IGF 2016

6 – 9 December 2016, Jalisco, Mexico

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Main Session Report: National and Regional IGFs

7 December 2016, 15:00 – 18:00 p.m. UTC, Main Meeting Hall

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Honorary Host Country Chair: Mr. Victor Lagunes, Government of Mexico, Office of the President

Co-Moderators: Ms. Lynn St. Amour, MAG Chair and Ms. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat NRI Focal Point

Rapporteurs:

Ms. Sorina Teleanu, SEEDIG; Ms. Rizki Ameliah, Indonesia IGF

Ms. Laura Watkins, UK IGF; Ms. Christine Aride, Arab IGF

Remote Moderator: Ms. Lianna Galstyan, Armenia IGF; Mr. Ian Fish, UK IGF

I.   Session objectives and structure

This session was organized by a bottom up process contributed to by 79 national, sub-regional, regional and Youth IGFs including 72 officially recognized and 7 that are "in-formation"[1]. The NRIs have continually contributed to the preparatory work for this session throughout the year, all acting on equal footing. Records of the preparatory work are available on the [IGF website](#).

The overall objective of this Main session was to showcase the NRIs to the wider IGF community at the IGF, reflecting both their commonalities and their uniqueness. It also sought to reflect their direct engagement in the IGF itself, while highlighting the national, sub-regional, and regional activities in areas agreed to as focal topics for this Main Session.

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[1] These are initiatives that are internally organized, but have not organized their annual IGF meeting.

Although the NRIs have multiple topics locally, they decided to use a bottom up consultation process among the NRIs to structure their Main Session into two major segments, where each of the segments had two substantive topics:

- ➢ **Segment I**
- Access and Enhancing Opportunity for the Un-Connected and Under-Connected
- Secure, Resilient and Trusted Internet from the NRIs Perspectives
- ➢ **Segment II**
- Reliable and sustainable funding sources for the NRIs events
- Challenges in how to create more awareness about Internet Governance and why stakeholders should be actively engaging

The NRIs sought to have the broadest representation possible from NRIs, and ultimately, 41 speakers confirmed, accepting 3 minute speaking slots, in order to put forward the perspectives of all confirmed speakers. A tightly managed set of multiple speakers per topic was adapted, after the changes in the room set up was learned.

The Honorary Host Country Chair formally inaugurated the session, stressing the importance of the IGF initiative existing on national, sub-regional and regional levels and noting that the 2016 IGF Host Country also has a national IGF.

Opening the session, the co-moderators presented the history of the NRIs, referencing their organic nature that is not mandated by the Tunis agenda, but spontaneously organized while respecting the main IGF core principles of being open and transparent, inclusive, bottom up, multistakeholder and non-commercial in their organization and overall work.

To set the stage, the co-moderators presented the timeline illustrating over 50 of the NRIs meetings during 2016 year, as well as the world map with geographical location of each of the NRIs. A brief analysis of the growth of the NRIs across the three IGF five-year mandates was presented, illustrating that at the end of the first mandate (2006-2010) and during the second five year mandate (2010-2015), there were 37 IGF Initiatives, while at the 11th IGF in 2016 year, there are 79 in total, 7 of whom are "in-formation", which means that they are internally organizing but still working toward their first annual event during 2017.

After this introduction, NRIs coordinators were invited to address the four topics, as shown below.

II. Speakers

Of the 72 Initiatives, 41 had on-site representatives as speakers; one NRI spoke remotely. One speaker from Benin was scheduled but not able to speak, due to technical issues.   Attached Annex A lists all speakers, by self-selected category.

III. Summary report of the presented content

Four rapporteurs were appointed to gather the key points raised by the participants. They have summarized them into messages presented at the end of the session, that were sent out to the wider IGF community along with this report.

Key messages are shown below, per each of four topics:

<u>Segment I</u>

Topic A: Access and Enhancing Opportunity for the Un-Connected and Under - Connected

• The process of having a dialogue at a national level is important to the overall development in the region/ both national and sub regional/regional discussions are important.

• Two issues such as access and connectivity, the localization and local content has tremendous social, economic, political and geographic diversity.

• The efforts to secure the broadest possible participation of all stakeholders and to sustain the momentum of civil society interests, as well as the private and public sector interests, are hampered by issues of access, affordability, and the challenges faced in understanding Internet Governance.

• Access and enhancing opportunity for connecting the unconnected include national and sub regional issues, such as identifying who are the under-connected groups, such for example, women and youth or very remote areas in a country or sub region or region.

- Internet access with mobile technology should be seen only as a temporary solution because of the limitations it brings. Broadband connectivity must be about more than mobile access, but include capacity building, useful content, affordability of even existing access.

> **Identified challenges:**

- There is a need to have access to broadband, where availability is one important aspect. Internet need to be accessible in terms of practices as well, such as capacity building, useful content, local language… etc. .

- Multistakeholder approach and collaboration is needed to increase engagement and to support each other.

- More efforts are needed at national and in the regions for multistakeholder groups in terms of implementing IPv6, fiber optics, and other new technologies like white space technology.

- Digital literacy is a key and more efforts need to be made by all stakeholders at the national level and across developing regions in terms of educating users about the importance of engagement in IG activities.

Topic B: Secure, Resilient and Trusted Internet from the NRI Perspectives

> **Overarching messages - repeated by several IGF initiatives**

- The overarching message was that the Internet needs to be preserved as an open, secure, stable, resilient, and trustworthy space.
- Dialogue and collaboration among all stakeholder groups - governments, private sector, technical community and the civil society - is key in addressing cybersecurity challenges and contributing to an open, stable, secure and trustworthy Internet.
- Ensuring the safety of Internet users is a shared responsibility, with governments and the private sector playing a key role.
- Trust is key in the digital age. Trust in using the Internet is something that needs to be built, so that everyone (including persons with disabilities, marginalized and vulnerable group) can participate in the digital society.

- Human rights should be taken into account when devising policies aimed at enhancing trust and security on the Internet.
- Education and awareness raising are key for enabling users to better protect themselves while online.

> **Specific messages**

- Content control polices undertaken by governments to deal with problematic content such as online extremism need to be proportional.
- Measures such as blocking are often counterproductive.
- There should be no trade-off between privacy and security. The two should be kept in balance.
- Regulation is important in addressing cybersecurity issues, but it is not sufficient in itself.
- Encryption is an important tool in protecting human rights online. Governments have different approaches towards the use of encryption tools. Clarity and predictability is needed when it comes to the conditions under which law enforcement and security agency can circumvent encryption, ensuring a balance between security and human rights.

Segment II

Topic C: Reliable and Sustainable Funding Sources for the NRI Events

- Funding and fund raising is identified as one of the main challenges for NRIs, especially in areas with small digital ecosystems. On one hand, existing NRIs are challenged as they are limited in their inter-sessional activities and find challenges to ensure the continuity of the yearly event. On the other hand, it can delay the launch of NRIs "in formation", as often the local organizing team has early start-up costs to even plan their first event. This is especially true when funding sources are depending on in-kind contributions. Having start-up funding can help to generate 'in kind' contributions and encourage additional sponsors.

- NRIs need to define funding strategies and create funding mechanisms with long term reliable funding, although this may not enough as it depends on the availability of donations and voluntary contributions.

- Funding processes need to ensure that the multistakeholder process is not limited or affected in any way by financials. It is important to maintain neutrality, transparency and a multi-stakeholder nature of the funding mechanism that support the NRIs. Further, the diversity of funding sources is important to avoid assumption of influence.

- Government participation in respective NRIs is critical in providing reliability and confidence, nevertheless there is consistent need for more support from the private sector. There is also need for collaboration of all stakeholder. It is evident that stronger engagement of stakeholders increases their appreciation for a national/sub regional, and regional dialogue space and hence their willingness to support NRIs. For this more awareness about IG and its implications for each stakeholder group is needed. This was a consistent call to action across all NRI speakers.

- It is useful for NRIs to consider how to define their structure and rules through a statement of purpose or in some cases, through a charter that is accepted by the Organizing Committee/Steering Group of the NRI. This may also help to secure funding commitments from the different stakeholders and get more funders on board as it defines the NRI commitment to neutrality and bottom up planning, inclusive of all stakeholders.

- It is more important to support wider participation to the NRI event rather than providing a luxury event, this could be achieved by directing funding more towards scholarships and remote participation, but also towards getting participation from the different regions and cities as well as from the various sectors and parts of the society. While this may mean in some cases nomadic organization and rotation in places, it also increases costs as it is not always easy to find local hosts. Each country and sub region and region should self-determine what works best for them.

- There is need to maintain and increase funding sources such as the IGFSA and supportive mechanisms provided by the IGF Secretariat.

- In some cases the partnering of NRIs with other relevant events within the region or country, could decrease costs and secure the presence of funders, not only in providing monetary funds but also in various other support ways.

Topic D: Challenges in how to create more awareness about Internet Governance at the national and regional levels, and why stakeholders should be actively engaging

From the range of answers and models presented in this section, it is clear that one-size does not fit all. Each nation and region have come up with a solution that is right for them. However, there are some areas of consensus and shared experience:

- ➢ The multi-stakeholder model is key and helps outreach in a number of ways:
  - It allows outreach through multiple networks to reach potential new participants;
  - It facilitates engagement with all stakeholder groups;
  - Participants and speakers can be *ambassadors* and help to spread the word by speaking in other venues;
  - Setting the agenda in a bottom-up manner ensures the topics are appealing and relevant to participants from that country/sub region, or region.
- ➢ Mechanisms to educate about Internet Governance activities can help to engage newcomers in an NRI, as it helps raise awareness and build trust.
- ➢ A number of NRIs have some form of Youth engagement programme.
- ➢ Continual improvement is needed in order for an NRI to remain relevant and attract new participants. The end point is never fixed and assuring a bottom up and ever evolving approach to taking views into account strengthens each individual NRI.
- ➢ Collaboration and links with other groups and forums are helpful. These include linkages between national, regional and the global IGF as well as with other relevant organisations, forums and policy processes in the nation or region
- ➢ Innovative formats, the use of social media and accessible online participation all help to raise awareness and improve outreach.

> ➤ There needs to be a purpose in the discussion in order to encourage participation. People who are attending need to be aware of the aim and purpose of the Initiative. This varies between the initiates that presented but include elements such as:
>   - Outputs in the form of recommendations, output statements, or papers;
>   - Links into national or regional or global policy-m
>   - Specific mechanisms from both national and sub regionals/regionals, to feed into the global IGF.

It was stressed by a number of Initiatives that they operate in an ongoing manner, some with a variety of complementary elements, rather than a single one-off event.

During the open microphone segment in the Main NRI session, the importance of having the IGFs on national and regional levels was recognized. Some of the individual NRIs have raised specific questions regarding the stakeholder engagement on equal footing. It was pointed that the NRIs share different challenges, and that it would be useful to hear more elaborations on what are the biggest problems the NRIs are facing while working. Finally, it was advised for the global IGF to have more detailed guidelines on how to organize an IGF on national level. One speaker raised that the NRIs need to be supported, and an example if the support coming from the IGFSA was illustrated.

Finally, announced and invited to all interested during the Main session by the IGF Focal Point, the NRIs then held a further NRI Coordination Session where they evaluated the Main Session and their engagement at IGF2016. They committed to develop a consensus recommendation to the MAG regarding their "reflection" into the IGF and the IGF reflection into the NRIs activities.

Annex A1: List of speakers

A. Access and Enhancing Opportunity for the Un-Connected and Under-Connected

1. Africa IGF (online participation)
2. Armenia IGF
3. Asia – Pacific IGF
4. Benin IGF
5. Caribbean IGF
6. Ghana IGF
7. Kenya IGF
8. Nigeria IGF
9. Russia IGF
10. SEEDIG
11. Uruguay

A. Secure, Resilient and Trusted Internet from the NRI Perspectives

12. Bosnia and Herzegovina IGF
13. Central Asia IGF
14. EuroDIG
15. German IGF
16. LAC IGF
17. Mexico IGF
18. South Korea IGF
19. Sri Lanka IGF

B. Reliable and sustainable funding sources for the NRIs events

20. Arab IGF
21. Argentina

22. DR Congo IGF

23. Italy IGF

24. Peru IGF

25. South Africa IGF

26. West Africa IGF

C. Challenges in how to create more awareness about Internet Governance and why stakeholders should be actively engaging

27. Brazil IGF

28. Chad IGF

29. Colombia IGF

30. Ecuador IGF

31. Finland IGF

32. Georgia IGF

33. German Youth IGF

34. Indonesia IGF

35. Japan IGF

36. Netherlands IGF

37. Portugal IGF

38. Spain IGF

39. Uganda IGF

40. UK IGF

41. USA IGF

42. Youth LAC IGF