

INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

- national, regional, sub-regional and youth IGF initiatives -

About NRIs

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a global multistakeholder platform that facilitates the discussion of public policy issues pertaining to the Internet. Over the years, stakeholders from many countries and regions felt inspired by the IGF concept and applied the same framework of principles and procedures to their communities. This led to forming of national, regional, sub-regional and youth IGF initiatives (NRIs).

The very first IGF initiative whose annual meeting even predates the 1st annual IGF meeting is the Caribbean IGF, organized in 2006. Today, there are 150 NRIs recognized by the IGF Secretariat and listed on the IGF website¹.

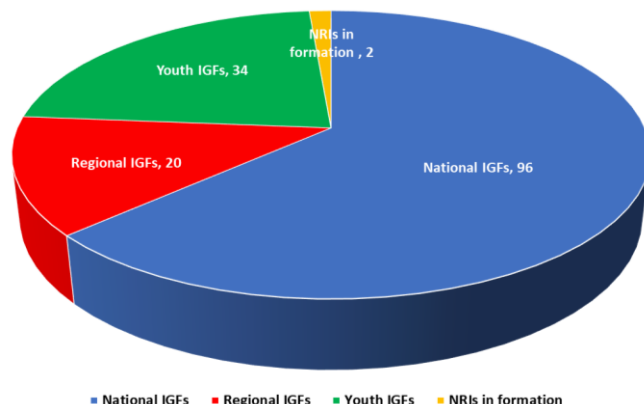


The NRIs are independent multistakeholder networks of individuals and organizations that are discussing Internet governance issues from the perspective of their respective communities. They work in accordance with an open, inclusive and bottom-up consensus process of the IGF and have a multistakeholder composition in both formation of the initiative and in any other initiative-related events.

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

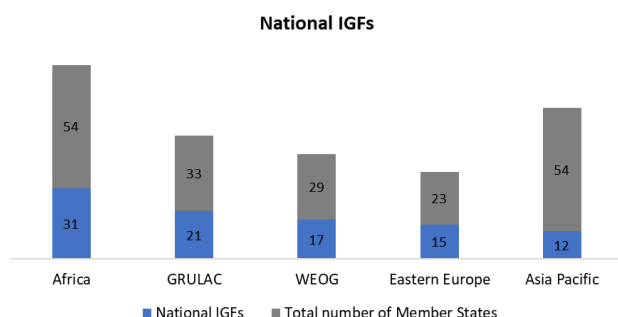
By type, among the total number of 150 recognized NRIs, 96 are [national](#)², 20 [regional and sub-regional](#)³ and 34 [youth](#)⁴ IGF initiatives. The biggest number of NRIs are in the region of Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean followed by Eastern Europe.

The youth IGF initiatives are also established on a national, sub-regional or regional level, but because of a specific stakeholder engagement focus on youth, they are grouped separately. More about different models of organization of youth IGFs is available in a dedicated [publication](#)⁵ on the IGF website.



Gaps in NRIs ecosystem

Looking at the geographical location of the NRIs, there are over 100 member states whose communities **do not have** a national IGF process. The majority of these are located in Asia Pacific (78%), followed by African region (43%), WEOG (42%) and GRULAC (37%) and Eastern Europe (35%).



However, in most of the cases, the regional, sub-regional or youth IGFs create an alternative way of engagement in Internet governance processes. The IGF Secretariat has been approached by stakeholders from several of these communities who were interested to set up a process. To date, many continue to be challenged by factors of different nature.

The following member states **do not have** the national IGF processes.

Africa (23)	Asia Pacific (42)		Eastern Europe (8)	GRULAC (12)	WEOG (12)
Algeria	Bahrain	Myanmar	Bulgaria	Antigua and Barbuda	Andorra
Angola	Bhutan	Nauru	Czechia	Barbuda	Belgium
Burundi	Brunei Darussalam	Turkey*	Latvia	Bahamas	Iceland
Central African Republic	Cambodia	Oman	Lithuania	Belize	Ireland
Comoros	Cyprus	Palau	Montenegro	Cuba	Israel*
Congo	Democratic Republic of Congo	Papua New Guinea	Romania	Dominica	Liechtenstein
Djibouti	Korea	Philippines	Serbia	Grenada	Luxembourg
Egypt	Fiji	Qatar	Slovakia	Guyana	Monaco
Equatorial Guinea	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Samoa		Jamaica	Norway
		Saudi Arabia		Nicaragua	San Marino
					Sweden

² <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/national-igf-initiatives>

³ <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/regional-igf-initiatives>

⁴ <https://intgovforum.org/en/content/youth-initiatives>

⁵ https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/index.php?q=filedepot_download/4874/2454

<i>Eritrea</i>	<i>Iraq</i>	<i>Singapore</i>		<i>Saint Kitts and Nevis</i>	<i>Turkey*</i>
<i>Eswatini</i>	<i>Jordan</i>	<i>Solomon Islands</i>		<i>Saint Lucia</i>	
<i>Ethiopia</i>	<i>Kazakhstan</i>	<i>Syrian Arab Republic</i>		<i>Suriname</i>	
<i>Guinea</i>	<i>Kiribati*</i>	<i>Tajikistan</i>			
<i>Guinea-Bissau</i>	<i>Kuwait</i>	<i>Thailand</i>			
<i>Lesotho</i>	<i>Kyrgyzstan</i>	<i>Timor-Leste</i>			
<i>Libya</i>	<i>Lao People's Democratic Republic</i>	<i>Tonga</i>			
<i>Mali</i>	<i>Malaysia</i>	<i>Turkmenistan</i>			
<i>Mauritania</i>	<i>Maldives</i>	<i>Tuvalu</i>			
<i>Morocco</i>	<i>Marshall Islands</i>	<i>United Arab Emirates</i>			
<i>Niger</i>	<i>Micronesia (Federated States of)</i>	<i>Uzbekistan</i>			
<i>Sao Tome and Principe</i>		<i>Viet Nam</i>			
<i>Seychelles</i>		<i>Yemen</i>			
<i>Somalia</i>					

Given the large number of missing national IGFs in Asia Pacific as the region with the biggest percentage of global population, the existence of regional, sub-regional and youth IGF is critical, referenced below.

In addition to the regional IGFs (African IGF, European IGF (EuroDIG), Asia Pacific regional IGF (APrIGF) and Latin American IGF (LACIGF)), the region with the biggest number of sub-regional IGFs is Africa (North African IGF, West African IGF, Central African IGF, East African IGF and Southern African IGF). The cross-cutting sub-regional IGFs are Arab IGF, South-eastern European IGF (SEEDIG) and the Pacific IGF. The Caribbean IGF is also functional within the GRULAC region, while in Asia, there is the Southeast IGF, Central Asian IGF, Hong Kong IGF and Macao IGF. The area of North America has a Quebec sub-regional IGF. The Commonwealth IGF and Persian IGF are inactive for several years.

There is a growing trend of all national, sub-regional and regional IGFs having integrated programmes for youth engagement, which can take a form of a youth IGF. The biggest number of youth IGFs is located in Asia Pacific region (11) and Eastern Europe (7), followed by Africa (5), WEOG (4) and GRULAC (3). There are three (3) international programmes focused on strengthening engagement of youth through the IGF concepts on local levels.

NRIs Work

The IGF Secretariat facilitates the collective work of the NRIs directed toward objectives set in a bottom-up manner across all NRIs at the beginning of each year. The [2022 work plan](#)⁶ includes several goals, among which, the organization of the NRIs joint sessions at the annual IGF meeting, development of publications and cooperation of other nature such as through the IGF capacity development framework⁷.

Collectively in 2021, the NRIs co-organized seven sessions hosted at the 16th annual IGF meeting in Poland, including the main session, collaborative sessions and a coordination session. The bottom-up, open and consultative work throughout the year also resulted in advices for more effective engagement of governments

⁶ https://www.intgovforum.org/en/filedepot_download/52/20789

⁷ During 2021, eight capacity development workshops were hosted in collaboration with the NRIs in the framework of NRIs annual meetings. Twenty grants were approved for support of NRIs. A number of NRIs-affiliated stakeholders received support to participate in the 16th IGF in Poland.

and parliaments into the NRIs processes, outlined in a dedicated [brochure](#)⁸ translated to nine different languages by the NRIs volunteers. Other NRIs-produced publications are available at the IGF website in the section called the [NRIs Library](#)⁹.

Individually, the NRIs run various intersessional activities in a lead-up to their annual meeting. For example, some run capacity development activities such as schools or courses on Internet governance. These take different forms, from events open to all, to events tailored to specific needs e.g., *youth school, course for women and girls, track for parliamentarians etc.* The annual meeting is also developed in different forms. For example, the Canadian IGF, Guatemala IGF or SEEDIG had hosted a series of online meetings focused on themes the community sets as a priority. A dominant form of an NRI annual meeting is 1-3 days long series of session discussions hosted in different formats. For example, in 2021, among 89 hosted NRIs annual meetings, 64% were two or more days long. Collectively, the NRIs meetings in 2021 gathered over 15,000 direct participants as beneficiaries of IGF-like processes. The agenda focused on various issues, but mostly from the domains of access, cybersecurity and new and emerging technologies.



NRIs Impact and Sustainability

The impact of the NRIs is tangible. They represent unique frameworks for a multistakeholder, bottom-up, open, inclusive, transparent and non-commercial dialogue on Internet governance on the agenda set by their respective communities. They are forums where policies are discussed, changed and improved. They act as advisors to those in need of expert multistakeholder view (e.g. Kenya IGF collaboration with their national parliament). And finally, they are long term builder of a culture which regards the Internet as One, open, accessible, affordable, safe and secure for everyone.

On a global level, for example through their collective participation in the IGF processes, they bring local specificities on Internet governance, which is critical to build a comprehensive global agenda of relevance to all.

⁸ NRIs brochure to support engagement with parliaments and governments
<https://www.intgovforum.org/content/nris-brochure-to-support-engagement-with-parliaments-and-governments>
⁹ <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/nris-library>



The funding, including the in-kind support, comes from different sources, including local sources, but also international ones. The international community is getting more and more organized over the past few years with having dedicated sources of funding for the NRIs. For example, the IGF Support Association (IGFSA)¹⁰ or The Internet Society Foundation¹¹. The IGF Secretariat, with generous help of its donors, also provides financial grants to eligible NRIs through a dedicated public call¹².

Contact the IGF Secretariat and explore engagement with the NRIs.



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<https://www.instagram.com/intgovforum/>



<https://www.youtube.com/user/igf>

¹⁰ <https://igfsa.org/>

¹¹ <https://www.isocfoundation.org/grant-programme/internet-governance-forum-events/>

¹² <https://www.intgovforum.org/en/content/igf-2022-call-for-nris-grants>