GISWatch Special edition

GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH 2017

Internet governance from the edges:
National and regional IGFs in their own words

Association for Progressive Communications (APC)

GISWatch 2017
SPECIAL EDITION

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Global Information Society Watch 2017 special edition:
Internet governance from the edges: NRIs in their own words

Disclaimer: The views expressed in survey responses are not necessarily the views of APC or of its members.

This report is a special companion edition to Global Information Society Watch 2017: National and Regional Internet Governance Forum Initiatives (NRIs), which can be downloaded from https://www.giswatch.org/2017-local-and-regional-internet-governance-forums-igfs

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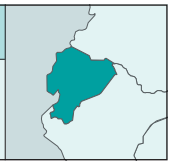

NRI founding stories and development

What is the story of the founding of your NRI? What were its inspiration, its objectives?

Please refer to www.isoc.org.ec and www.igfecuador.ec for details.

How did it develop and what difficulties did you experience along the way?

We began organising working groups and integrating different sectors and actors into what we call the Mesa Ecuatoriana de Gobernanza de Internet, MEGI. This group organised the first official IGF in 2016 and now we are working towards the second. The main difficulties have been the same ones that face very volunteer-based processes, related to financial resources and participants' time.

How do you imagine your NRI and its activities in the future?

As a more active and strengthened community, making a greater contribution.

NRI internal governance and initiatives

Who are the people involved in your NRI and how do they contribute to it?

We have members from the different stakeholder groups. We participate in meetings, and we work collaboratively for the development of an agenda and the adoption of decisions related to the Ecuador IGF.

Have you experienced difficulties in ensuring all stakeholder groups participate fully and more or less equally?

The greatest difficulty has been with government participation. The other sectors participate much more freely and proactively.

Do you measure gender balance in your NRI? Did you undertake measures to encourage gender balance?

We have not done it up until now, but we have participants who are specialists on the subject working on related issues for the upcoming Ecuador IGF 2017.

How was your last forum organised, what were the topics chosen and the outcomes of discussion? How was it financed?

Details available at: www.isoc.org.ec and at www.igfecuador.ec

Are there controversial topics that have been difficult in your NRI and if so, why?

No.

Perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance

What is your take about the role of your NRI in internet governance processes, at the level of your country, region and globally?

We are part of a global process. We have little contact with the regional IGF, which needs to improve its integration and participation processes.

How do you perceive your role and position towards other NRIs, the IGF and the IGF Secretariat?

We are part of a balanced and proactive team.

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Internet governance from the edges: National and regional IGFs in their own words

National and Regional Internet Governance Forum Initiatives (NRIs) emerged in response to the success of the first two global Internet Governance Forums (IGFs). The Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, the outcome document of the final phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS), alongside the call for the creation of the IGF, served as the foundations for the model of bottom-up, multistakeholder internet governance. The first NRIs were set up in 2007 and 2008, and there are now close to a hundred initiatives, comprising national, sub-national, regional and youth initiatives, which organise autonomously and cooperate with the global IGF Secretariat. The importance of NRIs has increased throughout the years, as they have grown in number and their work has expanded in scope. They have acquired such relevance within the IGF that an NRI session was included in the IGF 2016 and 2017 main sessions agendas.

This year, APC has taken the initiative to compile two editions of Global Information Society Watch (GISWatch) focused on the work of NRIs. While the main 2017 GISWatch annual report provides independent and analytical perspectives on the role of NRIs in internet governance broadly, the present companion edition, *Internet governance from the edges: National and regional IGFs in their own words*, aims to give voice and visibility to the stories of each NRI, share their experiences and achievements, and highlight their perspectives on internet governance.

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