

**INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM 2026
NATIONAL, (SUB)REGIONAL AND YOUTH IGF INITIATIVES**

- Virtual Meeting V -

28 May 2026 at 14:00 UTC

SUMMARY REPORT

Action Items:

- *The IGF Secretariat will continue coordinating with UNDP on outreach to UNDP country offices to promote awareness of and cooperation with the NRIs, and will share the finalized communication with the NRIs once issued.*
- *NRIs are invited to continue reviewing the NRIs Toolkit and submit specific suggestions for revisions, additions and practical guidance.*
- *The IGF Secretariat will prepare a proposal regarding the organization of the NRIs sessions at IGF 2026 and circulate it for feedback.*

1. The fifth virtual meeting of the National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) in the IGF 2026 preparatory cycle was held on 28 May 2026 at 14:00 UTC. The meeting was hosted by the IGF Secretariat's NRIs Focal Point. The final adopted agenda is attached as Annex A1, the list of participants as Annex A2, and the list of meeting inputs as Annex A3.
2. The meeting focused on updates regarding cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a review of the NRIs Toolkit after ten years of implementation, preparations for NRIs engagement at the 2026 IGF, and updates from the broader IGF process.

Summary of Discussions

3. The meeting opened with welcoming remarks from the IGF Secretariat and the newly appointed Chair of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) for 2026, Ms. Jennifer Chung.
4. The MAG Chair emphasized the importance of strengthening linkages between the annual IGF meeting, intersessional work and the NRIs network. She noted the valuable role played by NRIs in fostering bottom-up dialogue on digital governance issues and highlighted the importance of ensuring that the work and outputs of NRIs are more closely reflected in the broader IGF ecosystem. Participants congratulated the MAG Chair on her appointment and welcomed the start of preparations for the first IGF cycle following the decision of the United Nations General Assembly to grant the IGF a permanent mandate.
5. The IGF Secretariat provided an update on cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to help conduct outreach to UNDP country offices to promote awareness of and cooperation with the NRIs. Participants were informed that a draft communication introducing the NRIs network and encouraging cooperation between NRIs and UNDP country offices had been prepared and shared with UNDP headquarters for review. The communication is expected to be accompanied by a short introduction to the IGF, as well as the recently finalized short and long versions of the

NRIs brochures.

6. Participants welcomed the progress made and expressed support for strengthening engagement with UNDP country offices, noting the potential benefits of increased cooperation at national and regional levels.
7. The main part of the meeting was dedicated to a review of the NRIs Toolkit, adopted in 2016 as a community-developed guidance document for establishing and sustaining IGF initiatives.
8. The Secretariat recalled the background and objectives of the Toolkit, noting that it was intentionally developed as a living document and therefore subject to periodic review. Participants agreed that, after ten years of implementation and significant growth of the NRIs network, the review is timely and appropriate.
9. In the interest of time, participants focused their discussion on the first part of the Toolkit, covering its principles, structure and operational procedures. It was agreed that the second part of the Toolkit, relating to reporting requirements and practices, would be reviewed at a future meeting.
10. Participants reviewed the text and discussed several areas that could benefit from revision or expansion, including:
 - a) Updating references to reflect the WSIS+20 review process and the permanent mandate of the IGF;
 - b) Reviewing terminology and classifications related to national, subregional and regional IGF initiatives;
 - c) Clarifying expectations regarding multistakeholder representation within NRIs organizing committees. Participants discussed whether the current requirement of representation from at least three stakeholder groups remains sufficient or whether the Toolkit should require inclusion of all four stakeholder groups;
 - d) Objectives could be better articulated to reflect the NRIs' year-round activities, as well as their cooperation and engagement at the national, regional and global levels;
 - e) Providing additional guidance on sustainability and long-term continuity of NRIs, possibly as an additional chapter, reflecting lessons learned from ten years of implementation while preserving the flexibility required by different local contexts;
 - f) Considering practical examples, good practices and explanatory materials to make the Toolkit more accessible to newcomers.
10. Participants discussed the current classification of regional and subregional IGFs and noted that further consideration may be needed regarding initiatives that span multiple countries, linguistic communities or shared regional identities. It was agreed that additional input from the community would be beneficial before any modifications are proposed.
11. Participants were reminded that the purpose of the NRIs Toolkit is to guide stakeholders in establishing and sustaining IGF initiatives. It was noted that amendments to the existing version, which has been translated into the six official UN languages through the support of NRI volunteers, could either be incorporated directly into the text or included as annexes. Participants suggested that the review process could continue until the 21st IGF in Nairobi, providing sufficient time for consultation across the network. As a next step, all NRIs will be invited to submit questions, comments and proposals for

amendments to the Toolkit.

12. Participants also highlighted the importance of balancing meaningful government engagement with the preservation of the open, inclusive and multistakeholder nature of NRIs. It was noted that experiences differ significantly across countries and regions and that any future guidance should recognize these varying circumstances.
13. The Secretariat informed participants that a draft timeline for the IGF 2026 preparatory process is being finalized and that discussions regarding NRIs sessions for the annual meeting in Nairobi will commence in the coming weeks. In the meantime, the last year's methodology to planning the sessions will be shared for review and endorsement for this year.
14. Under Any Other Business, participants shared updates on upcoming NRI meetings and activities. The Lebanon IGF informed the network that its 2026 meeting is planned for 6–7 October 2026.
15. Participants also noted with sadness the passing of Mr. Alan Barrett, a respected member of the Internet governance community. Several participants paid tribute to his contributions and discussed possible ways of recognizing his legacy within the community.

Next Steps

15. The Secretariat will continue consultations with UNDP regarding outreach to country offices on the NRIs work and keep the NRIs informed of progress.
 16. NRIs are encouraged to review the Toolkit in detail and provide written suggestions for revisions, additions and examples of good practices that could strengthen future versions. Given the complexity and sensitivity of the task, it is expected that this exercise may take several months.
 17. Upon collecting all proposals, the Secretariat will prepare a structured approach for the Toolkit review process and present proposed next steps at a future meeting.
 18. The next NRIs meeting is expected to take place in approximately 3–4 weeks in earlier UTC hours.
 19. For any suggestions or questions regarding the NRI survey report or WSIS+20 engagement, NRI coordinators may contact the IGF Secretariat's NRIs Focal Point at: anja.gengo@un.org.
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ANNEX A1 AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Welcome from IGF 2026 MAG Chair
3. UNDP outreach on NRIs – status update by IGF Secretariat
4. NRIs Toolkit review
5. NRIs sessions at IGF 2026
6. AoB

ANNEX A2

MEETING PARTICIPANTS *(in alphabetical order¹):*

1. Mr. Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong, Chad IGF
2. Mr. Abdias Zambrano, Panama Youth IGF
3. Mr. Ahmed Farag, North African IGF
4. Ms. Aminata Sanogo, did not identify
5. Ms. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
6. Ms. Anna Bagdasaryan, Armenia IGF
7. Mr. Athanase Bahizire, Democratic Republic of the Congo IGF
8. Ms. Shanea Lewis, Caribbean IGF
9. Ms. Dorijn Boogaard, The Netherlands IGF
10. Ms. Eunice Alejandra Pérez Coello, did not identify
11. Ms. Fanny Salyou, Côte d'Ivoire IGF
12. Mr. Godsway Kubi, Ghana IGF
13. Mr. Ibiso Kingsley-George, Nigeria IGF
14. Mr. Jean Paul, Burundi IGF
15. Ms. Jennifer Chung, IGF 2026 MAG Chair
16. Mr. Jeremy Malcolm, did not identify
17. Mr. José Félix Hernández-Gil Gómez, Colombia IGF
18. Ms. Judith Hellerstein, IGF-USA
19. Mr. Julian Casasbuenas, Colombia IGF, LACIGF
20. Ms. June Parris, Barbados IGF
21. Mr. Kossi Amessinou, Benin IGF
22. Ms. Maria Mendes, Sao Tome and Principe IGF
23. Ms. Mary Uduma, West Africa IGF
24. Mr. Michel Tchonang Linze, Central African IGF, Cameroon IGF
25. Ms. Mirna Barbar, Arab IGF, UN ESCWA
26. Mr. Mohammad Abdul Haque Anu, Bangladesh IGF
27. Ms. Nancy Carter, Canada IGF
28. Mr. Nigel Cassimire, Caribbean IGF
29. Mr. Noah Flumerfelt, Canada IGF
30. Ms. Oola Fatodu, Nigeria IGF
31. Mr. Barrack Otieno, Kenya IGF
32. Mr. Peterking Quaye, Liberia IGF
33. Ms. Phyto T., Myanmar Youth IGF, East Asia Youth IGF
34. Mr. Rani Retmono, Asia Pacific regional IGF (APrIGF)
35. Ms. Gertrude Koné Douyéré, Côte d'Ivoire IGF
36. Ms. Rita Wehbé, Arab IGF, UN ESCWA
37. Ms. Sabrina Heber, German IGF
38. Mr. Shin Yamasaki, Japan IGF
39. Ms. Suada Hadzovic, Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF
40. Ms. Suzete Centeio Pereira, Cabo Verde IGF
41. Ms. Titti Cassa, Italy IGF
42. Mr. Try Thy, Cambodia IGF, Cambodia Youth IGF
43. Mr. Yao Amevi A. Sossou, Benin Youth IGF
44. Ms. Zeina Bouharb, Lebanon IGF

¹ Names indicated as participants identified in the Zoom online participation tool.

ANNEX A3

INPUTS

- NRIs Toolkit <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/nris-toolkit-how-to-start-your-igf-initiative>