

GLOBAL INFORMATION SOCIETY WATCH 2017

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



GISWatch 2017
SPECIAL EDITION

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

Global Information Society Watch 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>

CONGO IGF (in formation)

Republic of Congo

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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?*

The founding of our initiative comes from global inspiration. In our process we are helped by the IGF Academy (set up by iRights and APC). Our inspiration comes from all those countries who do have their initiatives and who are fighting for human rights in cyberspace. The objectives of our national initiatives are to enforce freedom of expression online, children's and women's safety online but also all other subjects related to the use of internet in our country.

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

We are still developing and most of our difficulties are related to fundraising.

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

All the organising committee is working for an inclusive IGF.

NRI internal governance and initiatives

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

We are still working on it, but as civil society members we are lucky to have the government with us. Their contribution with respect to the other stakeholders will be clarified in the coming and first national IGF.

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

Not for the time being.

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

No response was provided to this question.

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

We are still working on the first forum.

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?

No response was provided to this question.

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

No response was provided to this question.

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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