional and regional levels.

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*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

My role as the convener and coordinator of NIGF is to ensure that the NIGF is sustainable, to share local views with other NRIs, the IGF and IGF Secretariat.

# Asia-Pacific Region



**Asia Pacific Regional IGF (APrIGF)**

**China IGF**

**Indonesia IGF**

**Taiwan IGF**

# ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL IGF (APRIGF)

## Asia Pacific

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

Today, Asia has the strongest growing demand for internet addresses. There are more and more people in Asia who are using the internet. In contrast to North America and Europe, demand for the internet in Asia is not only growing, but also growing at an accelerating rate. The Asia Pacific Regional Internet Governance Forum (APrIGF) serves as a platform for discussion, exchange and collaboration at a regional level, and also where possible to aggregate national IGF discussions, ultimately to advance the internet governance development in the Asia Pacific region.

In 2010, while the global IGF was already in the fifth and final year of its initial charter, and regional IGFs had been established in many other regions, including Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia had seen no parallel forum for discussing internet governance issues at a regional level. For the first time in 2010, the APrIGF was convened with the objective of raising awareness and encouraging participation from relevant stakeholders around the region on internet governance issues, as well as to foster multilateral, multistakeholder discussion about issues pertinent to the internet in Asia. The multistakeholder approach is a core principle of the APrIGF and emphasis is placed on the diversity of participants and on the openness of the discussion. As we consider youth as an important stakeholder and as the future generations of the internet, a Youth IGF also became an integral part of the APrIGF. It is held in parallel annually, featuring a simulation of the multistakeholder discussion model among young people on various internet governance issues.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

See response to the question above.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

In the coming year 2018, the APrIGF will be holding its 9th edition, and will take place for the first time in the Pacific, in Vanuatu. One innovation that developed organically is the APrIGF Synthesis Document. This, alongside the annual conference report, serves to encapsulate the issues and discussions in the forum each year. The APrIGF Synthesis Document was first raised and discussed at the APrIGF New Delhi 2014 Multistakeholder Steering Group (MSG) meetings and piloted as an experiment the subsequent year at the APrIGF Macao 2015 meeting. This year its third iteration, the APrIGF Bangkok 2017 Synthesis Document, is due to be published in late September this year. The Synthesis Document aims to document the contributions and outputs of participants at the APrIGF meeting (as well as the broader APrIGF community through remote participation and dissemination on the mailing list and online platform) and is not intended to be representative of the diverse Asia Pacific region. Nevertheless, it is anticipated by the APrIGF Multistakeholder Steering Group<sup>3</sup> and the Drafting Committee<sup>4</sup> that the development of this Synthesis Document can help drive active participation in the IGF process and demonstrate the value of the annual APrIGF meeting as a platform for voices, views and thoughts in the Asia Pacific region as a contribution to relevant global, national, local and international forums on internet governance.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

The Multistakeholder Steering Group (MSG) of the APrIGF is a self-organised committee with members from around the AP internet community, and has the following objectives:

- To support and ensure the proper conduct of the organisational work of the annual Asia Pacific Regional IGF

<sup>3</sup> <https://aprigf.asia/msg.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://aprigf.asia/drafting-committee.html>

- To promote and encourage dialogue among all stakeholders involved with internet governance related issues in the Asia Pacific region
- To act as an interface between the Asia Pacific IGF community and the global IGF community.

The membership emphasises the inclusion of multistakeholder actors and is therefore open to any interested individuals within the AP region who are committed to:

- The organisational principles of openness, transparency and multistakeholder cooperation
- Devoting some time and effort in support of the APriGF
- Maintaining and demonstrating respect for all other members.

The operating principles, the election procedures, the meeting archives, and the full list of MSG members are available on our website.<sup>5</sup> All the committees are open to all volunteers in the APriGF community. There is no requirement to be a MSG member before joining any of the committees. The Programme Committee has the task of reviewing and selecting the workshops for each annual meeting. The Fellowship Committee has the task of selecting the class of fellows for each annual meeting. The Drafting Committee has the task of channelling and synthesising the Synthesis Document for each annual meeting.

The [discuss@aprigf.asia](mailto:discuss@aprigf.asia) mailing list is an open mailing list intended for the APriGF community to discuss internet governance issues and topics, to disseminate information, and also serves as a continuation of the annual meetings, and fellows. [aprigf.asia](http://aprigf.asia) is a platform for the alumni from the various internet governance-related meetings in the Asia Pacific region. The fellows from APriGF are part of this network and contribute towards the IG discourse regionally and globally.

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*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

The meeting participant breakdown for each stakeholder group is available in the conference reports.<sup>6</sup> In addition to in-person participation, the APriGF supports webcasting and remote participation for

all workshops. The plenary sessions are also live-streamed with simultaneous translation into local languages. Archives for all these recordings can be found on the website of each meeting. Care was taken to ensure that facilities are accessible, and during the 2017 Bangkok meeting a visually-impaired participant reported that he found the event website as well as the online commenting platform for the Synthesis Document fully accessible. The Youth IGF which was being run concurrently with the APriGF also had youth delegates integrated into the main programme, workshops and sessions throughout the forum.

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*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

Starting from 2015, following the recommendations of the workshop discussions of the Macao meeting as well as those of the previous year, and of discussion on the mailing lists both within the APriGF community as well as the global IGF Gender Best Practices Forum, a gender report card was introduced for each workshop to tally the gender diversity in the panels as well as amongst the attendees. These statistics are available as part of the conference reports and in the archives from each meeting website.<sup>7</sup> Workshop proposal guidelines encourage gender and stakeholder diversity for all submissions, and the Programme Committee assesses submissions with this as one of the criteria in mind. The Fellowship Committee also has gender balance as one of the many criteria for the selection of each fellowship class.

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*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

APriGF Bangkok 2017<sup>8</sup> was co-hosted by Chulalongkorn University and the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission of Thailand. The sponsors are listed on the event website. The overarching theme for the meeting was “Ensuring an inclusive and sustainable development in Asia Pacific: a regional agenda for internet governance”. The conference report and Synthesis Document will be published in late September.

5 <https://aprigf.asia/msg.html> and <https://aprigf.asia/committees.html>

6 <https://aprigf.asia/events.html>

7 <https://aprigf.asia/events.html>

8 <https://2017.aprigf.asia>

*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

Response provided to this question was “n/a”.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

The APriIGF serves as a platform for discussion, exchange and collaboration at a regional level, and also where possible to aggregate national IGF discussions, ultimately advancing the development of internet governance in the Asia Pacific region

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

The APriIGF is a regional annual internet governance meeting in the Asia Pacific region. It is part of the larger collective of bottom-up, multistakeholder NRI initiatives that have sprung up organically around the world. The APriIGF sends its annual conference report to the IGF Secretariat as a record, and has for the past two years also been submitting its Synthesis Document as an input to the IGF intersessional work: Connecting and Enabling the Next Billions (Phases I and II).

# CHINA IGF

China

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

China's national IGF was established in 2017. The objective of the China IGF is to maximise the opportunity for an open and inclusive dialogue and the exchange of opinions on internet governance and technology trends for all stakeholders. China currently has around 700 million internet users, which is a big portion of the global figure. IGF plays an important role in the global internet governance arena since its beginning, and I think the China IGF will devote our own contribution to the international community, to bring in multistakeholder groups from Chinese community. Meanwhile, we believe that along with the internet technology development, it's not just technology evolving, but also the governance. I think this needs more profound understanding and China IGF would like to share its experiences with other NRIs.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

We established the China IGF in 2017. Along the way, we faced difficulties, from funding aspects to community establishing, which I think is just the beginning. We will have many other difficulties when the China IGF evolves, but I believe each organisation faces its own difficulties and needs to solve them according to its own condition. Meanwhile, the international NRIs community also provides the stage for communication with colleagues, which is important to share the experiences and learn from each other.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

The China IGF takes the responsibility to communicate between China and the international community. We are composed of multistakeholder members who have a role in the internet field and have non-government backgrounds. We would

like to say the China IGF will become the bridge to connect the community and enhance the communication between China and the world.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

From the beginning, we have committee members from various backgrounds in the internet arena and we are still working on enlarging these influences and on having more people join our community.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

Yes. I think it's an evolving progress and we are working on bringing in more participants and diversifying their backgrounds. We encourage people to contribute to the community based on their own advantage and sharing their experiences.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

Yes. We consider gender balance quite important, especially in the internet field. We especially encourage women with tech backgrounds to join our community and to contribute not only in the governance issues but also on the tech topics.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

We will have our first forum next year.

*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

We are in the process of collecting topics.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

The China IGF is part of the IGF global community, and the Chinese community is composed of many different stakeholders. Our mission is to link the Chinese society with the international community about internet governance and technology issues and to contribute with Chinese wisdom to the world.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

As the secretariat of the China IGF, my role and responsibility are to communicate between China and the international community. I would like to cooperate with other colleagues to devote our own contribution to the international society.

# INDONESIA IGF

## Indonesia

ID-IGF Secretariat • secretariat@igf.id • igf.id



## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The Indonesia Internet Governance Forum (ID-IGF) was founded in late 2012. The establishment of the ID-IGF was a significant step towards creating a genuine multistakeholder dialogue on governance of the internet in Indonesia. Founding members included representatives from the National ICT Council (Detiknas), Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MCIT), the Indonesian Association of Internet Service Providers (APJII), the Indonesian Internet Domain Name Registry (PANDI), NGO ICT Watch, and many more. The establishment of the forum rapidly brought plans for Indonesia to host the Global IGF in 2013. IGF 2013 was organised and funded in the form of multistakeholder cooperation. Chaired by a member of Detiknas, the committee includes representatives from the MCIT, the internet business community, technical community and civil society. The main objective of the ID-IGF establishment is that key stakeholders of internet in Indonesia acknowledge the complexity of internet development and believe that there is urgent need to work across stakeholders in internet field.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

The multistakeholder process in organising the 8th IGF was one of the main parts of the learning curve for the ID-IGF. The process was challenging yet an invaluable experience. The local host committee has learned about the leadership role of stewardship by collaborating with a wide array of stakeholders. Solidifying multistakeholder cooperation through the broad inclusion of stakeholders and a shared sense of commitment was crucial in completing the necessary work. Along the way, there were several challenging issues. Organisational development was the first issue the ID-IGF encountered, therefore developing a secretariat (including recruitment) and drafting a working mechanism procedure were two priorities after 2013. Ensuring continuous meaningful contribution (e.g. interest and attendance) from

the ID-IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) and other stakeholders is the second issue the ID-IGF needed to settle.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

There are two main focuses: reaching out and engaging with wider internet stakeholders and building capacity in internet governance issues through various collaborations with existing community groups, as well as analysing key issues need to be prioritised as ID-IGF concerns for further discussion with policy makers.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

There are 25 Multistakeholder Advisory Group members at the ID-IGF and people who are involved in the beginning of this forum. There are two WhatsApp groups, one is for the MAG only and the second is more informal with members or volunteers of the ID-IGF. The nature of contributions varies according to participants' interest but the most tangible contributions are in the form of giving ideas, volunteering in ID-IGF events, funding, disseminating information related to the ID-IGF and eventually attending.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

Yes, we are having this type of experience. Therefore, it is important for the ID-IGF to continuously make its activities and programmes more relevant to all stakeholders.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI?  
Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

The ID-IGF puts forward the issue of gender balance in all of its activities. In our national dialogues,

gender balance counts as one of the key issues in the assessment process.

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*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

The main topic in the 2016 ID-IGF Dialogue was “Towards Indonesia’s Digital Sovereignty and Resilience”. The topics were allocated in four baskets (infrastructure, laws and regulations, socio-culture and economy). A call for proposals was announced and various proposals were received by the committee. The event was attended by 400 participants. Funding came from different stakeholders and the report is online.<sup>9</sup>

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*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

Response provided to this question was “N/A”.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

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*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

There are not many NRIs in our region. The ID-IGF can contribute to the growth of national IGFs in other countries by sharing its experiences on the advantages (both tangible and intangible) of having a national IGF.

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*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

The ID-IGF appreciates the role of IGF Secretariat, that keeps coordination among national and regional IGFs. As mentioned above, our role is that of sharing experiences and knowledge with other NRIs, that can be specifically in the Asia Pacific region or at global level.

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9 igf.id/2016-id-igf-dialogue

# TAIWAN IGF

## Taiwan

TWIGF MSG, Ying-Chu Chen • [twigf-msg@nii.org.tw](mailto:twigf-msg@nii.org.tw), [jungheng@gmail.com](mailto:jungheng@gmail.com) • [www.igf.org.tw](http://www.igf.org.tw)



## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The Taiwan IGF (TWIGF) was first held by the National Information Infrastructure Enterprise Promotion Association (NIIIEPA) in 2015 with the support of the government. Then, the 2016 APriGF was held on 27-29 July 2016 and locally hosted by NIIIEPA and the Taiwanese government. 2016 APriGF was very successful and aroused the interest of the Taiwanese internet community and the need for a more organised platform to begin focusing on the ongoing discussions on IGF-related issues.

Since then, the TWIGF has been formally formed since December 2016, and it also organised a Multistakeholder Steering Group (MSG), which is based on the APriGF multistakeholder model, composed from the broad-based technical community, civil society, private enterprises, government and academic community. The first MSG selected seven workshop topics, and about 200 people participated. It was widely praised by the internet community. During the 2016 TWIGF, it also launched a TechGIRLS activity for mutual exchange and sharing of women's internet technology career experiences. In addition, there are more than 1,500 people already registered on the "Taiwan Internet Governance Forum" Facebook group, who usually communicate with each other about domestic and global internet governance-related activities and issues; community interaction is also very strong. Therefore, the TWIGF has been playing a fundamental role in bridging the APriGF, UN IGF activities and IGF-related issues, hoping to accumulate more energy and to continue playing a positive role in promoting internet governance.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

Internet technology is growing very fast, the traditional government-based governance model has been unable to cope with the needs of rapidly developing technological environment. Therefore, the purpose of good internet governance is to help the

government to transform into an innovative government-based governance model.

In the policy development process, we can make more multistakeholder groups involved in the process to participate effectively, and ultimately to minimise the conflict between the virtual world and the physical world.

But it is still the initial stage of the multistakeholder model, the government's various internet-related laws and regulations, how to refer to the multistakeholder model, we are still grasping them, so there is urgency to strengthen the IGF-related issues of education and training. In addition, it is imperative to create a successful best practice for the policy development process (PDP) of the multistakeholder model, which is the biggest challenge.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

The TWIGF hopes to achieve the following objectives in the near future:

- To play the bridge role between Taiwan IGF, the Asia Pacific region, and the global IGF community
- To continue to promote activities to enhance awareness of internet governance amongst the various stakeholders
- To enhance the quality of TWIGF activities and to increase the number of participants, especially amongst young people
- To assist the government in incorporating the multistakeholder model of internet governance into the relevant policies and regulations development process and to benefit from it.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

Kuo-Wei Wu, Kenny Huang and Vincent Chen are involved in the activity of our NRI or in the Facebook

community, they translate the English reports to Chinese and bring the discussion forward. They also persuade our government officials to join the Taiwan IGF, APriGF and APNIC, and to let more people know about internet governance in Taiwan.

Other NGO groups, civil communities, government officials and the private sector join the Facebook community page to discuss or share their opinions. And we also have a TechGIRLS meetup, to persuade everyone to share their life, their opinions together, face to face, without any limitation due to gender issues.

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*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

Actually, not really. But some communities do not want to join the “governance”. That is a problem, but we do not want to force anybody to join. And there is one problem that the messages only spread between some stakeholders. The other is that some people are afraid of talking about technology issues, they are not familiar with technology or with the internet, while some of us always talk in technical jargon that makes people confused and nervous.

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*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

We do not really have gender balance issues in our NRI. We have had many women join the discussion, but with these internet governance issues, I found some women do not have much confidence to express their own opinions in English; even in our native language women tend to hide behind the men. Each MSG member tries to encourage gender balance, we always try to persuade women to join us, but confidence, culture and language can be barriers for them.

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*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

The TWIGF currently has 15 members in the MSG, from technical community, to private enterprise, civic community, government and academia. NIIIEPA also committed to perform the role of TWIGF secretariat. The 2017 TWIGF was successfully held on 17 June 2017. The MSG received a total of 11 workshop proposals, and finally selected seven workshops for the agenda. Each of these workshops has a moderator and four to five panelists, all voluntary and

with free participation. The seven workshop agendas are:

- Controversial speech mitigation, privacy and personal information protection
- Impact of regulation and demand of talent on the internet decentralisation
- Cybersecurity challenges and perspectives in the era of artificial intelligence
- The impact and evolution of the sharing economy
- The multistakeholder governance model to prevent and deal with cyber bullying
- The challenge of internet exchange environment in Taiwan
- Outreach and awareness for internet governance.

Approximately 200 participants attended the meeting, 61% came from private enterprises, 15% were government officials, 14% came from academia, 5% from civic communities and 4% were individuals. All of the meetings were broadcast live on Facebook and have been uploaded on private YouTube channels. The meeting funding mainly came from LINE, CHT and Chief, and other private enterprise companies donated additional funds.

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*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

At present, the TWIGF community is most concerned about the issues including fake news, the sharing economy, network security, privacy and data protection, OTT services, IoT/AI/big data/cloud/blockchain social and policy issues, etc.

These are the new issues on the internet, or the issues relating to ICTs that hit traditional industries. These emerging issues need to be discussed more with different stakeholders to highlight the controversial issues and encourage more people to participate, that is the biggest challenge.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

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*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

The TWIGF is on the one hand aiming to continue to accumulate energy, strengthen Taiwan internet multistakeholders’ active participation, and contribute

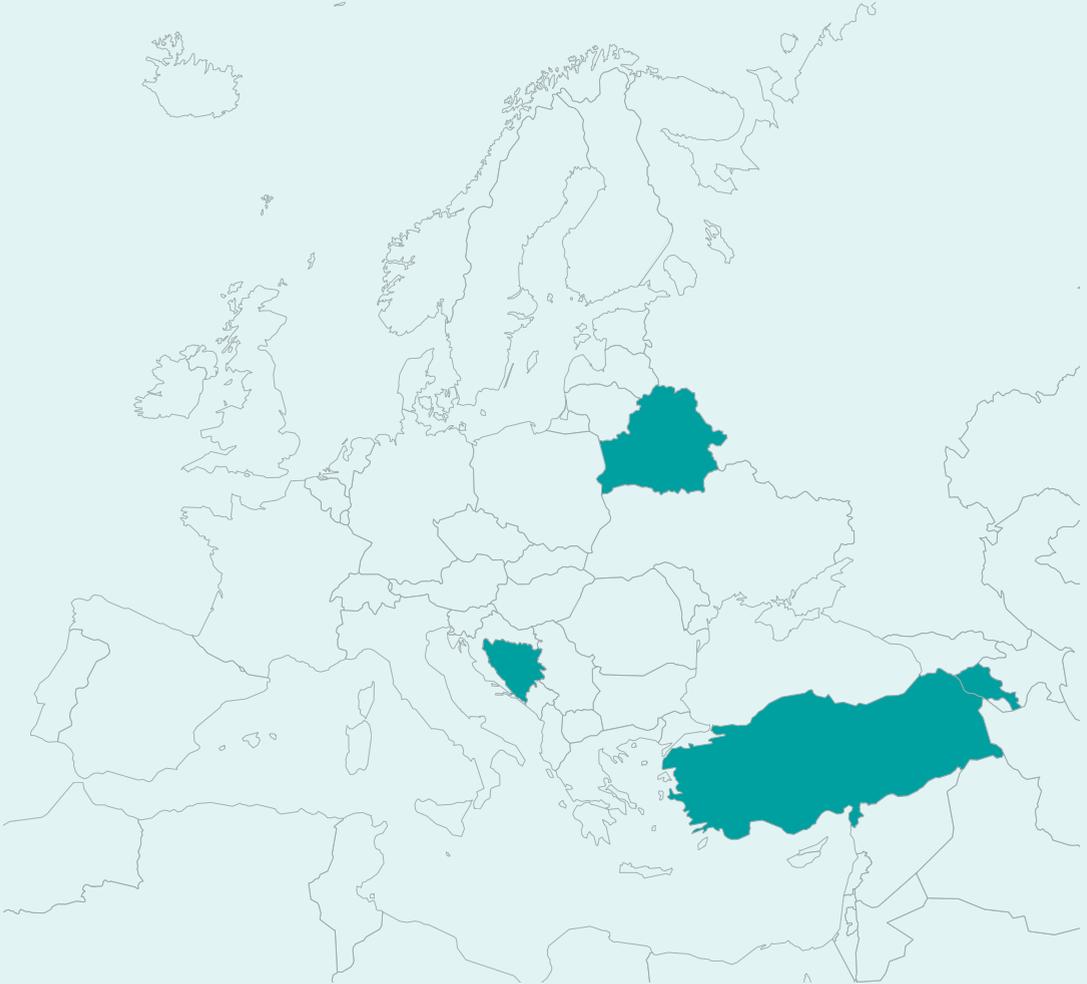
to the local internet ecosystem. On the other hand it aims to play a bridging role between the Asia-Pacific and the global IGF community, and to promote participation, transparency, accountability, and an inclusive multistakeholder governance model that can be truly implemented in the internet governance ecology.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF secretariat?*

TWIGF participants are from different stakeholder groups, and have so far already accumulated enough basic energy, including attracting the attention of the government, especially the National Communications Council and legislators, which have continued to focus on and integrate internet governance into the Digital National Development Promotion Program.

The TWIGF also plays the role of training young people in the IGF meetings and activities to create a community enhancing the capacity of internet governance awareness. This includes the preparation of training materials, planning training agenda, selecting personnel to participate in the IGF, encouraging more people to participate in IGF-related technology discussions and policy meetings. It is also expected to enhance the participation of the IGF community and contribute to the Asia-Pacific region and the global IGF community.

# Eastern Europe



**South Eastern European Dialogue  
on Internet Governance (SEEDIG)**

**Armenia IGF**

**Belarus IGF**

**Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF**

**Youth IGF Turkey**

## SOUTH EASTERN EUROPEAN DIALOGUE ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE (SEEDIG)

### South Eastern Europe

SEEDIG Executive Committee • [see@intgovforum.org](mailto:see@intgovforum.org) •  
Mailing list: <https://lists.rnids.rs/mailman/listinfo/icann-see> • [www.seedig.net](http://www.seedig.net)

*A large part of this testimony, with the agreement of the SEEDIG executive committee, was excerpted from the SEEDIG 2017 annual report.<sup>10</sup> The report was endorsed by the SEEDIG community, and, as such, reflects community views.*

*Additional answers on issues not covered in the report were provided by the SEEDIG Executive Committee.*

### NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI? What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The SEEDIG process was launched in a bottom-up manner, in 2014, as a response to a need, as perceived by the regional internet community, for a platform to facilitate discussions and collaboration on internet-related issues of relevance for the region.

SEEDIG has the following objectives:

- Raise awareness and promote a better understanding of internet governance issues among stakeholders from South Eastern Europe (SEE) and the neighbouring area.
- Build and strengthen the capacity of these stakeholders to actively participate in national, regional, and international internet governance processes.
- Facilitate multistakeholder discussions, exchanges and collaboration on internet-related issues that are of particular concern for stakeholders in the region.
- Contribute to creating linkages between the internet governance realities in the region and the pan-European and global internet governance processes.

SEEDIG aims to function as a process that includes an annual meeting and the related preparatory steps, as well as intersessional activities. This process is planned and run in a bottom-up, open, inclusive, and transparent manner, by the SEEDIG community.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

SEEDIG has started as a bottom-up, community-based initiative, and it has developed in line with the following key principles: open, inclusive, transparent, and multistakeholder. What started in 2015 as a pre-event to EuroDIG [European Dialogue on Internet Governance] has subsequently evolved into a stand-alone initiative. It held two other annual meetings, in April 2016, in Belgrade, Serbia, and in May 2017, in Ohrid, in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Each of these meetings brought together over 150 participants coming from more than 15 countries from SEE and the neighbouring area. In 2017, SEEDIG broadened its capacity development efforts, by launching a SEEDIG Youth School (supported by ICANN), a SEEDIG Meeting Fellowship Programme (supported by the Internet Society), and an Internship Programme. In addition to the annual meeting, SEEDIG has also developed intersessional activities, such as: monthly summaries of internet governance and digital policy developments across the region, monthly SEEhub meetings, surveys, and online meetings with national IGF initiatives in the region.

In terms of challenges, it depends on what we talk about. When it comes to the structure of the community, one challenge could be to get more private sector representatives on board. And to attract more institutional support within the region. But this is also common to many other IGF initiatives. When it comes to administrative issues, our main challenge comes from the fact that we do not have a legal structure that could take care of SEEDIG finances directly. When it comes to our overall process, the fact that SEEDIG has grown so fast over the past three years (from a simple annual meeting to a complex process with more and more activities) has also brought challenges in terms of workload. But the executive committee and the community have been working together on addressing these challenges.

<sup>10</sup> [seedig.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SEEDIG\\_Annual\\_report\\_2017\\_final.pdf](https://seedig.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/SEEDIG_Annual_report_2017_final.pdf)

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*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

It is our hope and commitment to keep SEEDIG growing on a continuous basis, at a pace that allows both the strengthening of current activities, and the development of new ones. All these activities are to be aligned with SEEDIG's mission and objective, and with the overall goal of developing SEEDIG into a space that does not only foster multistakeholder dialogue on internet governance issues, but also has and demonstrates the ability to shape policies for the evolution and use of the internet across our region.

### **NRI internal governance and initiatives**

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*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

The SEEDIG process is shaped by what we call the SEEDIG community. Membership in the SEEDIG community is determined by voluntary participation in a designated public and open mailing list, and/or by participation in SEEDIG activities. The community, which includes stakeholders from all groups (governments, intergovernmental organisations, private sector, technical community, civil society, academia) and from various countries in the region, is open-ended, and anyone interested is welcome to join at any time.

Coordination of SEEDIG activities is done by an executive committee, which is also multistakeholder and regionally diverse.

In addition to the hosts and local institutional partners for SEEDIG annual meetings, the initiative is also supported by a number of regional and global organisations. In 2017, these supporters included Afilias, the Council of Europe, DiploFoundation, the European Commission, EuroDIG, the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the IGF Secretariat, the Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA), Internet Society (ISOC), RIPE Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC), Association for Technology and Internet (ApTI) Romania, ISOC Armenia, ISOC Serbia, Macedonian ICT Chamber of Commerce (MASIT), One World Platform and the Serbian National Internet Registry (RNIDS). Our host for 2017 was the Agency for Electronic Communications, and local institutional partners were the Ministry of Information Society

and Administration and the Macedonian Academic and Research Network.

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*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

As at end July 2017, the dedicated mailing list comprises 137 members from a total of 25 countries: 17 countries that could be considered as part of South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area (90% of all members), and eight countries from beyond this region (10% of all members).

All stakeholder groups are represented:

- Civil society (47%)
- Government (18%)
- Technical community (18%)
- Academia (9%)
- Private sector (6%)
- Intergovernmental organisations (2%).

When it comes to participation in the annual meeting, the stats have varied from one year to another, with a significant shift in 2017, when we saw a significant increase in the participation of governments and private sector: government 33%, civil society 28%, private sector 22%, academia 10%, technical community 4%, media 2%, and IGOs 1%.

These stats show that some stakeholder groups are better represented than others. But having more stakeholders from certain groups does not mean that our activities only reflect the interests of these groups to the detriment of others. At our annual meetings, for example, we make sure that all stakeholder groups have a voice in all sessions. Of course there is more work to be done in diversifying our community, but this is a challenge that is common to most (if not all) IGF initiatives. And we constantly strive to attract new stakeholders into our processes, especially from those groups that have fewer representatives.

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*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

Yes, we measure gender representation both within the mailing list, and at annual meetings. In terms of gender representation on the mailing list, as at end July 2017, 52% of all members were male, and 48% female. With regard to participation in the annual meeting, the stats for our 2017 meeting showed that 47% of all participants were women.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

The preparatory process for SEEDIG 2017, which ran between October 2016 and May 2017, was open to all interested stakeholders, and this was reflected in the growth of the SEEDIG community, in the large number of proposals submitted in response to the call for issues, and in the open-ended nature of the session organising teams. The process was also transparent, as relevant information was made available via the mailing list and published on the SEEDIG website.

The various milestones in this preparatory process are outlined below:

SEEDIG 2017 MILESTONES	
Oct. – Dec. 2016	<b>Joint SEEDIG – EuroDIG call for issues</b> Resulted in 74 proposals for issues to be discussed at the meeting.
14–15 Jan. 2017	<b>Online planning meetings</b> Discussions on the proposed issues and initial planning for SEEDIG 2017. Details in the summary report of the meetings.
28 Jan. 2017	<b>Draft programme outline</b> published Based on the submitted issues and the discussions held at the planning meetings.
Until 5 Feb. 2017	Public comment on the draft programme
Mid Feb. 2017	<b>Final programme outline</b> published
21 Feb. 2017	<b>Briefing for Heads of Missions in Geneva: Digital policy in SEE</b> Organised by the Permanent Mission of Macedonia to the United Nations in Geneva (host country for SEEDIG 2017) and the Geneva Internet Platform.
Feb. 2017	Forming organising teams for sessions
Feb. – May 2017	Organising teams built the sessions
April – May 2017	Survey on Internationalised Domain Names

### Building the sessions:

When defining the sessions, organisation teams acted in line with the Programme guidelines and the Session principles. Each session was built by an open-ended organisation team, made up of interested stakeholders (including those who submitted proposals for SEEDIG). Each team was led by one or

two focal points, and had dedicated contact points within SEEDIG's executive committee.

Organisation teams worked via email exchanges and online meetings. Periodic online meetings, with all organisation teams, were held throughout the preparatory process, to take stock of the progress made and discuss the work ahead. Organisation teams had deadlines for their work. For each session, one online session template was created, containing the various elements that the org teams were to work on. Teams had three subsequent deadlines to complete work on these elements.

The main topics addressed at our 2017 annual meeting are reflected in the programme below:

DIGITAL DEVELOPMENT: TURNING CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES <sup>11</sup> 24 – 25 MAY   OHRID	
<b>Pre-event   24 May</b>	
08.30 - 13.00	SEEDIG Youth School
09.00 - 11.30	SEEDIG Meeting Fellowship Programme
11.30 - 13.00	Meeting of IGF initiatives
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00 - 15.30	(S1) Internet governance: A puzzle or a Tower of Babel?
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee break
16.00 - 17.30	(S2) Need for speed: Broadband challenges, issues, and trends
17.30 - 18.30	SEEDIG Association: discussion
<b>Main event   25 May</b>	
09.00 - 09.30	Opening & Welcoming remarks
09.30 - 11.00	(S3) True or false? Guess! Fake news, misinformation and the role of media literacy
11.00 - 11.30	Speakers' corner & Coffee break
11.30 - 13.00	(S4) How can the Internet of Things develop and be implemented in the right way?
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch break
14.00 - 14.30	Open data: Overview of policies and initiatives in SEE
14.30 - 15.30	(S5) Internationalised domain names (IDNs): Status and perspectives in SEE
15.30 - 16.00	Speakers' corner & Coffee break
16.00 - 17.30	(S6) Cybersecurity: national and regional priorities and cooperation
17.30	Conclusions & Wrap-up

<sup>11</sup> SEEDIG's website contains details about each session, including descriptions, key participants, messages, etc.

*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

Not really. The community has been rather open in suggesting topics to be addressed at the annual meeting, and since the programme is built by the community itself, there is usually agreement as to what topics to be addressed and from what perspective. We cannot say that there have been situations when a topic was controversial and has led to difficulties.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

In the region, SEEDIG is constantly striving to inspire others. And we have seen national IGF initiatives being created after stakeholders saw the value of IGF processes at SEEDIG meetings. Our annual meetings serve as a space for exchanges of ideas, good practices, experiences, etc. when it comes to addressing internet governance challenges specific to our countries. It is our long term goal that SEEDIG becomes a space that actors from the region would turn to when in need of ideas (be they examples of good practices shared by other community members or simply joint brainstorming exercises) and support for their work on internet governance issues.

When it comes to the broader regional and global level, our work gets more and more visibility. Our supporting organisations have played a major role here, and so has our own community. Carrying on SEEDIG messages, and spreading the word about our work have helped to attract more attention within the European and global internet governance processes. But one thing is sure: SEE and the neighbouring area is a region whose presence is now more visible at least within the EuroDIG and the IGF processes, compared to three years ago. And we are extremely proud when our work is mentioned as an example of good practice.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

SEEDIG has been inspired by the IGF and EuroDIG, and is maintaining close connections with them. In

doing so, SEEDIG is acting in line with its objective of creating synergies between local internet governance realities (concerns, challenges, etc.) and the pan-European and global processes. In addition to benefiting from support from both the IGF and EuroDIG, SEEDIG also feeds into these two processes. Within South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area, SEEDIG has created a channel of communication with national IGF initiatives, and is seeking to support these initiatives to the extent possible.

## Global level

There are several ways in which SEEDIG contributes to the global IGF:

- Submission of annual meeting reports (including messages from SEEDIG sessions), as contributions from the SEE community.
- Participation in annual IGF meetings.
- In 2016, for example, SEEDIG held a side-event in the context of the 11th IGF meeting. It was also involved in the preparation of the main session dedicated to national and regional IGF initiatives (NRIs), and it participated in this session with messages from SEEDIG 2016. This year, SEEDIG is closely involved in the planning of NRIs presence at the 12th IGF meeting.
- Contribution to IGF intersessional activities.
- To the extent possible, SEEDIG responds to calls for contributions to IGF intersessional activities. In 2016, for example, it provided input into phase II of the intersessional project “Policy options for connecting and enabling the next billion(s)”.
- Participation in regular NRIs online meetings, organised by the IGF Secretariat.

## European level

Since its creation, SEEDIG has been working together with EuroDIG on building and strengthening synergies between the two initiatives. These synergies have materialised in several ways:

### Joint call for issues

Following the 2016 experience, a joint call for issues marked the start of the preparatory processes for the 2017 EuroDIG and SEEDIG annual meetings. For the second time in a row, this joint milestone created the framework for better understanding what internet governance issues are seen as relevant

both in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area, and in the wider Europe.

#### Participation in annual EuroDIG meetings

As is the case with the global IGF, SEEDIG messages from the annual meeting are presented at EuroDIG as well. In 2017, this was done in the framework of a flash session, which also featured discussions on how SEEDIG could improve moving forward. In addition, following the joint call for issues, it turned out that most of the topics tackled at SEEDIG also featured in the EuroDIG programme, and this further facilitated the inclusion of SEE views into the EuroDIG discussions. Members of the SEEDIG community actively participated in the planning and running of EuroDIG sessions. Moreover, several SEEDIG fellows and participants in the Youth School were also selected for the YOUthDIG programme, further contributing to strengthening the connections between the two initiatives.

#### *National level*

Many countries in South Eastern Europe and the neighbouring area have developed national IGF initiatives over the past years. There are also several countries which are on the way of launching such initiatives. SEEDIG has been working on fostering communication with and between these initiatives, and has offered to support them in their activities.

#### Online meetings

Starting December 2015, SEEDIG has been facilitating online meetings with interested national IGF initiatives from the region. These meetings represent an opportunity to discuss and exchange information on issues such as challenges and success stories from national IGFs, modalities in which SEEDIG could assist in building or strengthening

national IGFs, and ways in which national IGFs could contribute to the SEEDIG process.

#### Participation of national IGFs at the SEEDIG annual meeting

National IGF initiatives have been active contributors to the SEEDIG process. Starting 2016, a slot is reserved in the SEEDIG programme for a meeting with national IGFs (also attended by EuroDIG and the IGF Secretariat). In 2017, this meeting was held on Day 0, and it brought together representatives of existing and in-formation IGF initiatives from across the region. Discussions revolved mainly around challenges faced by these initiatives, as well as sharing of experiences on how some of these challenges have been addressed by some IGFs. It was agreed at this session to continue the series of online meetings, as they would serve as a good opportunity for IGF initiatives to stay in touch with each other, exchange experiences and good practices, and learn from each other.

#### Contribution of national IGFs to SEEDIG intersessional activities

Members of national IGF initiatives have been active contributors to SEEDIG intersessional activities, such as the monthly summaries of internet governance developments, the monthly SEE hub meetings, and the surveys run by SEEDIG.

#### SEEDIG at national IGF meetings

SEEDIG strives, to the extent possible, to participate in annual meetings of national IGF initiatives, as part of its outreach and communication efforts. Examples of IGF initiatives meetings attended by members of the SEEDIG executive committee include: Armenia IGF, Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF, Croatia IGF, Georgia IGF, and Slovenia IGF.



## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI? What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

For many years, Internet Society (ISOC) Armenia in cooperation with the Ministry of Transport and Communication of Armenia tried to gather all stakeholder groups to discuss the emerging issues in regard to internet governance. In view of the preparation for the WCIT-12 meeting in Dubai, UAE, the Ministry prepared a document which was later ratified by the Prime Minister of Armenia as the Internet Governance Principles, while a multistakeholder Internet Governance Council (IGC) was established in 2014 by order of the Prime Minister. ISOC Armenia, a not-for-profit organisation, was appointed to the Secretariat of the IGC. One of the objectives of the IGC is the organisation of the national Armenia IGF (ArmlIGF).

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

ArmlIGF has been developing smoothly. We had the third edition in 2017. The difficulty during the formation phase was the lack of established ways of cooperation among the state, the private sector and the civil society. The other difficulty was the lack of an output document for the IGF itself, a mandatory requirement, which decreases the interest of governmental policy makers to participate in the forum.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

One of the activities envisaged consists in research of the questions tackled in the forum. The results can later be presented to the government and become projects funded by the state. The other intersessional activity is the establishment of the Armenian School on Internet Governance, which was successfully launched in 2017 by ISOC Armenia, being the Secretariat for the ArmlIGF.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

As a multistakeholder group, the IGC is composed of: governmental representatives (the head of the Council is the Deputy Minister of Transport, Communication and IT of Armenia, another member is from the Ministry of Economy), as well as the police and national security service representatives, who are also members of the Council. From the technical community there are major operators and ISP representatives; the private sector counts the Chamber of Commerce and Union of IT Enterprises; civil society is composed of ISOC Armenia and academia, including the National Academy of Sciences and the National Library of Armenia, while the media is present through the Association of Media Agencies and the Yerevan Press Club.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

We have not faced real difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully as members of IGC.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

We have never measured gender balance in the IGC as the representatives in the Council are being nominated by their organisations. As for the ArmlIGF, we always pay attention to have a gender balance among panelists and encourage gender-balanced participation among all participants.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

The last ArmlIGF was held on 2 October 2017. We had 130 participants representing all stakeholder groups. The topics of the programme were as follows:

- Panel sessions: Information security, IPTV – Impact of internet on TV and radio, and Libraries in digital age.
- Individual presentations: Root zone KSK rollover update, Rights of people with disabilities, Open Government Partnership, Cloud technologies and Personal data protection.

For the third annual national IGF we received funding support from ISOC, ICANN, the Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA), RIPE NCC as well as from local organisations such as ISOC Armenia, Microsoft Armenia and in-kind support in terms of providing the internet from Arminco, a local ISP.

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*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

The topic of informational security was the controversial one. It covered issues which did not have a clear definition in the country and discussing parties had no clear attitude in this regard. The other controversial topic was the OTT services, the impact of the internet on TV and radio. The participants underlined that the licensing of local TV channels gave unequal conditions to internet TV sites distributing the same TV content without any licensing.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

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*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

The local community still has to learn what the internet governance processes are and what their role in them is. ISOC Armenia makes endeavours towards this objective by intersessional activities within the country. As for the regional and global level, we actively participate and contribute to the regional meetings such as SEEDIG (South Eastern European Dialogue on Internet Governance) and EuroDIG (European Dialogue on Internet Governance) as well as in the global IGF.

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*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

By our active participation we work towards strengthening the linkages with other national IGFs (Ukraine IGF, Georgia IGF, Belarus IGF, Russia IGF), the (sub)regional IGFs (SEEDIG, Central Asia IGF, EuroDIG) and the global IGF.

# BELARUS IGF

Belarus

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

Belarus is well known for its struggling for open and transparent internet governance. Two years ago we felt a strong necessity to create a platform where different multistakeholder groups can speak out and be heard. During the creation of the Belarus IGF we headed for the experience of the nearest neighbours, Russia (RIGF) and the global experience (IGF). The Belarus IGF was first held on 16 May 2016. The main objectives of the forum are:

- To create a platform for national dialogue on internet governance.
- To encourage various stakeholder groups (including representatives of government, business, civil society, media, academic and technical communities) to contribute to the development of the internet in Belarus.
- To share the best ideas and practices on internet governance and the internet developments that may be used for the development of the internet in Belarus.
- To increase participation of Belarus in the global dialogue on internet governance.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

The first Belarus IGF unfortunately could not achieve the representation of different stakeholder groups within one session, despite the fact that all the stakeholders were invited and visited the event. Nevertheless, a year later we have reached that goal and different stakeholders could express their opinion within one session of the IGF. As a result, the second Belarus IGF had specific, measurable results that in particular affected the open data development in Belarus.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

We hope for more trust from different stakeholder groups that may allow a more open dialogue within the Belarus IGF. We are also planning to have a bigger volume of involvement of the youth into the decision making process.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

The Steering Committee was created for the purpose of organising the Belarus IGF. Members of the Steering Committee represent the following stakeholder groups: government, civil society and business. The Steering Committee and its members are fully involved in the organising process: from the agenda creation to the management of the event. So, for example, this year the representatives of civil society have held a pre-event (one day before the Belarus IGF) so that all the people interested could have a better understanding and involvement into the current topics of Belarus IGF and into the IGF in general.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

We did not face any heavy difficulties in ensuring that all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

Yes, we measure gender balance during the registration of the participants.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

The Belarus IGF is organised in full accordance to the principles of the global IGF. The topics of discussion were:

- Internet of Things internet governance: Trends and reality
- Electronic government protection of personal data security on the internet
- Infrastructure of open data in Belarus
- Regional problems of internet development.

The outcomes of discussions are published online.<sup>12</sup> The Belarus IGF was supported by partners and sponsors including: ICANN, RIPE NCC, the Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA), and others. The full list of the partners can be found on the official Belarus IGF site.<sup>13</sup>

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*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

The highest attention was drawn to the e-governance and open data in Belarus sessions.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

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*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

At the level of our country, the Belarus IGF is a unique platform for open dialogue between multistakeholder groups. It is the first platform of the kind, where different stakeholders can discuss their opinions personally and influence the internet governance processes. Regionally and globally, the Belarus IGF gives its indisputable contribution to the popularisation of main internet governance principles.

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*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

The representatives of the Belarus IGF visit other NRIs to exchange experiences on the organisation of the IGF.

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<sup>12</sup> <https://igf.by/BelarusIGF-2017-en.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> <https://igf.by>

# BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA IGF

Bosnia and Herzegovina

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF (BHIGF) takes great pride in being inspired and learning from best practices of sub-regional and regional initiatives such as SEEDIG and EuroDIG, as well as the global IGF. Apart from aiming to start the dialogue on internet governance, the national IGF also aimed to create more sustainable internet-related dialogue by creating linkages between neighbouring countries' national IGF initiatives and inspiring new internet governance dialogues with fresh perspectives and approaches.

It arose from the need to gather relevant and interested stakeholders from the whole country for the first time in one same place to discuss the real current state, necessities and emerging internet-related issues in an informal manner. In order to have a bottom-up process, the existence of regional, sub-regional and national IGF processes is essential. Many different stakeholder groups in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) are active in their own fields of expertise, but there has always been a lack of inter-stakeholder collaboration, and it was about time for BiH to join the dialogue on internet governance on the regional and global levels – starting with a national IGF initiative. Because of the strong need to bring the perspective of BiH in internet governance issues, the first Internet Governance Forum in Bosnia and Herzegovina was initiated in 2015.

The objectives of the BHIGF are to:

- Raise awareness and promote a better understanding of the internet as an open platform for all stakeholders (government, business sector, civil society, technical community, academia, media).
- Contribute to a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities stakeholders have in internet governance. Do we need a national strategy?

- Create a framework for discussions on the role of the internet in empowering the exercise of human rights and promoting the rule of law and democracy.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

The BHIGF was initiated by the civil society organisation One World Platform Foundation. It was organised in collaboration with Communications Regulatory Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On the international level, the BHIGF initiative was supported from the start by Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), the Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC), the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA). Two years later, we still manage to get support from the above-mentioned organisations. We are very thankful for their support, but since this is a national initiative, we have to find the model for self-sustainability. Funding and support are always challenging. Another issue is how to attract certain stakeholders such as media, business and the technical community. In 2015, representation was as follows: media 5%, technical community 8% and private sector 6%. In 2016, representation was as follows: media 4.5%, technical community 5% and private sector 7.5%.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

With great hope, for the third year in a row, BHIGF encourages all state actors to actively participate in relevant policy spaces, join regional and global processes and contribute with their views and experiences. Our vision is to actively involve a broader community of all stakeholder representatives, not only to be participants but to take an active role in shaping the forum itself. They should recognise the

forum as their own, their own space where they can bring current and relevant issues to the table and shape internet governance in BiH.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

Since the beginning, the core organising committee stayed the same, only the people changed.

One World Platform (NGO) was one of the initiators. People that were involved were: Aida Mahmutovic (left the organisation at the end of 2015), Belma Kucukalic (left in 2017), Valentina Pellizzer (from the beginning and still actively involved), Valida Hromadzic (from the beginning and still actively involved). One World Platform is the driving force of the forum. We are doing the fundraising, providing all logistical support, maintaining contacts with panellists. Also, some of our members were co-moderators and delivered joint conclusions together with representatives of the Regulatory Agency. From the Ministry of Foreign Affairs we have Mr. Nebojsa Regoje. He is our contact with the parliament since we organise a parliament tour for the students (special programme designed for students). Mr. Regoje suggests and provides us with contacts who potentially can be participants or funders. Mr. Regoje also does the press statements at the beginning of the forum.

Communications Regulatory Agency: Amela Odobasic, Suada Hadzovic and Emir Povlakic. They provide the forum with sign language translation as well as press statements. They provide the committee with the relevant telecom operators. University Tele-informatic Centre (UTIC) is the TLD. They advise on current tele-informatics development in the country and related issues. Currently, we work with Mr. Elmedin Selmanovic, director of UTIC. Previously we worked with then-director Mr. Sasa Mrdovic.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

As mentioned before, we have difficulties to ensure that all stakeholders are represented equally. Media, the technical community, and business are not represented as much as civil society or the government.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

Yes, we do measure gender balance. In 2015 gender representation was as follows: female 48%, male 52%. In 2016 gender representation was female 55%, male 45%.

As a civil society organisation with the focus on internet rights and women's rights, we do our best to ensure gender balance representation in panels. We cannot affect equal representation among participants very much, but for the past two years, the picture looked pretty good.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

Aside from the main event, the forum itself, we have been organising "Day o", a day dedicated and specifically tailored for 30 students from all over the country. We had the opening presentation done by Ana Gaskon-Marcen from the Council of Europe, "What is internet freedom? – The response of the Council of Europe", which was inspired by the Recommendation of the Committee of Ministers to member states on internet freedom. The presentation included a number of indicators and their statuses in BiH, such as freedom to access the internet, freedom of the media and personal data protection. We used the opportunity that the presentation was held in the State Parliament building and provided students with the tour and a short presentation. For some students, this was a unique opportunity to be in the building crucial for politics in BiH.

The last part of the agenda for students was reserved for a conversation with representatives of civil society organisations from Europe. In particular, they had the opportunity to talk with representatives from Metamorphosis (Macedonia), BlueLink (Bulgaria), GreenNet (UK), StrawberryNet (Romania), Rolf Kleef as an independent member of APC (from the Netherlands) and representatives of APC.

The main event: "What is ICANN? NextGen@ICANN – Programme for Youth" included the following:

- Panel I: Universal access – Are we all equal?
- Panel II: Security, extremism online and the freedom of media
- Panel III: Human rights and business in the internet economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The 2016 Forum was financed by Afilias, ICANN, IGfSA, APC, CoE and OSCE.

*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

So far we have not had controversial topics.

### **Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance**

*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

As a civil society organisation whose main programmes are internet rights and women's rights, we believe it is our duty to bring internet governance issues to our country. Currently, we are the only civil society organisation in our organising committee, so without us, human rights as an issue would not be presented. We also insist on gender balanced representation. Another added value is that at least one of us is always present at regional or global IGFs, therefore we are able to share learnings and trends with our community at the national level, but also we share our best practices as an NRI with other NRIs from the region. When it comes to the regional IGF (SEEDIG), One World Platform along with other civil society organisations ensure that human rights are always present on at least one panel, by proposing relevant topics.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

As mentioned above, we are very open to cooperation with other NRIs. We have been part of other NRIs' panels, we contribute to the monthly summaries prepared on the regional level. We offer our experts to be if not on a panel, then to moderate the panels, which we have done in the past. At the same time, we do our best to promote the work of other NRIs.

Through collaboration with other NRIs we have created new connections and networks but the old ones were also strengthened. We share our knowledge but we also learn from others. When it comes to the IGF, our representative is present thanks to APC. As a civil society organisation, we would not be able to be present nor to contribute at the global level otherwise.

# YOUTH IGF TURKEY

## Turkey

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The Youth IGF Turkey started out of a partnership of the Turkey-Europe Foundation and Network of European Digital Youth as part of an Erasmus+ project of the European Union for a period of two years in 2015. The objective of the NRI was to initiate a public discussion on issues related to internet governance and bring salience to the notion of the multistakeholder principle in Turkey, and a plurality of voices that affect policies, while presenting youth with a platform to discuss problems and possible solutions in the area of digital rights and liberties in the country.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

While in the first year the number of applicants to join the forum and participate in the discussions was much higher, in the aftermath of the 15 July coup attempt in Turkey and the declaration of State of Emergency Rule, both interest in application to the forum and participation in discussions has dropped significantly. Although there was still a covert intention by various people, developments regarding arrest of citizens for social media activities and shutting down of digital portals and news platforms have had a discouraging effect on possible participants. Although many problems and delays have taken place, the forum has been conducted successfully and grown even bigger in its second year; with an extended capacity for the third year.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

The growth of Youth IGF Turkey – despite all the negative developments of the past year and State of Emergency Rule – the organising team has grown to a bigger capacity and more solid partnerships have been founded for the third year of the NRI,

which has become a sustainable forum by now. In the future, the NRI has the possibility of initiating bi-monthly discussion forums and the creation of a national IGF in Turkey, training more young people in the field of internet governance and multiplying the effects of IGF discussions in the wider region and European continent, echoing in Turkey.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

Journalists, researchers, members of civil society, lawyers, young professionals and students have taken active part in planning, coordinating and conducting the Youth IGF Turkey meetings so far. Organisers dedicate their time, energy and efforts to the actualisation of annual plans to prepare the forum for young participants; starting with drafting the call for issues-submission, agenda setting, outlining the timeline of activities, setting the forum and moderating discussions, as well as reporting and monitoring activities.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

Due to the tense atmosphere under the State of Emergency Rule, invited representatives of the private sector showed unwillingness to participate in the forum “in order not to risk investigation, financial fines or persecution” as any critical comment or evaluation during the forum “might be linked to businesses and this would harm the professional image.” This tendency was linked to the detention and arrest of thousands of civilians under the State of Emergency Rule; and has contributed to under-representation of state-related or business-related stakeholders.

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*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

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Gender balance is highly aimed for at the Youth IGF Turkey. During the selection process of participants from among applicants through the open call, a 50% quota for male/female ratio has been applied. However, as participation has not been confirmed in the first two years of the forum, in the first year there was a much higher presence of female participants while in the second year there were more males. In 2017 this imbalance will be overcome through confirmation calls to accepted applicants.

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*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

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The funding of the latest Youth IGF Turkey has been through the Erasmus+ project between the Network of European Digital Youth (NERDY) and Türkiye Avrupa Vakfı (TAV), a NERDY partner organisation. Pirate Party MEP Julia Reda sent a message to the forum meeting prior to the event, and her statement was also forwarded to participants. There were three sessions at this year's event: e-entrepreneurship, data, and rights on the net. The first session was on e-entrepreneurship, and Canan Dö lü of Kidimami App presented her business as a start-up; the discussion focused on opportunities and hardships in investments and starting a business in Turkey. Later Gökhan Biçici of Dokuz8 Citizen-Journalism News Agency talked about the media in Turkey and the need for citizen-based initiatives, expanding the circle of network and building trust among readers. Professor Aslı Telli Aydemir also briefly mentioned the Güniversite initiative,<sup>14</sup> designed to give e-trainings and online lectures to people at university level by academics without time and place limitations. As a final statement in the e-entrepreneurship session, there was also mention of an important topic of last year's Youth IGF, when there was a session on fact-checking and verification of news sources. There was a participant from "Do ruluk Payı" (Some Truth) at the IGF and Teyit.org (a recent initiative set up to verify news) was mentioned.

The afternoon session started with the first topic of data. Two lawyers who are also Youth IGF Turkey organisation committee members, Bentley Yaffe and Selin Kaledelen, opened the discussion.

Among the topics discussed in this session were storage of data by private and state sources, uses of data, advertising, data leaks and hacking, underage presence and protection of underage children's information online. There was also mention of Manuel Castells' "Network Society" works and writings in this session. Finally, as part of data and protection of private data, the "right to be forgotten" was talked of, starting with the case of Mario Costeja Gonzalez and addressing the issue from a right to information vs. right to be forgotten aspect regarding more recent examples.

The third and last session was on rights on the net, and opening remarks were made by activist Murat Çekiç who talked of his knowledge and experiences on the right to exist on the internet beyond rights advocacy. In this session there were discussions on anti-LGBTI censorship online, nationalisation on the net, internet nostalgia, as well as hate speech and free expression. Final remarks mentioned the repeated will to initiate a national IGF for 2017, which was not possible due to many reasons in 2016; and monthly digital talks initiating a deeper discussion for each sub-topic in the coming year as well as having extended relations in terms of approaching digital issues from multidisciplinary perspectives.

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*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

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The rights on the net theme was a popular one among the participants theoretically; however, when the time came for discussion, many were reluctant to speak during forum hours. This was in connection with the application of the State of Emergency Rule mostly, as the same participants actually continued discussion in break times.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

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*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

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Youth IGF Turkey participants currently continue their research, writing and studying. There are several people who have represented the NRI in regional and international events, sharing local experience and knowledge with their peers. However, this could be extended to an even higher level. Moreover, the level of contribution to the national internet governance

agenda has practically been non-existent so far, yet this is due to civil society's lack of leverage in policy-making processes currently. In the coming years this has the potential to change and participants of the Youth IGF Turkey will then be ready to share their expertise with other stakeholders.

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*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

It is quite significant to continue organising forums in Turkey, discuss and debate issues related to internet

governance and digital rights and liberties; mainly due to the severity of the situation in Turkey and to compile Turkish internet users' practical and official channels of solution-finding processes, so that this can be shared globally. The level of discussion in Turkey under these conditions might be appearing not at the desirable level, yet the growing interest in the culture of discussion and creative solutions to practical internet governance-related problems within Turkey would contribute to the working mechanism of various other NRIs and even come up with new themes/topics for the IGF in the future.

# Latin America and the Caribbean



**Barbados IGF**

**Ecuador IGF**

**Panama IGF**

**Trinidad and Tobago Multistakeholder  
Advisory Group (TTMAG)**

**Youth IGF Uruguay**

**Youth LACIGF**

# BARBADOS IGF

## Barbados

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI? What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

In 2015 and 2016 I, Ashell Forde, had the opportunity to attend global IGF. I was also able to attend Caribbean IGF in 2016 where I learned that while Caribbean IGF was the oldest IGF in the world, there were no national IGFs in the English-speaking Caribbean. This encouraged my colleagues and I to work towards organising Barbados' first IGF. The main objectives were to introduce Barbadians to internet governance issues; increase the participation of Barbadians in regional and global internet governance fora; and bring the concerns of the local Barbadian community to regional and global IGF meetings.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

We leveraged the newly formed Internet Society chapter in order to organise the IGF. Members representing all stakeholder groups volunteered to work on the organising committee. We experienced challenges including:

- Being unable to cover all relevant issues
- Lack of an adequate number of volunteers
- Not being able to accommodate a large number of attendees.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

A comprehensive report<sup>15</sup> was produced after our first IGF. It included 12 recommendations. I imagine that we will focus our activities throughout the year on working on the recommendations and reporting on these activities in subsequent IGF meetings. We also hope to develop a youth IGF initiative.

<sup>15</sup> [https://www.giswatch.org/sites/default/files/images/bigf2017\\_report.pdf](https://www.giswatch.org/sites/default/files/images/bigf2017_report.pdf)

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

The Barbados IGF steering committee currently comprises about 15 volunteers from government, private sector, civil society, technical community and academia. The committee meets as necessary to organise the annual meeting and to produce reports. The committee members divide administrative and other tasks between them. They also use their professional and personal contacts to solicit donations and volunteers to handle work of the IGF.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

Yes. The technical community is by far the most engaged and active group. We are working with the ISOC chapter to encourage more non-technical persons to get involved.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

Not at this time. We did not feel it was necessary for the inaugural meeting as interest and attendance was not heavily skewed toward either gender.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

The organising committee did the work of determining the topics, format and administration of the forum. The broad topics discussed were:

- Barbadian Participation in Internet Governance
- Internet Law
- Cybercrime and Cybersecurity
- The Internet and Activism
- The Internet Economy.

The outcome was a detailed report<sup>16</sup> including recommendations in the following areas:

- Education and Awareness Building Programme
- Increasing Participation in Global IG Fora
- National Cyber Security
- Internet Legislation
- Internet Activism
- Digital Economy
- Barbados Internet Governance Forum.

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*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

The discussions of the adequacy of the Computer Misuse Act and the effectiveness and relevance of internet activism were the most engaging but stopped short of being truly controversial. We did not have significant difficulty with any particular topic.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

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*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

We believe NRIs play an important role in facilitating local discussion to develop solutions to local issues and educate the community. The NRIs also play a role in communicating the challenges of local communities to regional and global initiatives.

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*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

We think that we can assist newly formed NRIs by sharing our experiences. We also believe that producing and sharing our reports can assist the work of IGF and the IGF Secretariat so that it is truly global and inclusive.

# ECUADOR IGF

## Ecuador

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI? What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

Please refer to [www.isoc.org.ec](http://www.isoc.org.ec) and [www.igfecuador.ec](http://www.igfecuador.ec) for details.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

We began organising working groups and integrating different sectors and actors into what we call the Mesa Ecuatoriana de Gobernanza de Internet, MEGI. This group organised the first official IGF in 2016 and now we are working towards the second. The main difficulties have been the same ones that face very volunteer-based processes, related to financial resources and participants' time.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

As a more active and strengthened community, making a greater contribution.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

We have members from the different stakeholder groups. We participate in meetings, and we work collaboratively for the development of an agenda and the adoption of decisions related to the Ecuador IGF.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

The greatest difficulty has been with government participation. The other sectors participate much more freely and proactively.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

We have not done it up until now, but we have participants who are specialists on the subject working on related issues for the upcoming Ecuador IGF 2017.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

Details available at: [www.isoc.org.ec](http://www.isoc.org.ec) and at [www.igfecuador.ec](http://www.igfecuador.ec)

*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

No.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

We are part of a global process. We have little contact with the regional IGF, which needs to improve its integration and participation processes.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

We are part of a balanced and proactive team.

# PANAMA IGF

## Panama

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The initial talks around establishing an internet governance community in Panama date back to April 2013, when the government hosted the 5th South School on Internet Governance (SSIG). This event was organised by the National Authority for Governmental Innovation (AIG) and the South School on Internet Governance (SSIG), and aimed at training and motivating Latin Americans to join the international debate on internet governance. The event brought important actors involved in the internet governance ecosystem in Latin America to Panama, and mobilised representatives of the public sector – such as AIG, the National Authority of Public Services (ASEP) and the Ministry of Commerce and Industries (MICI) – as well as the academic and technical community of the country, represented by the Network Information Centre of the Technological University of Panama (UTP), better known as NIC-Panama. A year later, in April 2014, a group of key players from the Panamanian digital ecosystem met at the NETmundial event in Brazil, which brought together different stakeholders around the world to discuss and shape the principles of internet governance. The same group met once again at the 7th LACIGF, held in San Salvador, El Salvador in 2014, and at the 8th LACIGF in Mexico City, in 2015. Back in Panama, they engaged in a series of meetings with the purpose of putting together representatives of the different parties interested in the development of internet governance in the country. During 2016, prior to the 9th LACIGF held in Costa Rica in July, IPANDETEC organised a series of three public forums to inform and involve a broader audience, such as teachers, students, business people and government entities not already involved in internet governance, and civil society in general. Through a series of six meetings convened by IPANDETEC (civil society), and sponsored by AIG and ASEP (public sector), UTP (technical and academic sector) and the Panamanian Chamber of Information, Innovation and Telecommunications (CAPATEC) (business sector), a working group

was created to reinforce the commitment of all stakeholders. This process culminated in the organisation of the first Dialogue Table in April 2017, just when the Panama chapter of the Internet Society was established and shortly after the nomination of IPANDETEC as the host organisation of the 10th LACIGF. Throughout this process, establishing the national internet governance forum was facilitated by both regional and international governance forums. In particular, by putting together experts from different sectors of the Panamanian society, both the NETmundial and the LACIGF played an important role in fostering the creation of a group made up of people engaged in internet governance topics in Panama. The two regional initiatives also helped by providing the expertise and the contacts of people in other countries across the world who shared best practices in establishing a national and regional community focused on internet governance

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

The process is better explained in the previous question. However, the main difficulty was to include some actors who were not very keen on joining the IGF talks from the start, especially from the public sector. In Panama, it is still a challenge to involve actors from the government, beyond the participation of the AIG.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

We imagine it to be a forum to discuss policies and foster the agenda of digital rights in Panama, involving stakeholders from different sectors.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

IPANDETEC (civil society), AIG and ASEP (public sector), UTP (technical and academic sector) and the Panamanian Chamber of Information,

Innovation and Telecommunications (CAPATEC) (business sector).

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

The main difficulty is to ensure a more active and constant participation of the government, and a greater involvement of the private sector, since other stakeholders have been active and participating constantly in the discussions.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

We believe that gender balance is respected in all the meetings and events we have organised so far.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

It was sponsored by the AIG and ASEP. The topics were chosen by committees defined in our meetings prior to the event.

*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

No response was provided to this question.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

No response was provided to this question.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

No response was provided to this question.

## TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO MULTISTAKEHOLDER ADVISORY GROUP (TTMAG)

### Trinidad and Tobago

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### NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The Trinidad and Tobago Network Information Centre (TTNIC) manages the registration and maintenance of all domains that end in the .tt suffix. The Trinidad and Tobago Multistakeholder Advisory Group (TTMAG) was formed out of consultations with internet stakeholders on the .tt country code top-level domain (ccTLD) held by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in 2009. A multistakeholder management model was preferred by most stakeholders, which subscribed to the General Principles of Internet Governance. A Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) was considered a fair and legitimate way to develop ccTLD policy. Given customer and stakeholder requests to update the .tt user experience, the MAG was also suggested as a way to have the TTNIC continue to focus on technical excellence, and have the MAG deal with marketing, policy and other less technical issues. TTNIC discussed with many stakeholder organisations, and accepted volunteers to form the Interim MAG. The Interim MAG determined the initial structure and the terms of reference of the MAG, registered the company, and confirmed the stakeholder organisations participating, towards forming the formal TTMAG. The formal TTMAG was constituted in September 2015. Stakeholders included: the government, internet users, academia, the technical community, civil society, business/SMEs.

The purpose of the TTMAG is to be an independent entity for the promotion and development of best practice policy standards for the .tt ccTLD and the local internet ecosystem in the interest of the internet community, with the following objectives:

- To serve the needs of any specific, cohesive community of interest and the local internet community in the context of internet evolution, particularly in education, internet infrastructure development, internet standards and experimentation, public policies and regulatory coordination regarding internet content and services, and contributing to internet governance.

- To promote activities consistent with .tt ccTLD's role and purposes in Trinidad and Tobago.
- To generally encourage the above objectives through projects and initiatives to increase awareness and local participation.
- To represent the local internet community at conferences and meetings.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

History of .tt towards TTMAG :

- Delegated to Patrick Hosein by Jon Postel in 1993.
- .tt subscribed to a multiple stakeholder ethos, including UWI, technical community, and internet users in the ccTLD management generally in an informal way.
- The company TTNIC was created in 1995 to administer the ccTLD.
- The government of T&T became interested in re-delegation since 1997.
- Several government-initiated multistakeholder consultations to discuss the “way forward” took place from 1997 to 2010.
- The government attempts to re-delegate .tt to itself since 1997. Last, most serious attempt in 2009. This consisted of research projects that considered the various kinds of governance models existing, the environments, including economic, political governance etc., the size of academic institutions in the country etc. Consultations held with stakeholders from academia, tech, ISP, business, civil society, government.
- Results of the consultation led to a consensus by the stakeholders that they preferred not to have a government-led system. The multistakeholder management model was preferred by most stakeholders because of the lack of trust from stakeholders in government-only systems.
- Subscription to the General Principles of Internet Governance. Given that NIC.tt was focused on technical excellence, but there were customer and stakeholder requests

to update user experience, a MAG was considered a fair and legitimate way to develop ccTLD policy. Determined that a multistakeholder board model to determine policy and to manage everything except technical issues should be formed with the following stakeholder groups: government, internet users, academia, technical community, civil society, business/SMEs.

- The formal TT MAG was constituted in September 2015.

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*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

- Expand .tt domain use and sales
- Work to support the creation and work to support the creation and growth of: local content, local e-commerce, local hosting, local ICT development, support other regional ccTLDs, consultancy services, TT Internet events - such as TTIGF
- Increased participation in international and regional policy fora.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

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*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

Current members of the TT MAG:

Academic: The University of the West Indies (UWI), University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT)

Technical: Trinidad and Tobago Computer Society (TTCS), The Internet Society (ISOC)

Civil society: Rotary Club

Government: National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST)

Business: Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries (TTCSI), Trinidad and Tobago Network Information Centre (TTNIC).

Chairman: Dr Sanjay Bahadoorsingh – Academic Community Representative (UWI)

Vice Chairman: Dev Teelucksingh – Technical Community Representative (TTCS)

Corporate Secretary: Cintra Sooknanan

Treasurer: Rabindra Jaggernaut – Business community representative (TTCSI)

Technical Officer: Dev Gosine – Civil society (Rotary Club)

Director: George Gobin – ccTLD (TTNIC)

Director: Tracy F. Hackshaw – Technical community representative (ISOCTT)

Director: Professor Patrick Hosein – ccTLD representative (TTNIC)

Director: Jacqueline A. Morris – Academic community representative (UTT)

Director: Ajmal Nazir – Technical community representative (TTIX)

Director: Robert Martinez – Government representative (NIHERST)

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*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

You will always experience this challenge in any environment.

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*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

TTMAG has developed a by-law relating to the conduct of the affairs of the company to which all members follow. TTMAG does not discriminate, ridicule or promote inequality in any form. The following is an extract from the TT MAG by-laws, section 4.3.: “TTMAG shall not in any way condone, conform, consent or contribute to any act, statements or display that which may represent, identify or facilitate, whether overt or covert, known or unknown, to that which may discriminate, ridicule or promotes inequality, alienation, or otherwise, to any individual, organisation, member, geographic zone, or affiliate group as it relates to the TT MAG regulations or bye-laws.”

Two members out of 11 are females.

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*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

Details are provided in the report.<sup>18</sup>

In kind and financial partnerships with: IEEE Trinidad and Tobago Section, Internet Corporation

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<sup>18</sup> [igf.tt/wpcontent/uploads/2017/08/TTIGF-2017-Report.pdf](http://igf.tt/wpcontent/uploads/2017/08/TTIGF-2017-Report.pdf)

for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA), Internet Society Trinidad and Tobago Chapter (ISOC-TT), Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries (TTCSI), Trinidad and Tobago Computer Society (TTCS), Trinidad & Tobago Internet Exchange Limited (TTIX), Trinidad and Tobago Network Information Centre (TTNIC).

*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

Net neutrality and OTT services financial impacts on consumers remain controversial.

### Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

The role is critical and very influential locally and regionally especially since the TTMAG is the first

official MAG in the Caribbean. The TTMAG continues to assist and guide, where possible, in the regional community, encouraging formation of other NRIs. On a global scale, the TTMAG continues to be a conduit to channel best practice while fostering wider and deeper networks within the wider communities.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

The TTMAG is committed to work with all who are passionate about the promotion and the development of best practice policy standards for domain usage and the local internet ecosystem in the interest of the internet community.

# YOUTH IGF URUGUAY

## Uruguay

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI? What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

After coming into contact with TaC-Together against Cybercrime, Federico (a researcher at ObservaTIC, a research institute) and Nicolás (an engineering and fine arts student) began, in 2016, to carry out a few initiatives around the subject of internet governance (Governance Primer, first Youth IGF Uruguay). After that, they went to the South School on Internet Governance (in Rio de Janeiro) and the Youth LACIGF and LACIGF (in Panama City), where they did some networking and interacted with young people from other places with similar situations. Through conversation with different actors, the idea began to emerge of putting together a group of young people who would tackle these issues and lead up the process among other young people. This is how this team was formed – with a multidisciplinary perspective from the very beginning, as well as an emphasis on gender equity – and it began to grow and consolidate with the support of other institutions like ObservaTIC, Internet Society (ISOC), LACNIC, ANTEL [the Uruguayan state telecommunications and internet service provider], among others.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

At first all of the members of the current team were brought together in a WhatsApp group (after being recruited personally) and they began to focus on working in particular on the second Youth IGF Uruguay event. Initially, the biggest challenge was finding a location to carry out the activities, especially considering that this was one of the first times that an event like this was being organised, with a new institution like the Youth IGF Uruguay, which would be addressing emerging themes that are not at the top of the public agenda. It should be noted that we received a lot of support from the previously mentioned institutions, which has contributed to achieving recognition and legitimacy as well as to the actual execution of the initiative.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

As a group that is active on these issues, leading discussions and processes for inclusive changes in Latin America and the Caribbean (in the medium term) and at a global level in the future. We want to empower ourselves and empower everyone to take action on what is happening with the internet and create a more just ecosystem that benefits more people.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

Alessia Zucchetti (International Relations), Federico Rodriguez Hormaechea (Development), Hernán Albano (Software Engineering), Ignacio Martínez (Law), Javier Landinelli (Sociology), Marcelo Pereira (Sociology), Paula Oteguay (International Relations). We are an interdisciplinary team with a horizontal work structure.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

We are essentially just starting out, and we are primarily focusing on ensuring participation with a gender balance and a range of different disciplines, but also of different stakeholders.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

Yes, this is something we have strived for from the beginning, it was clearly established as a priority. The main challenge we have faced is finding young people interested in working on internet issues on a volunteer/unpaid basis. And although we are a group that was only created a short time ago, there has been a focus on gender equity from our

inception, and it is something we will continue to take into account at all times.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

The first forum we organised in 2016 addressed different topics (the digital divide, net neutrality, the right to be forgotten, the internet ecosystem). Presentations were made on the different subjects, and these were followed by discussions, and then a few work exercises to generate reflections on the different topics. The financing came from the two team members who were working at the time, and ObservaTIC actively participated through logistical support (the venue, projector, PC). At the second edition of the forum, the subjects were explored in greater depth, because the group was enriched with more people working and its horizons were expanded. The dynamics included a strong component of gamification, which has become the basis for a new way of working with new content with young people. The topics addressed included how the internet works, net neutrality, freedom of expression and hate speech, cybersecurity, privacy and use of data, human rights and the digital divide, convergence, the digital economy, and social networks. The support of LACNIC, FIC and ObservaTIC were fundamental for this edition, although we are continuing to expand.

*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

At the first edition, the topic of the right to be forgotten was addressed through a strategy of case studies that generated highly enriching discussions on how important it is for young people to be aware of this issue.

### **Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance**

*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

For the moment, it is an incipient role, but a solid team is being built that could have significant influence in this area if it is given sufficient support.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

We are aligned with the national IGF and the actors who are involved in it, as well as with the topics and modus operandi of the regional IGF.

## YOUTH IGF OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (YOUTH LACIGF)

Latin America and the Caribbean

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### NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI? What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The Youth IGF of Latin America and the Caribbean (Youth LACIGF) is an initiative that was born of the growing youth community of the LAC region that participates in events such as the Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Internet Governance Forum (LACIGF) and other national, regional and international forums of the internet governance ecosystem. It is no news that lately young people have begun to participate more actively in internet governance, raising their voices in various forums and existing processes and trying to make the message they bring to be heard by more and more members of the internet governance community. In this context, in 2016 the Youth LACIGF was conceived by individuals of the Youth Observatory. The proposal emerged on the eve of the 9th LACIGF, as a process that seeks to build a permanent space for exchange and discussion of new ideas and perspectives of youth.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

The Youth LACIGF community is an initiative that aims to enable a space for the youth from the LAC region, from different stakeholder groups, to discuss, from their own views, the main issues and the principal challenges they face every day on the internet.

The Youth LACIGF 2017 agenda was defined based on the results of a public consultation held in June 2017. After the community input, a Programme Committee composed of representatives of four different stakeholders (civil society, business, end user and academia) was created. This Committee was responsible for defining the final agenda, the format of the discussions and logistics details. We also formed a working group to work on logistics issues with contributors.

In this year, the Youth LACIGF community elaborated a Code of Conduct for the participants, in order

to create a safe and positive environment that encouraged everyone to participate and be committed to building an inclusive community. The Code of Conduct was sent to all the registered participants prior to the event and was published on the official site of the Youth LACIGF.

The event happened as planned and was praised by most of the attendees and remote participants. On the difficulties note, the major ones were:

- **Funding:** Like other NRIs who lack funding, the financial support for the meeting is offered by companies and partner organisations. Therefore, reaching out to prospective funders is one of the most challenging tasks within the preparation of a Youth LACIGF meeting. Mainly due to the fact that the initiative is made “by young people, for young people”, we still encounter some prejudice and mistrust regarding the initiative’s seriousness and commitment.
- **Support from host country:** Youth LACIGF is an initiative that is held on the eve of LACIGF meetings in order to mobilise the youth community that is supposed to attend the forum. But the outreach activities prior to the event are made exclusively by the Youth Observatory (creator and host of the event) network and associated members. In our latest edition, hosted in Panama, we had the support of the host organisation; however, we encountered difficulties in publicising the event in universities, institutions and national organisations given the fact that the Youth Observatory had only one local associated member.
- **Venue:** As stated above, the Youth LACIGF is a NRI that lacks funding and this fact leads us to look out for partnerships in pretty much every need that the initiative entails. In the past two editions we have settled a partnership with a local educational organisation that would be willing to offer us the event venue for free.

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*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

For the future, we envision the Youth LACIGF as a more acknowledged initiative by the major internet governance actors for its importance in the LAC region, thus gaining the official support from the LACIGF Organising Committee. This project deserves to become a larger and more representative and inclusive initiative directed towards the Latin American and Caribbean youth. As we seek to be a safe space for debate and sharing of experience among young people throughout the LAC region, it is very important for us to promote the participation and representation of as many young actors of internet governance as possible.

### **NRI internal governance and initiatives**

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*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

The people involved in the Youth LACIGF are young people between 18 and 30 years old across the whole Latin America area. In the organising committee, we try to involve young professionals from different countries, stakeholder groups and backgrounds in order to have greater representation and diversity of experience to enrich the initiative.

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*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

Since the Youth LACIGF is a youth-focused initiative, it is very difficult – if not impossible – to achieve a balanced or equal stakeholder participation. Most of the young people are in the study period, even without a definitive stakeholder, so in the first two editions of our forum, the most represented stakeholders were civil society and the academic sector.

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*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

Yes, we are very conscious about the gender balance in our NRI. We, as young professionals, have a notion of the gender gap that exists in our region, which replicates itself on the internet. One of the flags that we defend is that we struggle to reduce, if not end, this gap. We want women to get the respect they deserve, and we fight hard for it, which

was one of the reasons to draft a Code of Conduct. We seek the participation of women included in our NRI. In the election of the scholars, in the speakers and participation of the NRI we seek a gender balance. In the Second Youth LACIGF 14 women and 18 men participated. This year we innovated in the creation of a Code of Conduct that seeks to guarantee the free and safe spaces of all attendees, especially women in dealing with issues such as harassment and stalking. Another topic that is included is cybersecurity, giving tools and examples to ensure that you surf securely on the internet.

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*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

Our last forum succeeded. We chose as themes: Infrastructure and Access, Cybersecurity and Surveillance, Internet and Human Rights, and Youth and Governance. The forum discussions were quite rich, and there was a lot of exchange of experiences and knowledge. On funding: like other NRIs, we need external support to get our annual event held, so we have created a support request document that has been shared with the responsible sectors of some organisations that already have a track record in supporting initiatives related to internet governance. With that, in the end, we have the support of Ciudad del Saber, Google, ICANN, Internet Society and IPANDETEC to carry out our initiative. The report on the last edition is available online.<sup>17</sup>

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*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

The only controversy we had, which was more an unforeseen, was in relation with an activity during the Internet and Human Rights workshop. We organisers proposed an activity to create a list of human rights principles to be defended on the internet, but participants protested that it would not be necessary as there are already dozens of such lists across the internet. Instead, it was suggested to do a brainstorming of actions that could be developed to more effectively achieve those principles. It was a very cool experience, because we built the activity on time, without prior planning, and in the end it was a debate with a very high level of contributions.

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<sup>17</sup> [https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot\\_download/3568/717](https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/3568/717)

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

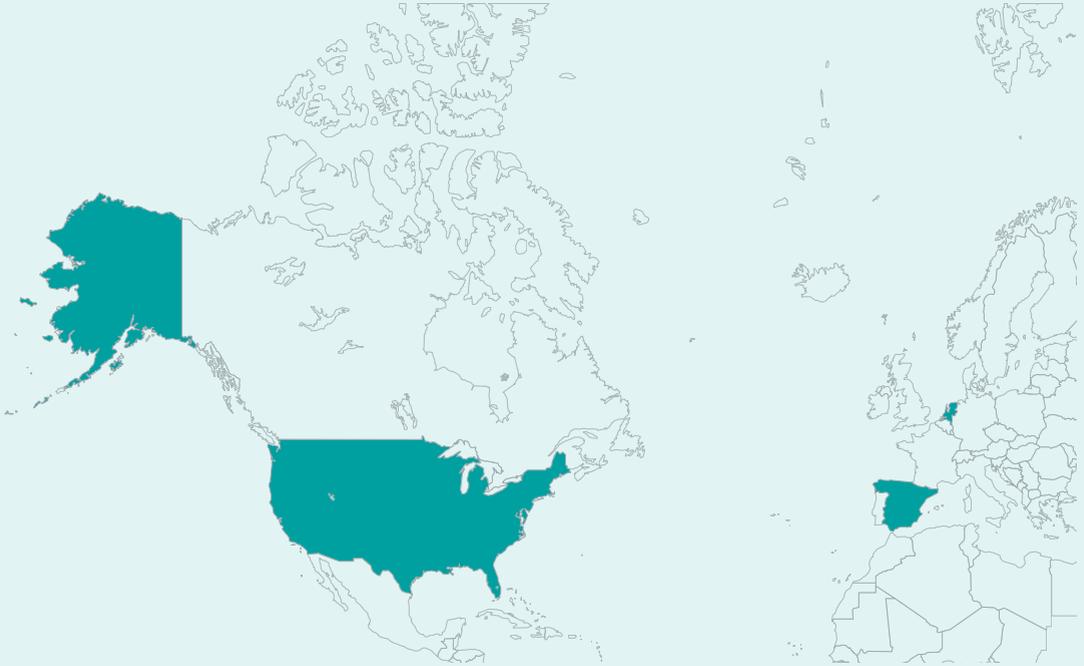
*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

In our opinion, the main role of the Youth LACIGF is to allow the exchange of experiences and knowledge among people from different countries, with different backgrounds, different cultures, etc. The Latin America and Caribbean region is very large in size and has a very large diversity in a multitude of areas, and among them is the internet. It is important for us that people know the different realities, different perspectives and experiences, so that they can return to their country with all this knowledge load that has been shared and can use it in a positive way, increasingly seeking a safer and more inclusive internet.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

In our opinion, and also in the opinion of my NRI, everything is intertwined and working together. All of us, NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat, are working to find a better, safer, more inclusive internet, etc. Despite the many work fronts, with many differences and similarities, the ultimate goals are the same. Regarding the NRI-IGF relationship, we argue that the NRI is working in a local field, meanwhile, NRI and IGF are working in a similar way/getting the same achievements. With each front, each initiative, doing its part, together we will be able to shape the future of the internet.

# Western European and Others Group (WEOG)



**European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG)**

**Netherlands IGF**

**Spain IGF**

**IGF-USA**

# EUROPEAN DIALOGUE ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE (EURODIG)

## Europe

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI? What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The European Dialogue on Internet Governance (EuroDIG) was created in summer 2008 in a café in Paris by about 10 enthusiastic individuals. This idea led to its first meeting four months later hosted by the Council of Europe and supported by OFCOM Switzerland.

EuroDIG understands itself as the European edition of the global United Nations Internet Governance Forum (IGF). It is structured as an open multi-stakeholder platform to exchange views about the internet and how it is governed. Supported by several organisations, government representatives and experts, it fosters dialogue and collaboration with the internet community on public policy for the internet. Each year, it culminates in a conference that takes place in a different European city. EuroDIG “Messages” are prepared and presented to the global IGF.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

First stage 2008-2011: EuroDIG was truly a grassroots initiative without legal structure or any kind of administrative hierarchies. It was a loose network of enthusiastic individuals which brought forward the idea of a European Dialogue from one year to another with meetings in Strasbourg (2008), Geneva (2009), Madrid (2010) and Belgrade (2011). In the early days the biggest institutional supporters have been the Council of Europe, OFCOM Switzerland and EBU, but other supporters joined the network soon. The number of (online) registrations for the two-day event grew from 150 to 550 in that period.

Second stage 2012-2015: After four successful editions there was a need to consolidate the organisational structure also in order to set up a bank account to receive contributions and make financial transactions to organise the event. A European-Swiss not-for-profit association according

to Swiss Civil Code, Art. 60 to 79, was created on 15 June 2012 in Stockholm, under the name “EuroDIG Support Association”. The statutes have been drafted in a high level manner. Only essential rules and regulations have been introduced, in order to leave space and flexibility for the development of the EuroDIG. A secretariat has been formed.

Third stage 2015-2017: The event became bigger each year and the activities over the year did increase. Meanwhile an all year round participation process to set up the programme was established. During this period institutional partners, representing all stakeholder groups, committed to support EuroDIG by signing written agreements. It became evident that with regard to decision making processes, legal reliability and the authority to sign the statutes had to be adjusted. Also it was necessary to find ways of engaging new members in the Association. The revision process of the statutes took one year and resulted in a solid structure of checks and balances described in more detail.

Looking at the development of these three stages we should not call them difficulties. But it might be worth mentioning that the process from an initiative based on voluntary contributions, with no hierarchies, to a solid financed structure with checks and balances can be challenging.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

One important focus will be to increase the relevance of EuroDIG and the Messages<sup>19</sup> in particular for policy makers and the business sector. Another important task is to strengthen the relationship between the independent NRIs and the UN-led IGF; how the programme is shaped, how NRIs feed in their results to the global IGF.

<sup>19</sup> Messages are the compendium of reports drafted of each workshop and plenary session held at EuroDIG. They relate to the particular session and to European internet governance policy, they are forward-looking and propose goals and activities that can be initiated after EuroDIG (recommendations) and are in rough consensus with the audience. These Messages are distributed among European policy makers and key institutions and forwarded to the global IGF. See: <https://www.eurodig.org/index.php?id=481>

EuroDIGers will have a retreat in January and we will discuss future aims and activities. The results which come out of this analysis will be a desirable resource and of great interest.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

1. Institutional partners, which support community engagement and programme development and help shaping the format and the content of the annual EuroDIG process and event:

- Council of Europe
- European Commission
- European Regional At-Large Organization (EURALO)
- European Broadcasting Union (EBU)
- European Telecommunications Network Operators' Association (ETNO)
- Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
- Internet Society (ISOC)
- Federal Office of Communications of Switzerland (OFCOM)
- Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre (RIPE NCC).

2. The host, which changes every year; brings in new communities, local perspectives and provides the focus of each year. All former hosts<sup>20</sup> are still actively committed to help the EuroDIG to broaden the network and connect with each other.

3. Members of the EuroDIG Association (including the Board), who are responsible for the administrative oversight of the association, the financial management and the long-term planning.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

A lot of effort is put into ensuring equal participation. Principles<sup>21</sup> have been defined along with a reliable and transparent programme planning process<sup>22</sup> which is open for everyone to join at any time.

<sup>20</sup> See a list of former hosts here: <https://www.eurodig.org/index.php?id=713>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.eurodig.org/index.php?id=113>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.eurodig.org/index.php?id=154>

Involvement of the business sector proved to be the most challenging stakeholder group.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

We do measure it and it works quite well on the level of participation. One new format we introduced in this respect came at a point when we received the critique that high level (opening) panels are mainly populated by male speakers. Therefore we are now opening EuroDIG since two years ago with an open mic session, where everyone is invited to set the scene. This works also because the community in our region is quite balanced in terms of gender.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion?*

The last forum took place on 6-7 June 2017 (plus day zero) in Tallinn and was organised along the lines of the programme planning process.<sup>23</sup>

Milestones have been:

- 1 October-31 December 2016: Open call for issues/topics
- January 2017: Inventory of proposals
- 31 January 2017: Public EuroDIG planning meeting in Tallinn/draft programme
- Mid February: Revised programme structure/creation of session organising teams
- March-May: Organising teams are planning the sessions.

*How was it financed?*

We are operating with two separate budgets. One is the EuroDIG process budget which is in the responsibility of the EuroDIG secretariat. The other one is the host country budget, which is in the responsibility of the respective local host. As we are organising EuroDIG in another European country each year, the local costs vary from year to year. The secretariat's budget is more consistent but needs to be increased each year, as EuroDIG is becoming more and more complex, with a growing number of participants per year, more need for outreach and additional tasks. A transparency report including costs and contributions of the previous year as well as the estimated

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

costs for the actual year can be found in the EuroDIG donors handout.<sup>24</sup> In this handout you can also find information about the sponsors.

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*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

Nothing that I could think of.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

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*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

The role of NRIs is increasing in its importance to raise awareness for the national debates, however internet governance and the multistakeholder model are not yet fully perceived as an important way to contribute to the development of the internet. Instead if you mention “digital” or “cyber”, people understand the impact it has on their lives. However, these terms are interrelated and when discussing in depth one easily comes to the conclusion that the involvement of all stakeholders is necessary to meet the challenges of the future. Here NRIs have to keep going on with their efforts in reaching out and building capacity.

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*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

As a regional forum we understand ourselves as the linking element between the independent European NRIs and the UN-led IGF, in which the increasing role of NRIs is being recognised.

We help facilitating the bringing up of topics from the national to the global level and also the other way round, to support the bottom-up nature of the global IGF in shaping the programme. In this respect we work in close collaboration with the IGF Secretariat.

EuroDIG as any other NRI is an independent body and therefore we have the freedom and flexibility to experiment with new formats and processes. In the past some of these formats (i.e. messages, flash sessions) and processes (i.e. call for issues, collaboration on wikis) have been adapted by other NRIs and also the global IGF.

Where possible, we support the establishment of national IGF initiatives within Europe. We offer space for NRIs to meet and exchange during the annual EuroDIG meeting.

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<sup>24</sup> [https://www.eurodig.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/eurodig\\_Tallinn/EuroDIG\\_2017\\_donors\\_handout\\_20170211.pdf](https://www.eurodig.org/fileadmin/user_upload/eurodig_Tallinn/EuroDIG_2017_donors_handout_20170211.pdf)

# NETHERLANDS IGF

## Netherlands

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The Netherlands Internet Governance Forum (NL IGF) was established in 2010, as a cooperative venture of the Ministry of Economic Affairs (Dutch: Ministerie van EZ), SIDN (the Foundation for Internet Domain Registration in the Netherlands) and ECP Platform for the Information Society. These parties are collaborating to bring the importance of the IGF to the attention of Dutch stakeholders, and put the IGF on the political agenda more strongly. On the one hand, the aim is to realise a firm embedding of the international results into our national policy. On the other hand, efforts are made to make the Dutch voice heard internationally and to put important Dutch themes on the international agenda. In the Netherlands, we are convinced that ongoing exchange between the national internet debate and international developments is crucial. Both sides of the coin reinforce each other. New national issues that come up can progress to the international agenda, and international insights can inform the domestic debate. The Internet Governance Forum facilitates this exchange. The prominent Dutch position in the field of internet infrastructure and use invites and requires us to actively participate in this debate. The IGF is a vital international forum where policy makers, the private sector, academia, NGOs and politicians come together to give their joint input on future policy. The presence of a nationally organised, multistakeholder delegation is therefore of significant importance. By convincing an increasing number of actors in the Netherlands of the importance of the IGF, a mutually beneficial sharing of knowledge and perspectives can be achieved during the IGF. The internet knows no borders: if we want to address issues in the field of internet governance (including cybercrime, IPv6 and the development of digital skills), it has to be done in an international, multistakeholder framework. NL IGF emphasises the relevance of the numerous IGF activities around the world, monitors developments and communicates results,

through organising various meetings and through this website, Twitter and LinkedIn. In short, NL IGF is meant for businesses, non-profit organisations, government (local and national), politicians and other parties who attach value to international cooperation and knowledge sharing around the internet debate and who share a commitment to the importance of the Internet Governance Forum.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

### NL IGF event

Since 2010, NL IGF organises an annual Dutch IGF event. This is a multistakeholder forum, where national parliamentarians, civil servants, scientists, non-profit organisations, the private sector, journalists and other interested parties meet. The aim is not only to share knowledge and experiences related to internet governance, but also to engage in those discussions surrounding internet governance that are thorny and tricky. Like the IGF itself, it is an open consultation, where participants set the agenda of the event themselves. The outcomes of the NL IGF event serve as an important input for the preparations of the Dutch delegation attending the global IGF. Similar to the IGF we have to work very hard to get all the stakeholders “at the table”. Especially law enforcement and politicians are hard to convince to join the internet governance debate, on a national level but also to join the Dutch “delegation” to the IGF. The long travelling and amount of time – a whole week – makes them hesitate.

Young IGF: As the voice of young people should not be missed in the (inter)national internet discussion, the NL IGF organises an annual Young Netherlands Internet Governance Forum (NL Young IGF). Every year we try another format, because it is not easy to find young people to join an internet governance debate just by themselves. Two years ago we organised the Young IGF in cooperation with the Leiden Model United Nations Programme (LEMUN) and this year we work together with the University of Amsterdam to fit in the programme of first year students information science. In 2015 the young

participants presented a list of Top 10 Priorities for internet governance (in no particular order):

- Self-determination of (personal) data
- International internet regulations
- Net neutrality
- Ethical hacking
- Good international approach to combat child pornography
- Protection of copyright
- Tackling cyberbullying
- Human rights
- Implementation of the “right to be forgotten”
- Open and free internet (no censorship).

### *Dutch workshops and open fora at the IGF*

Every year we send in three to five workshop proposals, prepared by the coordinator or together with another organisation in the lead. We pray during the process that the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) honours at least two proposals, because these events are the main vehicle for realising a strong Dutch delegation and for the Netherlands to present and position itself. A few times the Dutch government applies for an open forum. This strategy gives us more assurance of getting a reserved spot at the IGF for the NL IGF delegation. We are proud to have had such a diverse and high-ranking Dutch delegation at the last years of the IGF, bringing together all corners of the “internet world”. NL IGF values a strong Dutch contribution to the forum very highly. NL IGF identifies Dutch participants to the IGF and informs them about both content and logistics of the forum. We also organise a preparatory dinner to get to know each other and share ideas and thoughts on internet governance. We had two times Members of Parliament and a senator joining the delegation for three years, but also because of her important position as chair of the International Association of Internet Hotlines (INHOPE), but creating consistency in politics is hard. Too exotic host countries and too many conference days makes it hard for them to convince their board of the importance of the forum. Same story for private companies, “No return on investment” or threatening agreements to worry about (for lobby or public affairs) .

### *Dutch visibility*

Since the IGF in Kenya, NL IGF organised and manned a Dutch booth at the congress centre, both as a focal point for the Dutch perspective and as a

meeting point for the delegation and guests. Since three years we share this booth with the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE), a global platform for countries, international organisations and private companies to exchange best practices and expertise on cyber capacity building. The aim is to identify successful policies, practices and ideas and multiply these on a global level. Together with partners from NGOs, the tech community and academia, GFCE members develop practical initiatives to build cyber capacity. The GFCE secretariat is based in The Hague. This year we are not rewarded with a booth at the IGF. We think this is really a loss because of the important function. Dutch visibility is always greatly enhanced by the handing out of “tegeltjeswijsheden” (Delftware tiles containing aphorisms on internet governance) throughout the forum. But to let the IGF visitors learn more about the NL IGF and the Dutch vision on the important aspects of internet governance, we have to create some different, more informative, material, which is one of our tasks for this year.

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*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

NL IGF will keep on asking the following questions: What is and what will be the Dutch contribution to the international debate? In which parts of internet governance is the Netherlands leading the way internationally? What questions should we raise and put on the international agenda? NL IGF continues with a multistakeholder approach and a strong networking component, allowing companies, civil servants, NGOs and politicians to meet and exchange perspectives. We keep on working on creating more awareness of the IGF to all stakeholders, bringing together all corners of the “internet world”. The efforts by multiple stakeholders to boost internet governance are crucial. “We must focus on the 3 Ds: Development, Diplomacy and Defence in the field of cyberspace,” our special envoy of the Dutch Government for international cyber policy, Uri Rosenthal, noted. And the importance of listening to the voice of younger generations remains undiminished, and the perspective of the generations that grew up with the internet is indispensable in the debates on the future of the medium.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

NL IGF was established in 2010, as a cooperative venture consisting of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, SIDN (the Foundation for Internet Domain Registration in the Netherlands) and ECP Platform for the Information Society. At the NL IGF event about 100 participants, all different stakeholders: Dutch technical community, civil society, national parliamentarians, civil servants, scientists, non-profit organisations, the private sector, journalists, young people (about 10) and other people or organisations who are interested (sometimes in a specific workshop/topic on the agenda). The Dutch delegation for IGF consists of 17 (Kenya) to 34 (Istanbul) participants. It depends on time of the year, location (travelling time). Always at least two young people (under 22) join the delegation.

*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

No real difficulties in the last years, we have a civil society and technical community who debate on the visibility at the IGF, but on a national level they are both equal in time and space. Following the successes of previous editions, the format of the event remained unchanged. The agenda of the NL IGF event is drafted by the participants themselves, resulting in a programme with different workshops, from all different stakeholder groups. On a national level it is easier to get all the stakeholders involved, because of course we can influence the programme. But to get all stakeholders in the delegation to the IGF is far more difficult.

*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

It is not a really big theme in the Netherlands. We manage to get enough balance in our debate by itself. But on specific topics like cyber security and ICT it is a problem to find enough female role models. Successful though is the Women in Cyber Security Foundation (WiCS), a discipline-specific community for women working in cyber security. The main goal of WiCS is to foster connections among the under-represented women in the various cyber security fields (research, programming, policy,

architecture, design, management, communications etc.). Together with the WiCS we organised a workshop at last year's IGF on sextortion, the follow-up of which managed to pass the ballotage of the MAG this year too.

*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

Our Young IGF will take place on 5 October at the University of Amsterdam — who provides us the location (and students). NL IGF event 2017 is on 10 October in The Hague. It is financed by the parties of our cooperative venture: the Ministry of Economic Affairs, SIDN (the Foundation for Internet Domain Registration in the Netherlands) and ECP (Platform for the Information Society). Keynotes: Louise van der Laan, International Board of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), the organisation ensuring the stable and secure operation of the internet; Kees van Baar, Dutch Human Rights ambassador.

### Workshops:

- Duties to care and the Internet of Things. A call for global harmonisation, organised by the Dutch Cyber Security Council (input for Open Forum at the IGF 2017 by the Ministry of Justice).
- Out of my hands? Controlling personal digital information especially in the context of sextortion, organised by the WiCS, The Hague University of applied sciences and INHOPE/NL Hotline EOKM (input for workshop at the IGF 2017).
- Human rights and internet infrastructure: Human Rights Impact Assessments, organised by ARTICLE 19.
- Safety in the public space, also online. Workshop organised by the National Police.
- Fake news: Is blockchain the solution to assess information? Organised by Young NL IGF (input for workshop at the IGF 2017, totally organised by young people themselves).
- Critical infrastructure and the internet, where is the boundary of the public core?

*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

No response was provided to this question.

## **Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance**

*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

No, the Netherlands is an open and free country where every subject can be discussed. Of course we had some heated discussions on the openness of the internet for example, net neutrality... and once we had the pirate party filling in a workshop. But this makes open multistakeholder forum as it

should be, there is a place for everybody and we can discuss everything with an open mind.

*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

We have a long term experience, from the first IGF. We started very low profile with only a preparing workshop, but worked very hard for the visibility of the IGF in our country and managed to organise a large event since 2013. We join the EuroDIG every year and we had youth involvement from day one. For this it helps that ECP is the coordinator of the Better Internet For Kids programme from the European Commission, in the Netherlands too and partner at Insafe. We are not a governmentally established forum but based on public-private partnership. This includes also our way of funding.

# SPAIN IGF

## Spain

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## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

Established in 2007, the Spain Internet Governance Forum is an open, decentralised space for the debate of public policy issues that promotes the sustainability and solidness of the internet. It is inspired by the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) established by the United Nations Secretary General in 2006. The Spain IGF tries to develop Spanish public policies and governance according to our culture and identity and within agreed conventions and international agreements. This forum is coordinated by Dr. Jorge Pérez Martínez and provides a platform to encourage discussion among different stakeholders (civil society, government, social organisations, private sector, academia and technical community) and is meant to give voice to the Spanish society in international fora in the field of internet governance. The Spain IGF Advisory Group consists of different members representing each of the stakeholder groups.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

Despite having been established in 2008, we have not developed a formal structure yet. We have a kick-off meeting every year, where the sponsors decide if they want to continue to support the project. Although our four main sponsors have always remained over all these years, they have no formal commitment to do so over the mid-term, but their support is renewed on a yearly basis.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

The IGF Spain has the following goals for the coming years:

- Continue to be a multistakeholder platform to discuss relevant topics for the future internet
- Improve the activity on social media and the Spain IGF website to increase engagement
- Take part in the national and international events

- Publish regular newsletters
- Report on the forums and events in which we take part.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

The Spain IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group consists of members from different stakeholder groups, such as the government, private sector, civil society, technical community and academia. They contribute mainly to organise the annual event proposing the workshops and sessions and finding panellists.

The Technical Office or Secretariat has played a fundamental role in the development of the IGF Spain, with all the responsibility of it assumed by Dr Jorge Pérez Martínez. In the beginning, the goal was to develop activities of research and dissemination of the learnings about “internet governance”.

Nowadays we can differentiate several objectives for the technical office:

- Broadening internet governance debate and participation
- Coordinating the activities that the Multistakeholder Advisory Group develops
- Representing the Spain IGF in and outside the country.

The Board of Directors was created in 2012 to establish the general objectives of the forum and to make sure that they are achieved. The members are mainly the sponsors, the coordinator and the person in charge of the technical office. In addition to the Multistakeholder Advisory Group and the Secretariat, the Spain IGF is open to the collaboration of other individuals that may make relevant contributions. Anyone is invited to join any working group.

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*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

We have usually more difficulties in getting civil society involved, and particularly the youth.

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*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

We do not. But it is worth noting that on the Board of Directors there is only one man (the coordinator) out of six people.

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*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

Since 2008 the Spain IGF has celebrated the Spain IGF Annual Meeting, with the proposals explained above and growing year by year. Last year the sixth Spain IGF Annual Meeting took place in Madrid, on 13 and 14 October.

Eight roundtables, one conference and an open forum took place and were focused on discussing the following issues:

- European view on internet governance
- Internet of Things and Smart Cities: Who owns the data from the sensors
- Openness and innovation in the mobile internet
- Fintech and Blockchain: Disintermediation of financial services
- Consequences of robotisation and informative personalisation
- Technology in the school environment: Use in class and at recess
- Artificial intelligence and big data in new personalised services: Implications for the job market
- Law and jurisdiction applicable in a global internet: The difficult coexistence of national laws in a globalised world
- Cybersecurity and encryption: Who encrypts and decrypts communications? Relationship with business models and consequences for privacy and crime investigation
- Open Forum – From IANA to ICANN: A new form of global governance.

The event had considerable remote participation and over 150 experts of the ICT sector took part representing the different stakeholders. The advisory group who took part was formed by participants divided in different stakeholder groups: academia, technical community, government, private sector and civil society. Forum funding comes from the contributions for sponsorship from Fundación Telefónica, Fundación Vodafone, Orange and Google and from the in-kind contribution of the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) and Red.es.

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*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

Not particularly.

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

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*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

Our main goal is to encourage the discussion of current issues related to internet development in order to develop proposals to improve the governance framework. Our mission is to boost the debate in Spain, upholding the points of the different stakeholders and contributing to the bottom-up process in the global internet governance.

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*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

We think a global approach to transnational issues is very important considering the internet's global nature. Discussions have to be held on both national and international perspectives in order to obtain a complete analysis of the current issues related to internet governance.



## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

The first IGF-USA took place in 2009. It came together after years of informal briefings and “informational sessions” held across different stakeholder groups in preparation for the Tunis World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and subsequently to support participation in the Open Consultations for the IGF MAG. In the time leading up to this, other countries began hosting 1-2 day events that developed into what are now known as the National and Regional IGF Initiatives, or NRIs. The group that founded the IGF-USA was motivated by having learned about other countries holding such initiatives from briefings brought back from the IGF open consultations by several persons participating in those events. Much discussion took place about what to focus on – national policies or global policy. Eventually, it was agreed within the Organizing Group that as there are so many think tanks, academics, regulatory agencies, law firms, business professionals, and groups that are international in their focus in the United States, that focus on national internet issues, that the IGF-USA should contribute into the global fora. The IGF-USA community has recently revisited the question of a mission statement, and so the conversation on its objectives continues to unfold. In 2009, with approximately 75 participants on the IGF-USA mailing list and sufficient interest, this community began planning the first one-day conference event of the IGF-USA.

There were several challenges, including funding and debates over the location of the event. Through an open process, an organising group ultimately decided to hold the event in Washington, DC. Additionally, despite the funding challenges, the event was able to come together. Several entities offered financial and in-kind support, and in addition, thanks to the support of AT&T and Verizon, an in-kind space for the event was obtained. Additionally, various organising group members contributed their time and resources to coordinating the logistics and

providing the materials necessary to hold the event. Several companies, NGOs and individuals, including the “Chief Catalyst”, donated interns to support the planning and staffing of the event. While several financial sponsorships were received, the initial IGF-USA would not have been possible without the in-kind and *pro bono* support provided. Partnerships with universities were particularly instrumental in the first few years. These partnerships include the ongoing relationship with Elon University, Syracuse University, Cornell, Georgetown Law Center, George Washington University, and American University.

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

In the earlier years, the organising group was unable to agree on a formalised structure for the IGF-USA, which led to the appointment of a “Chief Catalyst” to moderate the event. The Chief Catalyst title was proposed by an organising group member, who noted that debates over the structure and titles were endangering the actual event. He proposed that as IGF-USA had been “catalysed”, and that the title be used. As explained further below, that position remained in place until 2014, when the IGF-USA appointed co-chairs. The position of co-chairs was later formalised in an open process to develop a set of principles and a formal structure. There was also uncertainty around funding procedures, for example if and when sponsors would pay their pledges. This was eventually resolved by creating the relationship with the Washington DC chapter of the Internet Society (ISOC-DC) as the independent secretariat/treasurer, resulting in a very efficient and stable approach to managing funding.

Sustaining engagement from all stakeholder groups has also been an ongoing challenge. However, by increasing the number of sessions per event to seven or eight, we have been able to bring in more diverse and balanced participation and voices. This was initially due to challenges with limited room availability, but was addressed when we moved to Georgetown Law Center which gave us the ability to host up to four simultaneous workshops. Other challenges that have been encountered include

maintaining direct engagement and outreach to different groups, and enhancing awareness and outreach about implications of internet governance to such a diverse set of stakeholders as we have within the US, as there are so many other competing activities addressing public policy for the internet. From 2009 to 2013, the IGF-USA used a Ning website. Much of the content has been archived on the IGF-USA website.<sup>25</sup> As the IGF-USA relied on email lists prior to 2014, many of those exchanges are of limited availability. However, the Elon University reporting and detailed event reports are available for years 2009-2012. The IGF-USA did not conduct a formal event in 2013. In 2013, the planning began as usual, but there were disruptions to the fundraising cycle and difficulty making key decisions. The planning cycle also overlapped with the shutdown of the US government, limiting the involvement of government officials. Thus, a “re-launch” was undertaken in 2014, drawing strongly on the commitment of members of the IGF-USA community.

In recent years, the introduction of an independent Secretariat provided by ISOC-DC provided administrative improvements, including moving to a formal website, and using various other tools to advance coordination. The IGF-USA has also benefited from carving out other official roles as well, including co-chairs, which have been very effective in coordinating the planning, and treasurer to oversee the financial reporting. Additionally, the support from members of the IGF-USA community in providing professional level remote participation has successfully brought the IGF-USA to a wider audience. The sustainability of the IGF-USA has been a product of effective engagement with sponsors to ensure stable and predictable funding to support planning and conducting the event annually.

2014-2017: In relaunching the IGF-USA in 2014, and through 2017, a core challenge we continually face is the challenge of obtaining and incorporating inputs from stakeholders across our community while managing the multitude of tasks necessary to produce a full day, quality IGF national conference. To this end, we have a Steering Committee that is open to the public and has regular meetings – both face to face and always with remote participation during the planning cycle. At the beginning of each cycle, a survey is sent out to our entire community to assess the importance of the of the many key issues facing the internet. The survey results form the basis of the workshops and main sessions

presented at the IGF-USA conference. Throughout 2016 and 2017, the IGF-USA community worked via a consensus process to adopt a set of guiding principles, based upon the Core IGF Principles, and recognised a lightweight and flexible organisational structure. The principles and organisational structure are available online.<sup>26</sup> Over the last several years the leadership of the IGF-USA has worked on further developing a broader and stable base of donors who not only have given generous funding sponsorship, but also have devoted time and energy to the multistakeholder planning process. The IGF-USA has devoted significant resources for the past several years developing its website and media presence, including the streaming and archiving of all sessions. Two of those who support the IGF-USA are unique experts in such support, and that, coupled with the Elon University reporting of the IGF-USA sessions, has built a strong library of archived information.

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*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

The IGF-USA is encouraging sister events to take place in other cities in the U.S. and longer-term is looking to hold the annual event outside of Washington DC. The IGF-USA is investigating the possibility of organising ongoing activities between annual events. Finally, the IGF-USA will seek to involve youth and students from a number of universities, while maintaining the highly positive involvement of Elon University journalism students and youth volunteers at IGF-USA 2017 and prior years. It is possible that Day Zero or “lead up” events could extend the ability to bring in experts in different subjects of particular interests in how technology is impacting internet governance. All such decisions will be based on input from the community of the IGF-USA.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

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*Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?*

The IGF-USA Secretariat is provided by the Washington DC chapter of the Internet Society. The organisational process is led by two co-chairs, who chair the Steering Committee, which is open to all for participation. Engagement in the IGF-USA

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.igf-usa.org>

<sup>26</sup> [https://wiki.igf-usa.org/images/5/5f/IGF-USA\\_2017\\_Organization\\_Structure\\_final.pdf](https://wiki.igf-usa.org/images/5/5f/IGF-USA_2017_Organization_Structure_final.pdf)

organising processes has always been open to all interested in advancing multistakeholder engagement and adhering to the core principles of bottom up, consensus based decision making. Diversity of participants has been varying, but for several years, several different US agencies sent representatives to the IGF-USA planning process and also attended and spoke in workshops. The organising process has sometimes included Congressional staff, representatives from the White House, government officials, numerous parties from businesses, civil society organisations, law firms, NGOs, technical community, academics, and individuals. The number of active contributors has varied, year over year, with some very helpful stability provided by a core group that has ensured the stability of IGF-USA and its continuity, and that it fulfils the requirements from the IGF. During the event, Elon University, as one of the major partners, both attends and provides thorough and unique documentation of the sessions.<sup>27</sup> Over the past few years, the IGF-USA Secretariat has employed the services of a professional meeting manager, who takes care of many of the logistics for the actual event, which provides key support to what is essentially a volunteer organised event. For the last two years, IGF-USA has developed a very positive relationship with the Center for Strategic and International Studies in the use of their conference center.

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*Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?*

The core members of the Steering Committee – those who attend the organisational meetings throughout the year – are from civil society and NGOs; business, government, and technical community representatives. There is no requirement for equal attendance of participation from the four stakeholder groups. The IGF-USA community is always working to broaden stakeholder diversity and welcomes new faces and thus, ensures that all planning sessions are open to all. Efforts continue to encourage engagement from different and new participants, across all of the stakeholder groups. We focus on ensuring that all voices are included, and when we can identify a gap, we try to address this through outreach and encouragement of engagement in the IGF-USA. As it is time consuming to participate year around, and typically more stakeholders increase involvement after the meeting date

is announced and the programme planning begins. Thus, the administrative work is always fully reported out to the larger group primarily interested in the policy topics, and the event. All planning meetings are made available via remote participation. Teams who volunteer to plan workshops or main sessions are required to ensure diversity of participation across stakeholder groups and to try to be inclusive of gender inclusion in the panel. A key concern is ensuring inclusion of all views.

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*Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?*

All organisers of panel sessions are encouraged to follow the IGF-USA principles, one of which relates to “Diversity and Inclusion” and reads “The IGF-USA strives for diverse and inclusive participation, including people regardless of their gender, color, age, sexual preference, gender expression, disability or specific needs, stakeholder perspective, or location.” Additionally, the 2017 IGF-USA panel guidelines stated that the panels should, to the greatest extent possible, reflect gender balance. This was successfully achieved in the programme, with 24 male and 24 female speakers. This balance is a reflection of the open search for panellists from all sectors and the significant involvement of women in the leadership and planning processes.

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*How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?*

The 2017 IGF-USA took place on 24 July at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington DC. It was organised over a series of 11 in-person steering committee meetings from February to July, which supported remote participation. The topics were chosen from a bottom up consensus process, which includes using survey tools, and further discussions in face to face and conference calls included: Nationalism, Disinformation, and Free Expression in the Age of the Internet; Smarter Networks; Healing Internet Fragmentation; Promoting a More Inclusive Internet; Taking a Holistic Approach to the Internet of Things; National Network Regulation vs. the Global Cloud; Privacy Regulation in the U.S.: Bottom-up vs. Top-down Approaches; and Where are all those Digital Dividends We Thought the Internet Would Deliver? The IGF-USA is financed by contributions from various private sector and technical community organisations and significant

<sup>27</sup> [www.elon.edu/e-web/imagining/event-coverage/igf-usa/default.xhtml](http://www.elon.edu/e-web/imagining/event-coverage/igf-usa/default.xhtml)

in-kind contributions. The sponsors are always acknowledged in materials at the IGF-USA, thanked during the IGF-USA, and the sponsor list is posted on the website and reported in the required IGF Meeting Report from the NRIs.

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*Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?*

The IGF-USA encourages all internet policy issues, whether controversial or not, to be discussed in an open, multistakeholder environment. Some topics might not be addressed year over year, depending on the bottom up consultation. For instance, in past years, cyber security was always a topic. In 2017, that topic did not make it into the top ten, but not because it was controversial. The survey just didn't bring it forward.

### Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

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*What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?*

Many active members of the IGF-USA Steering Committee are speakers often in related events within the US, but also more broadly in regional or global fora, where internet governance issues are discussed. Several of the IGF-USA Steering Committee members are active at the IGF, ICANN, the United Nations Commission on Science and Technology for Development; OECD; APEC; WSIS Forum, and other global fora. Some are also very engaged in national level events addressing internet policy. The synergy between understanding the national landscape and the global awareness of challenges and risks to internet governance supports and undoubtedly influences who engages in the IGF-USA.

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*How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?*

Many active members of the IGF-USA Steering Committee are or have been members of the IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group or attend the open consultations of the MAG on a regular basis; thus the IGF-USA itself is very well advised about the work of the IGF and information about the IGF planning process is often posted to the igf-usa discussion list, or briefed during working calls. Overall,

participants from the IGF-USA have a strong presence in the IGF, which is a reflection of the depth of interest and the diversity of stakeholders located in the United States. The IGF-USA also supports the development of IGF initiatives around the world and several IGF-USA members attend, speak at, or otherwise contribute to other NRIs. Several of the founders of the IGF-USA contributed to the dialogue around and the development of the core principles and criteria for the NRIs. The IGF-USA was instrumental in endorsing the creation of a singular and dedicated Focal Point at the IGF for the NRIs. During the IGF2015, the MAG chair strongly endorsed enhancing the role of the NRIs and appointed one of the founders of the IGF-USA as the Substantive Coordinator to enhance the role of the NRIs. This contributed to the IGF-USA's close awareness of the NRIs. Several of the IGF-USA Steering Committee, including the Secretariat and the co-chairs have been actively engaged with the NRI activities. This involvement included joining their working conference calls and participating in the 90 minute session that led to concrete recommendations to enhance the visibility of the NRIs and created the IGF Focal Point for the NRI. As a result, during IGF2016, major shifts in visibility for the NRIs occurred, and IGF-USA was one of the contributors to these activities. In support of the NRIs increased engagement at the IGF, multiple members of the IGF-USA community's leadership spent time in a shared NRI booth. The IGF-USA co-chairs had speaking roles, with one presenting at the NRI Main Session and the other at the 90 minute NRI coordinating session. Both sessions were also attended by other members of the IGF-USA. The Main Session was coordinated by one of the then MAG members who serves as the Chief Catalyst of the IGF, appointed by fellow NRI members, and the 90 minute session was also similarly co-chaired with the IGF Focal Point. The IGF-USA considers all NRIs to be on an equal footing, and does not recognise hierarchical reporting. We also recognise that NRIs are autonomous entities, without a formal role to the United Nations, but we adhere to and contribute actively through participation in the NRI network. Participants from the IGF-USA often speak at other NRIs, upon their invitation, but in their individual capacity as an expert or invited participant or speaker. This is a voluntary and not coordinated initiative, but is reflective of the commitment of the various participants in contributing, when invited, to sister NRIs. In a phrase: The IGF-USA is strongly supportive of sister NRIs, the IGF, and the IGF Secretariat team.

# Arab Region



**Lebanon IGF**

# LEBANON IGF

## Lebanon

Zeina Bourhad • z.bourhab@yahoo.com



## NRI founding stories and development

*What is the story of the founding of your NRI?  
What were its inspiration, its objectives?*

Following OGERO's involvement in the Arab IGF and hosting their event in 2015, OGERO's member in the Arab MAG drafted this initiative that was adopted by the Ministry of Telecommunications.<sup>28</sup>

*How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?*

The Minister of Telecommunications invited the different stakeholders to participate in the multi-stakeholder committee and triggered the process.

*How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?*

The Multistakeholder Programme Committee (MPC) held its kick-off meeting. Tasks were allocated to the members in order to work on the website, branding, awareness campaign. The first activity is expected in December 2017.

## NRI internal governance and initiatives

*No response was provided to this section.*

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

*No response was provided to this section.*

<sup>28</sup> OGERO is Lebanon's main fixed network owner, operator and maintainer in Lebanon for the benefit of the Lebanese Ministry of Telecommunications.

# Directory

## IGF Secretariat

NRI Focal Point: Anja Gengo

NRI mailing list: [igfregionals@intgovforum.org](mailto:igfregionals@intgovforum.org)

To subscribe: [mail.intgovforum.org/mailman/listinfo/igfregionals\\_intgovforum.org](mailto:mail.intgovforum.org/mailman/listinfo/igfregionals_intgovforum.org)

## Africa

Name of the NRI	NRI contact reference	Referent email address	NRI website URL
African IGF			<a href="https://www.uneca.org/afigf">https://www.uneca.org/afigf</a>
Benin IGF	Kossi Amessinou	<a href="mailto:bureau@fgi.bj">bureau@fgi.bj</a>	<a href="http://fgi.bj">fgi.bj</a>
Cameroon IGF-CM	ANTIC	<a href="mailto:bouba@antic.cm">bouba@antic.cm</a>	<a href="http://www.igf.cm">www.igf.cm</a>
Chad CIGF	Zina Brahim	<a href="mailto:anawidix73@gmail.com">anawidix73@gmail.com</a>	<a href="http://www.igf.td/">www.igf.td/</a>
Congolese IGF	Darcia Dieuville Kandza	<a href="mailto:dkandza@gmail.com">dkandza@gmail.com</a>	No website
Democratic Republic of Congo FGI-RDC	Baudouin Schombe	<a href="mailto:baudouin.schombe@gmail.com">baudouin.schombe@gmail.com</a>	in building
Ghana IGF	Secretariat	<a href="mailto:secretariat@ghanaigf.org">secretariat@ghanaigf.org</a>	<a href="http://ghanaigf.org/">ghanaigf.org/</a>
Kenya	Grace Githaiga	<a href="mailto:ggithaiga@hotmail.com">ggithaiga@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="https://www.kictanet.or.ke/">https://www.kictanet.or.ke/</a>
Malawi IGF	Bram Fudzulani	<a href="mailto:beatblam@hotmail.com">beatblam@hotmail.com</a>	<a href="http://malawi.intgovforum.org">malawi.intgovforum.org</a>
Mauritius IGF	Mahendranath Busgopaul	<a href="mailto:halley@intnet.mu">halley@intnet.mu</a>	<a href="http://mauritius.intgovforum.org">mauritius.intgovforum.org</a>
Mozambique	Secretariat	<a href="mailto:secretariado@siitri.ac.mz">secretariado@siitri.ac.mz</a>	<a href="http://www.siitri.ac.mz/sdig/">www.siitri.ac.mz/sdig/</a>
Namibia IGF	Frederico Links	<a href="mailto:fredericojlinks@gmail.com">fredericojlinks@gmail.com</a>	<a href="http://namibia.intgovforum.org">namibia.intgovforum.org</a>
Nigeria IGF	Mary Nma Uduma	<a href="mailto:imnuduma@yahoo.com">imnuduma@yahoo.com</a>	<a href="http://www.nigf.org.ng">www.nigf.org.ng</a>
Rwanda Information and Technology Association			<a href="http://ricta.org.rw/">ricta.org.rw/</a>
ISOC Senegal	Coura Fall	<a href="mailto:coura.fall@gmail.com">coura.fall@gmail.com</a>	<a href="http://isoc-senegal.org">isoc-senegal.org</a>
South Africa ZAIGF	Gabriel Ramokotjo	<a href="mailto:gabrielramokotjo@gmail.com">gabrielramokotjo@gmail.com</a>	<a href="https://www.zaigf.org.za/index.html">https://www.zaigf.org.za/index.html</a>
FGI-Togo		<a href="mailto:norbertglakpe@gmail.com">norbertglakpe@gmail.com</a>	<a href="http://www.fgi-togo.tg/">www.fgi-togo.tg/</a>
Forum de la Gouvernance d'Internet Tunisien			<a href="http://www.igf.tn/">www.igf.tn/</a>
Internet Society Uganda		<a href="mailto:info@internetsociety.ug">info@internetsociety.ug</a> , <a href="mailto:lillian@internetsociety.ug">lillian@internetsociety.ug</a> , <a href="mailto:wilson@internetsociety.ug">wilson@internetsociety.ug</a>	
West Africa WAIGF			<a href="http://www.waigf.org/">www.waigf.org/</a>
Zimbabwe IGF	Secretariat	<a href="mailto:secretariat@zigf.org.zw">secretariat@zigf.org.zw</a>	<a href="http://www.zigf.org.zw/">www.zigf.org.zw/</a>

## Asia-Pacific

Name of the NRI	NRI contact reference	Referent email address	NRI website URL
Asia-Pacific regional IGF	Secretariat: Edmon Chung, Yannis Li, Jennifer Chung	sec@aprigf.asia Mailing list: discuss@aprigf.asia	aprigf.asia/
IGF Afghanistan		info@igf.af	igf.af/
Bangladesh BIGF		info@bigf.org	bangladeshigf.org/
Central Asia CAIGF	Timur Baltabaev	timur@gipi.kg, caigf@gipi.kg	https://caigf.org/en/
China IGFCN	Lory	tian.luo@igfcn.org	igfcn.org
Indonesia ID-IGF	ID-IGF Secretariat	secretariat@igf.id	igf.id
Japan IGF		contact@japanigf.jp	https://japanigf.jp/
Nepal IGF		sec@igf.org.np	igf.org.np/
Pakistan			pakistanigf.pk/
IGF Sri Lanka	Maheeshwara Kirindigoda	mahee@flexsoftserver.com	www.igf.lk/
Taiwan IGF	TWIGF MSG, Ying-Chu Chen	twigf-msg@nii.org.tw, jungheng@gmail.com	www.igf.org.tw/

## Eastern Europe

Name of the NRI	NRI contact reference	Referent email address	NRI website URL
SEEDIG	SEEDIG executive committee	see@intgovforum.org Mailing list: https://lists.rnids.rs/mailman/listinfo/icann-see	www.seedig.net/
Albania AlbIGF		info@albigf.al	www.albigf.al/
Armenia ArmIGF	Ms. Lianna Galstyan, Mr. Grigori Saghyan	secretariat@igf.am	armigf.am
Regional IGF Azerbaijan RIGFAZ			rigf.az/en/
BH IGF	Vlada Hromadzic	lida@oneworldplatform.net	www.bhigf.ba
Belarus IGF	Sergey Povalishev	info@igf.by	https://igf.by
Croatian IGF	Natasa Glavor	cro-igf@carnet.hr, natasa.glavor@carnet.hr	carnet.hr/cro_igf
Estonia	Maarja Kirtsi	maarja.kirtsi@internet.ee	päev.internet.ee/2017
Georgia GeoIGF		info@geoigf.ge	geoigf.ge/
Macedonia FYROM	Sasho Dimitrijoski Alexsandar Icokeav	sasho.dimitrijoski@aec.mk icokeav@popovski-law-office.com.mk	igfmkd.mk/
Moldova	Veronica Cretu	veronica@cretu.md veronicacretu@gmail.com	opengov.si.md/ moldova-igf/ internet-governance-forum-moldova/
Poland	Igor Ostrowski	igfpolska@mc.gov.pl igor@ostrowski.waw.pl	https://www.gov.pl/cyfrzacja
Russia RIGF		rigf@cctld.ru	rigf.ru/
Slovenia SLOIGF		iniciativa@sloigf.si	sloigf.si/ sporocila-2016/
Ukraine IGF-UA		sana.pryhod@gmail.com info@igf-ua.org	igf-ua.org/
Youth IGF Turkey	Gurkan Ozturan	gurkhan@gmail.com	igfturkey.org

## Latin America and the Caribbean

Name of the NRI	NRI contact reference	Referent email address	NRI website URL
Foro de Gobernanza de Internet Argentina IGF Argentina	Secretariat	secretaria@igfargentina.org	<a href="http://igfargentina.org/">http://igfargentina.org/</a>
IGF Barbados	Ashell Forde	info@igf.bb, ashell.forde@igf.bb	<a href="http://www.igf.bb">www.igf.bb</a>
IGF Bolivia			<a href="http://www.igfbolivia.bo/">http://www.igfbolivia.bo/</a>
Brazil CGI.BR			<a href="http://forumdainternet.cgi.br/en/">http://forumdainternet.cgi.br/en/</a>
Mesa Colombiana de Gobernanza de Internet	Julián Casasbuenas (Colnodo) - Eduardo Santoyo (.Co Internet)	julian@colnodo.apc.org ; eduardo@cointernet.com.co	<a href="https://www.gobernanzadeinternet.co/">https://www.gobernanzadeinternet.co/</a>
IGF Costa Rica			<a href="http://www.igfcostarica.cr/">http://www.igfcostarica.cr/</a>
Dominican Republic			
IGF Ecuador	Carlos Vera	info@igfecuador.ec	<a href="http://www.isoc.org.ec">www.isoc.org.ec</a> , <a href="http://www.igfecuador.ec">www.igfecuador.ec</a>
igfecuador@gmail.com	www.isoc.org.ec, www.igfecuador.ec	saragtti@gmail.com	<a href="http://igf.gt/">http://igf.gt/</a>
	Malisa Richards and Lance Hinds	malisarichards25.2008@gmail.com, lance.hinds@brainstreetgroup.com	
IGF Guatemala	Sara Fratti	saragtti@gmail.com	<a href="http://igf.gt/">http://igf.gt/</a>
IGF Guyana	Malisa Richards and Lance Hinds	malisarichards25.2008@gmail.com, lance.hinds@brainstreetgroup.com	
Dialogos sobre Gobernanza de Internet en Mexico			<a href="https://www.gobernanzadeinternet.mx/">https://www.gobernanzadeinternet.mx/</a>
IGF Panama	Lia Hernandez	direccion@ipandetec.org, ipandetec@gmail.com	<a href="http://www.ipandetec.org">www.ipandetec.org</a>
Paraguay		info@igfparaguay.org	
Foro de Gobernanza de Internet Peru			<a href="http://gobernanzadeinternet.pe/">http://gobernanzadeinternet.pe/</a>
Trinidad and Tobago Multistakeholder Advisory Group	Dr. Sanjay Bahadoorsingh	sanjay.bahadoorsingh@mag.tt	<a href="http://mag.tt">http://mag.tt</a>
Uruguay			<a href="https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/uruguay-national-igf#overlay-context=user">https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/uruguay-national-igf#overlay-context=user</a>
Youth Uruguay IGF		federicorodriguezfcs@gmail.com	
St Vincent and the Grenadines			<a href="http://isoc.vc/">http://isoc.vc/</a>
Youth LACIGF	Élisson Diones Cazumbá Cerqueira	elissondiones@gmail.com	<a href="https://youthlacigf.com/">https://youthlacigf.com/</a>

## Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Name of the NRI	NRI contact reference	Referent email address	NRI website URL
EuroDIG	Sandra Hoferichter	sandra@eurodig.org	www.eurodig.org
Austria		kontakt@igf-austria.at	https://www.igf-austria.at/
Canadian Internet Forum			https://cira.ca/canadian-internet-forum
Germany	Lorena Jaume Palasi	intgovforum.de@gmail.com	
Finnish Internet Forum			http://internetforum.fi/etusivu
Italy	Stefano Trumpy	stefano.trumpy@isoc.it	
Malta	Steve Agius	steve.agius@mca.org.mt	https://www.mca.org.mt/migf/about-migf
Netherlands IGF	Marjolijn Bonthuis Krijger	marjolijn.bonthuis@ecp.nl	www.nligf.nl
IGF Spain	Jorge Pérez Martínez	igfspain@etsit.upm.es	https://igfspain.com/
UK	info	info@ukigf.org.uk	http://www.ukigf.org.uk/
IGF-USA	Dustin Phillips and John More	dustin@icannwiki.com, morej1@mac.com	https://www.igf-usa.org/

## Arab region

Name of the NRI	NRI contact reference	Referent email address	NRI website URL
Lebanon	Zeina Bourhad	z.bourhab@yahoo.com	

# Survey questionnaire

## Internet Governance from the Edges - NRIs in their own Words Questionnaire

Survey link: <https://www.apc.org/limesurvey/index.php/342358/lang-en>

*Welcome! APC has taken initiative to compile two editions of Global Information Society Watch focused on National and Regional IGFs (NRIs). While one will consist of independent and analytical perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance, this questionnaire is linked to the second volume, which intends to give voice and visibility to the stories of each NRI, to present their undertakings and to advance their perspectives on internet governance. This short questionnaire includes an initial gathering of contact information to facilitate communication and coordination amongst NRIs, as well as three sections of open-ended questions, intended to gather NRI organisers' perspectives. For any information or question, please contact [maud@apc.org](mailto:maud@apc.org).*

### NRI Contacts Directory

*This information is aimed at building a directory of NRI websites and contacts to facilitate communication and coordination amongst NRIs.*

Name of your NRI:

Corresponding region or nation:

NRI website URL:

### NRI founding stories and development

*This section is dedicated to the founding and development stories of each NRI.*

What is the story of the founding of your NRI? What were its inspiration, its objectives?

How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?

How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?

### NRI internal governance and initiatives

*This section is dedicated to the internal functioning of the NRIs, their governance, their initiatives and topics of interest.*

Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?

Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?

Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?

How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?

Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?

## Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

*This section is dedicated to the perspective of each NRI on their role in internet governance and its evolution.*

What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?

How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?

*Thank you very much for sharing your perspective with us! For further enquiries and information, contact [maud@apc.org](mailto:maud@apc.org).*

## Privacy statement

*This privacy statement was displayed at the beginning of the survey in English, alongside links to its Spanish, Bahasa Indonesian, French and Portuguese versions.*

### Questionnaire survey privacy

Read our survey privacy statement in Español, Bahasa Indonesia, Français or Português.

We take your privacy very seriously. The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) will do its best to ensure that the general findings of this survey are shared and accessible. All personally identifiable information received through this questionnaire (e.g. email address or name) will be kept confidential and treated in an anonymous generic fashion.

All responses will be used only for the research, advocacy, or other specific purposes of this survey. The APC will not be able to personally identify you by the information you provide in your responses to this survey, unless you choose to provide your details. We will not collect nor disclose your personal information to third parties without your explicit consent.

### How we use cookies

A cookie is a small file which asks permission to be placed on your computer's hard drive. Once you agree, the file is added and the cookie helps analyse web traffic or lets you know when you visit a particular site. Cookies allow web applications to respond to you as an individual.

In the context of this survey, cookies are only used to remember the answers you provided should you choose to come back to the survey later. Cookies on this survey **are not** used to identify you, track your web surfing history, or obtain any other information about you or your location.

## Internet governance from the edges: National and regional IGFs in their own words

National and Regional Internet Governance Forum Initiatives (NRIs) emerged in response to the success of the first two global Internet Governance Forums (IGFs). The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, the outcome document of the final phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), alongside the call for the creation of the IGF, served as the foundations for the model of bottom-up, multistakeholder internet governance. The first NRIs were set up in 2007 and 2008, and there are now close to a hundred initiatives, comprising national, sub-national, regional and youth initiatives, which organise autonomously and cooperate with the global IGF Secretariat. The importance of NRIs has increased throughout the years, as they have grown in number and their work has expanded in scope. They have acquired such relevance within the IGF that an NRI session was included in the IGF 2016 and 2017 main sessions agendas.

This year, APC has taken the initiative to compile two editions of Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch) focused on the work of NRIs. While the main 2017 GISWatch annual report provides independent and analytical perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance broadly, the present companion edition, *Internet governance from the edges: National and regional IGFs in their own words*, aims to give voice and visibility to the stories of each NRI, share their experiences and achievements, and highlight their perspectives on internet governance.

GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH

2017 Report Special edition

<https://www.GISWatch.org>