

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

- Virtual Meeting VI -

29 June 2026 at 12:00 UTC

SUMMARY REPORT

Action Items:

- *The IGF Secretariat will launch consultations among NRIs to identify priority topics for the NRIs sessions at IGF 2026 through an online survey for two weeks.*
- *NRIs are invited to participate in the consultations and submit their priorities for the thematic focus of the NRIs Main Session and three issue-focused collaborative sessions.*
- *The IGF Secretariat will analyse the consultation results and present them to the NRIs community for endorsement before establishing working groups for session development.*
- *The IGF Secretariat will prepare a structured approach for the next phase of the Toolkit review process and continue consultations.*

1. The sixth virtual meeting of the National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) in the IGF 2026 preparatory cycle was held on 29 June 2026 at 12:00 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 a debrief of the First IGF 2026 Open Consultations and MAG Meeting held in Nairobi, preparations for the NRIs sessions at IGF 2026, and continued discussions on updates to the NRIs Toolkit.

Summary of Discussions

3. The meeting opened with welcoming remarks from the IGF Secretariat. Participants adopted the proposed agenda without amendments.
4. The IGF Secretariat briefed participants on the outcomes of the First IGF 2026 Open Consultations and MAG Meeting, hosted from 24 to 26 June 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya. Participants were informed that discussions focused on preparations for the 21st IGF, engagement with the host country, and the development of the programme framework for the annual meeting. The key updates shared were:
 - Discussions on the overarching theme of IGF 2026 are ongoing. The host country proposed "Governing the Future of Intelligence" as the overarching theme, while additional formulations were suggested during consultations, including variants referring to "Governing the Internet in the Age of Intelligence" and "Our Shared Responsibility". Final consultations on the theme are expected to continue in the coming days.
 - The MAG reconfirmed the continuation of four Policy Networks for the 2026 cycle, namely the Policy Network on Artificial Intelligence (PNAI), the Policy Network on Cybersecurity (PNC), the Policy Network on Digital Inclusion (PNDI), and the Policy Network on Open Digital Infrastructure (PNODI).
 - The MAG confirmed continuation of the Working Group on Strategy and the Working Group on Youth Engagement.

5. The Secretariat further informed participants that the Internet Governance Policy Labs pilot initiative will be launched during the 2026 cycle and encouraged NRIs to contribute to its development. Participants were also informed that the second Open Consultations and MAG Meeting is expected to take place in Geneva in September 2026, with dates to be announced shortly.
6. The Secretariat recalled that the MAG was informed about the NRIs commitment to organize one main session, three issue-focused collaborative sessions and one coordination session during the 21st IGF. Participants were informed that no questions had been raised during the Open Consultations and MAG Meeting regarding this approach.
7. The main part of the discussion focused on the process for identifying the topics of the NRIs sessions at IGF 2026. The Secretariat presented the methodology used during the previous IGF cycle, which combined community consultations through online surveys, subsequent prioritization exercises and the establishment of thematic working groups to develop the session proposals.
8. Participants reviewed the process used during the previous cycle and expressed broad support for following a similar methodology for IGF 2026. It was noted that the process had proven inclusive, transparent and effective in identifying priorities across the diverse NRI network.
9. Participants agreed that consultations should begin through an online survey inviting NRIs to identify priority thematic areas and issues. It was further agreed to align the survey structure with the IGF 2026 call for session proposals to facilitate comparison and coordination with the broader IGF programme development process.
10. Several participants supported maintaining the same approach as in previous years and emphasized the importance of allowing sufficient time for consultations. While the Secretariat proposed a two-week response period for the survey, some participants noted that a longer consultation period would be beneficial where possible.
11. Participants also discussed the importance of ensuring that the NRIs sessions collectively highlight the role and value of the NRI network within the broader IGF ecosystem. It was suggested that, once the session topics are agreed and working groups established, consideration should be given to how the sessions can better communicate the purpose of NRIs and encourage participation from stakeholders unfamiliar with the network.
12. The meeting then continued discussions on the review of the NRIs Toolkit, building on the consultations held during the previous meeting.
13. The Secretariat presented a consolidated overview of the proposals received from the NRIs coordinators to date. Participants were informed that the proposals include updates to reflect the outcomes of the WSIS+20 review process and the permanent mandate of the IGF, updates to statistics and contextual information on the growth of the NRIs network, and strengthened language regarding the role of NRIs in capacity development, awareness-raising, cooperation and contributions to national, regional and global digital governance processes.
14. Participants further reviewed proposals to expand the description of the NRIs' objectives to better reflect their year-round activities and their role in connecting local and regional perspectives with global discussions.

15. The discussion revisited the proposal to amend the requirement related to multistakeholder representation within NRI organizing committees. Participants considered whether the current requirement of representation from at least three stakeholder groups should be maintained or whether future recognition criteria should require representation from all four stakeholder groups. Several participants supported retaining the current requirement, noting that securing sustained participation from all stakeholder groups may not always be feasible in every local context.
16. Participants also discussed proposals related to governance arrangements and transparency within NRIs, including possible guidance on terms of reference, mandates, tenure of organizing committee members and decision-making procedures. It was noted that experiences differ considerably across initiatives and that additional consultations may be required before developing recommendations in this area.
17. The Secretariat presented proposals related to sustainability, including the possible development of a dedicated chapter on sustainability covering financial, operational and institutional continuity, stakeholder engagement and documentation of good practices accumulated during ten years of NRI implementation.
18. Participants further reviewed proposals related to inclusion and accessibility, including stronger guidance on engagement of underrepresented communities, accessibility measures, scholarship programmes and capacity-development activities. Participants generally welcomed these proposals and acknowledged their importance for maintaining the open and inclusive nature of NRIs.
19. Participants also discussed proposals concerning hybrid participation, impact measurement, classification of national, subregional and regional initiatives, and possible development of supplementary guidance materials and good-practice annexes to complement the Toolkit.
20. Several participants noted that further consultations are required regarding the classification of national, sub-regional and regional initiatives, particularly in relation to multilingual communities, shared cultural or linguistic identities and emerging forms of Internet governance initiatives that do not fit neatly within existing categories.
21. The Secretariat additionally informed participants about an exploratory initiative to develop an AI-supported knowledge tool that could help stakeholders navigate existing NRI knowledge, good practices and guidance materials. Participants welcomed the concept and encouraged further exploration.

Next Steps

22. The Secretariat will launch an online consultation process to identify priority topics for the NRIs sessions at IGF 2026 and will share the consultation timeline with the community. A soft deadline will be two weeks from the launch day.
23. Upon completion of the consultations, the Secretariat will analyse the results and facilitate community discussions aimed at agreeing on the topics for the Main Session and the three collaborative sessions.
24. Following agreement on the session topics, thematic working groups will be established to prepare the session proposals and coordinate the development of the NRIs programme for IGF 2026.

25. The Secretariat will continue collecting and consolidating proposals for revisions to the NRIs Toolkit and will prepare recommendations for the next phase of the review process.
26. Additional consultations on substantive Toolkit issues, including stakeholder representation requirements, governance arrangements and classifications of NRIs, will be organized in the coming months.
27. The next NRIs meeting is expected to take place in approximately four weeks, subject to confirmation by the Secretariat.

ANNEX A1

AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Debrief 1st IGF 2026 Open Consultations and MAG Meeting
3. NRIs sessions at IGF 2026 – next steps
4. NRIs Toolkit updates
5. 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. Mr. Andrey Aleinikov, Russian IGF
5. Mr. Athanase Bahizire, DRC IGF
6. Mr. Bakary Kouyaté, Mali IGF
7. Mr. Barrack Otieno, Kenya IGF
8. Mr. Dana Cramer, Canada Youth IGF
9. Mr. Geoffrey Ochieng, did not identify
10. Mr. Georges Koné Douyéré, Côte d'Ivoire IGF
11. Mr. Giacomo Mazzone, EuroDIG, Italy IGF
12. Mr. Godsway Kubi, Ghana IGF
13. Mr. Ibis Kingsley-George, Nigeria IGF
14. Mr. José Félix Hernández-Gil Gómez, Spain IGF
15. Mr. Kasun Wickramasuriya, Sri Lanka IGF
16. Mr. Levy Syanseke, Zambia Youth IGF
17. Mr. Marko Paloski, North Macedonia IGF
18. Mr. Michel Tchonang Linze, Central African IGF, Cameroon IGF
19. Mr. Mohammad Abdul Haque Anu, Bangladesh IGF
20. Mr. Nazar Nicolas Tanzania IGF
21. Mr. Nigel Cassimire, Caribbean IGF
22. Mr. Poncelet Ileleji, The Gambia IGF
23. Mr. Rani Retmono, Asia Pacific Regional IGF (APrIGF)
24. Mr. Shin Yamasaki, Japan IGF
25. Mr. Tijani Ben Jemaa, Tunisia IGF, African IGF
26. Mr. Try Thy, Cambodia IGF, Cambodia Youth IGF

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

27. Mr. Wiktor Skwarek, Poland IGF
28. Mr. Yao Amevi A. Sossou, Benin Youth IGF
29. Ms. Agustina Ordoñez, Argentina IGF
30. Ms. Alishah Shariff, UK IGF
31. Ms. Aminata Sanogo, did not identify
32. Ms. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
33. Ms. Clara Gninou, Benin Youth IGF
34. Ms. Concettina Cassa, Italy IGF
35. Ms. Dorijn Boogaard, The Netherlands IGF
36. Ms. Emmy Okwir Ogule, Uganda IGF
37. Ms. Fanny Salyou, Côte d'Ivoire IGF
38. Ms. Gabrielle Johnson, Caribbean Youth IGF
39. Ms. Jennifer Chung, IGF 2026 MAG Chair
40. Ms. Judith Hellerstein, IGF-USA
41. Ms. Katarina Gevorgyan, Armenia IGF
42. Ms. Laurianne-Marie Schippers, Brazil IGF
43. Ms. Mirna Barbar, Arab IGF, UN ESCWA
44. Ms. Oola Fatodu, Nigeria IGF
45. Ms. Rita Wehbé, Arab IGF, UN ESCWA
46. Ms. Saba Tiku, Ethiopia Youth IGF
47. Ms. Sabrina Heber, German IGF
48. Ms. Sandra Hoferichter, EuroDIG
49. Ms. Shanea Lewis, Caribbean IGF
50. Ms. Suada Hadzovic, Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF
51. Ms. Suzete Centeio Pereira, Cabo Verde IGF
52. Ms. Thandeka Mnguni, South Africa IGF

ANNEX A3

INPUTS

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