**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.:   BDT/DNS/CYB/DM/217   Geneva, 26 September 2022

- ITU Member States
- ITU-D Sector Members
- Academia
- ITU Global Cybersecurity Focal Points
- Previous GCIv4 Weightage Expert Group participants

Subject: Invitation to join the Expert Group of the fifth edition of the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to invite you to nominate an expert to participate in the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) Expert Group meetings, taking place from 25 to 26 October 2022.

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) is taking a multistakeholder approach to this fifth edition of the GCI, leveraging a wide range of expertise related to cybersecurity, with the objective of improving the quality of the GCI, encouraging international cooperation, and promoting knowledge exchange.

Should you wish to nominate an expert, in accordance with ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) Resolution 45 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), I would request you to nominate experts with relevant expertise, such as statistics, data science, cybersecurity, or other directly relevant technical or methodological expertise. The nominated experts will be required to provide input on the GCI methodologies based on their knowledge and qualifications.

The expert should be prepared to participate in the GCI Expert Group virtual meetings on **25** and **26 October 2022** where, through discussion and guidance, experts may be requested to contribute and participate in specific working group meetings on topics of:

1. **Relevant methodology and calculations related to the presentation and communication of tiered groupings of countries based on their performance in the GCI.** The GCIv5 and future results will be structured into levels of commitment, instead of communicating country performance in terms of ranks.
2. **Relevant methodology and recommendations regarding weightages to calculate GCI scores.** The Expert Group will continue to recommend weights on Pillar(s) that most closely align to their area of expertise, assigning weights to GCI questions relative to questions' importance to cybersecurity principles.

More information can be found in the attached Expert Group Terms of Reference and on the GCI webpage.

Please note that the previous GCIv4 country focal point and those nominated in the preceding 6 months are copied in this correspondence. A response **by 28 September 2022** to gci@itu.int is highly appreciated. Any enquiries on GCI can also be submitted to the same email address.

I wish to thank Member States, ITU-D Sector Members and the Expert Groups that have contributed to the methodology of the previous editions of the GCI.

I look forward to continuing our collaboration.

Yours faithfully,

[Original signed]

Doreen Bogdan-Martin
Director

Annex: GCI Expert Group Terms of Reference

Annex 1 – Terms of Reference

ITU-D Cyber Security Program

GCI Expert Group
Terms of Reference
September 2022

1) The Global Cybersecurity Index

First published in 2015, the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) helps countries identify areas for improvement in the field of cybersecurity, in turn raising the overall level of cybersecurity worldwide. Through the data collected, the GCI highlights practices that Member States can implement which are suitable to their national environment, promotes good practices, and fosters a global culture of cybersecurity.

The GCI scope and framework is set out in [ITU Plenipotentiary Resolution 130 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)](), which addresses strengthening the role of ITU in building confidence and security in the use of information and communication technologies. The GCI Questionnaire is reviewed by ITU-D Study Group 2, Question 3: *Securing information and communication networks: best practices for developing a culture of cybersecurity of ITU Members*, and incorporates feedback from a wide variety of stakeholders and experts.

In addition, the fifth edition of the Global Cybersecurity Index follows recommendations of ITU-D Resolution 45 (Rev. Kigali, 2022) that defines the work done through the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) and recommends BDT "to consider the results of the GCI to guide its cybersecurity-related initiatives, especially taking into account the gaps identified through the GCI process."

2) Global Cybersecurity Index Expert Group

a) Background
Expert input on the GCI was established in 2018 through the work of the Study Group Question 3/2 and has previously been in the forms of the ''Correspondence Group" and the "Weightage Expert Group." In ITU-D Resolution 45 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), the GCI Expert Group is tasked with advising ITU-BDT on GCI issues related to methodology, structure, questions, and weightage.

b) Objective
The objective of the GCI Expert Group is to:
- Revise Questionnaire for each new edition of GCI;
- Develop a tiering model for grouping of countries based on their performance;
- Provide weightage recommendations regarding weightages to calculate GCI scores; and
- Provide feedback on future iterations of the GCI.

These activities will be conducted through three working groups:
- Correspondence Group (activities concluded in April 2022)
- Development of Tiers (Q3-Q4 2022)
- Weightage Recommendations (Q3-Q4 2022)

Upcoming Expert Group meetings will be focused on developing an appropriate tiering model for grouping countries and providing weightage recommendations of GCI indicators, sub-indicators, and micro-indicators.

c) Membership/Composition
The GCI Expert Group is open to all ITU members, sector members and experts from different organizations and academia with a background in statistics, data science, cybersecurity, or other directly relevant technical or methodological expertise. Expert group members are expected to participate in a working group that best fits their qualifications and expertise.

The composition of the Expert Group should reflect regional diversity, gender diversity, and diversity of expertise, as well as the balance amongst stakeholder type, including governments, the private sector, and academia.

d) Methods of work

The ITU will act as a Secretariat for the Expert Group. The GCI Expert Group may be chaired by an Expert Group member. In addition, the GCI Expert Group, in agreement with the ITU, may set up other working groups to study specific issues related to the GCI.

The GCI Expert Group and its working groups may exchange ideas using an online discussion forum, preferably through Teams channels created for the purpose of discussions on Questionnaires, Tiers, and weightage on the ITU working platform. Expert Group members are invited to use the forum to exchange ideas, post documents, and provide comments on documents. The Teams channel will be managed and organized by the GCI Team.

GCI Team will organize virtual meetings for each working group, and ITU Cybersecurity team members may be present at meetings and participate in discussions.

Each working group is expected to present a short report of the work completed. Expert Group working groups may be asked to report their work to the chair of the Study Group 2/3 rapporteur meetings.

e) Duration of work

The GCI Expert Group will be asked to deliver their recommendations within specific timelines based on the overall GCI edition's deadlines. Experts should communicate their availability, with reasonable accommodations to be made.

3) Development of Tiers

Following the ITU-D Resolution 45 (Rev. Kigali, 2022), GCI results will be organized into levels of commitment instead of communicating country performance in terms of ranks, in order to provide a more meaningful assessment of countries' areas of strength and improvement.

Tiers are a form of categorization of continuous variables, such as GCI overall or pillar scores. Tiers can be divided into several ways, with a number of different applications.

Tier development process:
1. ITU will provide the Expert Group with:
    a. Terms of Reference (ToR) to guide experts on the objectives of tiers and other relevant background (this document).
    b. Online meeting information.
2. At the GCI Expert Group meeting (**25 October 2022**), the working group will discuss the models of tiers and recommend a suitable model. Experts are invited to share and/or present different models to the Expert Group before or during meetings.
3. After discussions of the different models, experts are expected to arrive at a consensus on one tier model suitable for grouping countries according to their performance in the GCI.
    a. If there is no consensus on a tiering model, all proposals will be shared with ITU management which will decide on a framework.

    b.   The benefits and limitations of each model should be documented by the Expert Group and shared as part of a final report.

4) Weightage Recommendation

GCI Expert Group will contribute to weightage recommendations, including developing recommendations for the weightage of each question, the computation of the Index, and how scores should be considered.

Members of the GCI Expert Group are appointed to provide thorough and unbiased recommendations for distribution of points within the GCI model. Expert Group recommendations of the weight of indicators and sub indicators should reflect the importance of the given indicator for the overall cybersecurity commitment of a Member State.

The overall evaluation process follows these steps:

4.   ITU will provide each individual Expert Group member with all relevant materials, specifically:
    a.   Weightage spreadsheet with GCI questions.
    b.   Terms of Reference, with how-to guide and indicator explanations (this document).
5.   There will be a GCI Expert Group meeting on **26 October 2022** to discuss the process, and answer questions.
6.   After the initial meeting, Expert Group members will independently fill in the weightage Excel spreadsheet with their weightage recommendation for each indicator, sub-indicator, and micro-indicator, and submit to gci@itu.int by **31 November 2022.**
7.   Once all recommendations have been submitted by individual Expert Group members, the weightage recommendations will be averaged and compiled into a single weightage spreadsheet.
8.   The averaged weightage recommendations will be shared with the Expert Group members.

5) Meeting Agenda

Time (Geneva time zone)	Agenda Item	Presenter
Day 1: GCIv5 Overview and Tier Development Working Group **Date and Time: 25.10.2022 @13:00 – 14:15 CET**		
13:00 – 13:10	Introduction • GCI Expert Group and its objectives	Correspondence Group chair: Vanessa Copetti Cravo
13:10 – 13:20	GCIv5 overview • GCIv5 update and its processes	GCI Team: Grace Acayo
13:20– 14:15	Development of Tiers • Introduction to tiers • Discussion of tier models • Selection of a suitable tier that will be applied to GCI	TBD
Day 2: Weightage Recommendations Working Group **Date and Time: 26.10.2022 @13:00 – 14:15 CET**		
13:00 -13: 10	Introduction • Overview of the GCI pillars • Why weights will still be used in GCI	TBD
13:10 – 14:00	How to allocate weights	GCI Team: Caroline Troein
14:00 – 14:15	Discussion and closing	Correspondence Group chair: Vanessa Copetti Cravo