

**NATIONAL, (SUB)REGIONAL AND YOUTH IGF INITIATIVES  
- Virtual Meeting III, 20 May 2020, 15:00 p.m. UTC -**

**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Action Points:**

To review the policy questions for the NRIs main session in this [shared document](#) and help finalising the pending questions. *Deadline: 15 June*

**Summary of key points**

1. The 4<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting of the National, Sub-regional, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs) of the IGF 2020 preparatory cycle, took place on 20 May 2020 at 15:00 p.m. UTC.
2. The meeting was hosted by the IGF Secretariat's NRIs Focal Point. The final, adopted version of the Agenda is attached to this document as Annex A1 and a list of meeting Participants as Annex A2. The list of shared documents is attached to this report as Annex A3.

**Summary Report**

3. The meeting focused on finalising the policy questions for the NRIs main session on the *role of the Internet in emergency situations*.
4. The Host invited the NRIs to discuss all received comments on the list of the [initially suggested policy questions](#). The following points are the outcomes of the discussion:
  - a) Question 2 related to resilience of societies during emergency situations, was suggested to be reworded to reflect better the relationship with the Internet. The Brazil IGF suggested the following rewording:  
*"Emergency situations, such as COVID-19, showed the Internet plays a central role amidst tough restrictions (e.g. remote work and study, personal communications, delivery services etc.). Which role does the Internet perform to make societies more resilient?"*
  - b) Question 4 on achieving the universal access was expanded on a suggestion of the Bolivia IGF. The suggested wording is:  
*"In the context of global emergencies such as COVID-19, since the Internet has proved to be one of the most important resources for humanity, during this pandemic, but still not available for almost half of the world population. What kind of efforts, regarding policies and strategic actions can we promote to reach Internet Universal Access, in the near future?"*
  - c) Question 5 also received suggestions to be reworded into:  
*"Faced with COVID-19, what are the impacts generated to promote digital inclusion in the future? How to achieve meaningful access to devices and digital literacy in emerging situations?"*

- d) The question suggested by the Benin IGF on the importance of access was proposed to be merged with the fifth question.
- e) It was agreed that the suggested question 7 on the importance of Internet standards, would need additional elaboration for the NRIs to understand the concept of standards the question refers to.
- f) Some of the NRIs underlined the importance of the main session policy questions referring to the Internet infrastructure. It was agreed that the suggested question 8 by the Croatian IGF, could be expanded to also reflect to the Internet infrastructure. The Brazilian IGF suggested the following wording:  
*"How to strengthen Internet infrastructure so as to raise quality of access and ensure meaningful connectivity for people (right speed, adequate devices, enough data, frequent connection)?"*
- g) Participants endorsed the question 10 added by the Spanish IGF:  
*"COVID-19 pandemic outbreak has shown the crucial role of the Internet to configure a new world where many activities (business, education, travels, public services, health control ...) could be carried out in a more efficient and sustainable way. There is a clear opportunity now that the world has to adapt to the new reality to promote a quantum leap in sustainable evolution. What policies should be applied to ensure that the new normal after COVID-19 pandemic takes the full advantage of using the Internet?"*
- h) The 'Human Rights' cluster was renamed to 'Rights' given the nature of suggested questions that go beyond the human rights.
- i) Question 12 was expanded following the suggestion of the LACIGF:  
*"Balancing privacy vs. security online in emergency situations according to legality, necessity and proportionality principles."*
- j) Question 13 is pending identification of the author with the NRI represented.
- k) New cluster was suggested to add on 'Data'. Two questions from the Benin IGF and LACIGF were suggested, to which participants did not object:  
*"Q16: Do particular measures (legislation), developed technologies using data and tracing individuals during this crisis make it possible to reach the SDGs?"*  
*"Q17: How to secure that the deployment of digital technologies that collect data during the emergency situation are limited in their use and with clear sunset clauses in order to avoid their use can cause further discrimination, particularly regarding vulnerable groups, such as migrants or ethnics/religious minorities?"*
- l) It was agreed that the questions 13, 16 and 17 will be merged. The IGF Secretariat will suggest possible wording, subject to the NRIs approval.
- m) Benin IGF suggested an additional cluster focused on "COVID-19 and Digital Economy". Several participants argued that the cluster should be renamed to "COVID-19 and Economy", to be broader, while others advocated for the initially suggested title. It was agreed that the final consensus will be sought across the NRIs.
- n) Under the above-mentioned cluster, Benin IGF has suggested questions 17-19 while the LACIGF suggested question 20 that did not receive any objections during the meeting.

These are:

*“Q17: One of the main issues caused by this pandemic is the negative economic effects for families and individuals in our communities, considering long lockdowns, that make it impossible to continue working or doing regular activities, particularly for those self-employed. So, what are good policy practices from governments around the world, taking advantage of Internet services, in order to overcome family economy problems caused by prolonged lockdowns in our communities?”*

*“Q18: Also as a thinking point, for countries that have digital taxes/ social media taxes, this acts as a barrier in taking part in the digital economy as it becomes expensive to access the internet and by extension the digital marketplaces. Therefore, policy should address the issue of access to the internet that can relieve such barriers that affect the economy itself.”*

*“Q19: What kind of policies could be implemented to support the SMEs taking advantage of e-commerce during emergency times? How can the issue of distribution chain be solved for the SMEs that are online offering their products?”*

*“Q20: How can digital economy new business models provide opportunities for women and vulnerable populations in emergency times?”*

- o) There was a suggestion to add the reference on the SMEs from question 19 to the question 17. However, a few NRIs disagreed noting the importance of the SMEs being reflected in a separate question. This decision will be deferred to the NRIs via NRIs mailing list.
- p) Ecuador IGF suggest to also add questions to the intellectual property rights and right to life under the cluster on economy.

## Other updates from the IGF Secretariat

5. In order to save time, the IGF Secretariat has updated some critical updates on the IGF 2020 preparatory process through the NRIs mailing list beforehand. These were:
  - o *First [IGF Newsletter](#) launched. If you want to receive the IGF newsletters in future, please subscribe to [this mailing list](#). (Many thanks to Lianna that has translated the newsletter into Armenian).*
  - o *[Letter to the MAG from the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs](#).*
  - o *IGF [redesigns its website](#) thanks to the generous grant of the UK Government (in 2021)*
  - o *Help the IGF to [translate](#) its key output documents (to 6 UN languages)*
  - o *[2<sup>nd</sup> IGF 2020 Open Consultations and MAG meeting](#) will be hosted ONLINE. The programme will extend over 5 days (15 – 19 June) in different time zones. See the [draft agenda](#).*
  - o *All [received session proposals and IGF Village](#) (including NRIs booth) for the 15<sup>th</sup> IGF available on the IGF website.*
  - o *Webinar on youth engagement hosted with over 185 participants. See the [planning structure on the youth engagement](#).*
  - o *Register your [remote hub](#) before 20 September.*
  - o *Calendar of the NRIs meetings, as announced to the Secretariat: <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/nris-annual-meetings-2020>*
  - o *NRIs Focal Point joining NRIs-work meetings to understand how the NRIs meetings will be hosted online (so far, heard from the IGF-USA and coordinators will be approached to add updates to the NRIs [shared document](#) that gathers best practices on this matter).*
6. **Next meeting:** Next meeting will be hosted in the week of 22 June. Doodle poll will be sent three weeks before the meeting.

7. For any suggestions or questions regarding the Report, kindly contact the IGF Secretariat, NRIs Focal Point at: [anja.gengo@un.org](mailto:anja.gengo@un.org).
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## **ANNEX A1**

### **AGENDA: Virtual Meeting IV**

1. Introductions and agenda adoption – 2 min
2. Finalising policy questions for the NRIs main session – 30 min
3. Exchange of ideas for the format for the NRIs main session – 20 min
4. AoB

## **ANNEX A2**

### **MEETING PARTICIPANTS** *(in alphabetical order<sup>1</sup>):*

1. Abdeldjalil Bachar Bong, Chad IGF
2. Abdias Zambrano, Panama IGF
3. Abdulkarim *to be identified*
4. Ahmed Farag, Arab IGF
5. Aleksandar Ichokjaev, N. Macedonia IGF
6. Alexei Marciuc, Moldova IGF
7. Anja Gengo, IGF Secretariat
8. Anriette Esterhuysen, MAG Chair
9. Barrack Otieno, Kenya IGF
10. Carlos Afonso, Brazil IGF/MAG member
11. Carlos Vera, Ecuador IGF
12. Claire Pershan, France IGF
13. Concettina Cassa, Italy IGF
14. Cristina Morales Angulo, Youth Nicaragua IGF
15. Dustin Loup, IGF-USA
16. Eileen Cejas, Argentina Youth IGF
17. Everton T. Rodrigues, Brazil IGF
18. Fotjon Kosta, Albania IGF
19. Georgia Evans, Canada IGF
20. Harimino Rakotondrainibe, Madagascar IGF
21. Hisham Aboulyazed, Arab IGF
22. Jose Felix Hernandez-Gil, Spain IGF
23. Judith Hellerstein, IGF-USA
24. Julian Casasbuenas G., Colombia IGF
25. June Parris, Barbados IGF
26. Lianna Galstyan, Armenia IGF, SEEDIG
27. Lucien Castex, France IGF
28. Mahen Busgopaul, Mauritius IGF

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<sup>1</sup> Names indicates as participants have identified in the Zoom online participation tool.

29. Makane Faye, African IGF
30. Michel Tchongang, Cameroon IGF
31. Marilyn Cade, IGF-USA
32. Muriel Alapini, Benin IGF
33. Nico Fiumarelli, Youth Uruguay IGF, Youth Observatory
34. Nigeria IGF Secretariat
35. Paul Rowney, Namibia IGF
36. Peter Koch, German IGF
37. Pierre-Jean Darres, Quebec IGF
38. Predrag Tasevski, N. Macedonia IGF
39. Rachad Sanoussi
40. Roberto Zambrana, Bolivia IGF
41. Shadrach Ankrah, Ghana Youth IGF
42. Shreedeeep Rayamajhi, Nepal IGF
43. Simon Ishaku
44. Sorina Teleanu, SEEDIG
45. Tracy F. Hackshaw, Trinidad and Tobago IGF
46. Vincent Traore
47. Vinicius W. O. Santos, Brazil IGF
48. Vivien ASSANGBE WOTTO, Benin IGF
49. Wai Min Kwok, UN DESA
50. Zeina Bou Hareb

### **ANNEX A3**

#### **LIST OF SHARED INPUTS**

- *Policy/guiding questions for the NRIs main session, n inputs:*  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fUdXTT6EIFv7GgEKUrYw3GQVAzv0pVQinCEZ-I2mpo/edit?usp=sharing>
- *Looking at the best practices from the NRIs that will host their annual meetings online, inputs:*  
here. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1KH7fLfaWnV6MRQmwBPIMepQ00yTxd5f82A73CKsk5tE/edit?usp=sharing>