



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: Circular BDT/DNS/CYB/014

Geneva, 13 April 2026

To:

- Administrations of ITU Member States
- State of Palestine (Resolution 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018))

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) invites your country to nominate an expert to participate in the sixth edition of the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) Expert Group activities, which will take place virtually from May to July 2026. The report is tentatively planned for release in late 2027.

ITU will continue to leverage expert insights as part of this sixth edition of the GCI, integrating 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.

If you accept this invitation, I kindly request you to nominate an expert with relevant expertise in areas such as statistics, data science, cybersecurity, or other directly related technical or methodological fields in accordance with ITU-D Resolution 45 (Rev. Baku, 2025). The nominated expert will be expected to provide input on GCI methodologies based on their knowledge and qualifications.

The expert should be prepared to participate in the GCI Expert Group virtual meetings from May to July 2026. Through discussion and guidance, experts may be requested to contribute to specific working group meetings on the following topics:

1. **Formulation of the GCI Questionnaire.** The GCI Questionnaire will be updated to ensure clarity, consistency, and relevance, with the objective of maintaining comparability with previous editions where possible.
2. **Methodology and recommendations on weightage for the calculation of GCI scores.** The Expert Group will continue to recommend weights for the pillar(s) that most closely align with members' areas of expertise, assigning weights to GCI questions relative to their importance to cybersecurity principles.

More information can be found in the attached Expert Group Terms of Reference.

Please note that the previous GCIv5 country focal point(s), as well as those nominated in the preceding six months are copied on this correspondence. Member States will also receive a circular letter inviting them to nominate a country focal point for the Global Cybersecurity Index data collection.

A response by **30 April 2026** to gci@itu.int would be highly appreciated. Any enquiries regarding the GCI can also be submitted to the same email address.

I wish to thank Member States, BDT Sector-Members, and the previous 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]

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annex 1 – Terms of Reference



ITU-D Cybersecurity Program Global Cybersecurity Index – GCIv6 Guidelines on GCI Expert Group

Version 1.0
February 2026

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1 Introduction

This document details the relevant Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) processes and how countries can engage in those processes. Descriptions of the following processes are outlined in this document:

- Development of the GCI Questionnaire,
- Expert consultations on methodology and weightages,
- Official invitations to designated GCI response focal points and domain experts,
- Launch of the survey and data collection,
- Primary data collection,
- Verification and validation,
- Scoring and tier allocations, and
- Analysis and report development.

This guide includes a timeline to ensure clarity and timely responses from the participating countries.

1.1 Mandate and Background

The sixth edition of the Global Cybersecurity Index follows recommendations of ITU-D Resolution 45 (Rev. Baku, 2025) that clearly 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.”

The sixth edition of the GCI intends to follow the overall framework laid out by the Global Cybersecurity Agenda pillars (Legal, Technical, Organizational, Capacity Development, and Cooperation Measures), as well as Resolution 130 (Rev. Bucharest, 2022), which invites Member States “to support ITU initiatives on cybersecurity, including the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI), in order to promote government strategies and the sharing of information on efforts across industries and sectors.”

To foster a global culture of cybersecurity and its integration at the core of information and communication technologies, the GCI is aiming towards minimizing the visible gap in the level of cybersecurity engagement between different regions around the world by providing an evidence-based assessment of countries' cybersecurity capabilities and enable them to identify gaps and priorities for improvement.

All ITU Member States and the State of Palestine (pursuant to Res. 99 (Rev. Dubai, 2018)) are invited to participate in the Global Cybersecurity Index. For simplicity, Member States and the State of Palestine will be referred to as “Countries” in this document.

More information about the GCI is available at itu.int/gci.

1.2 Role of Countries in GCIv6

The Global Cybersecurity Index processes and methodology have been enhanced through the work of the Study Group Question 3/2, the GCI Expert Group, and feedback provided by participating countries during the collection and validation of data points related to the GCI Questionnaire. To this end, the GCI team has created this guide to provide clarity on the GCI processes and related timelines.

The updates to the sixth edition of the GCI Questionnaire are based on feedback from countries, the Study Group Question 3/2 Correspondence Group, the previous GCI Expert Group, and other relevant expert contributions.

2 Development of GCI Questionnaire

Role of Expert Group

- Provide feedback for the GCI team
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This phase involves specific actions for the initiation of each new edition of the GCI.

- a) ITU's GCI team conducts a preliminary review of the existing questionnaire by creating, documenting, and identifying issues and challenges faced in previous versions of GCI. In each iteration, the questionnaire is reviewed with the goal of avoiding redundancy and reducing the amount of time required to provide responses and validation.
- b) The draft questionnaire is submitted to the Study Group meeting with an open call to invite experts to join the Correspondence Expert Group that will revise the questionnaire.
- c) Following the revised questionnaire, the corresponding reference model (methodology) is revised. The reference model will reflect discussions and recommendations from the current GCI Expert Group and previous expert input. The current GCI Questionnaire will be published on the GCI website, including:
 - a document guide on how to complete the questionnaire.
 - the revised reference model reflecting a tier-based model.
 - the BDT Director's invitation letter inviting countries to participate.
 - timeline for all GCI processes.

3 GCI Expert Group

Role of Countries

- Nominated expert(s) to participate in the GCI Expert Group.
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As per ITU-D Resolution 45 (Rev. Baku, 2025), the Global Cybersecurity Index will continue to be advised by a GCI Expert Group on issues related to methodology, structure, questions, and weightage.

- a) To ensure inclusion of all countries, an official invitation letter from the BDT Director will be sent asking administrations to nominate an expert or experts with expertise relevant to the GCI pillars,

such as legal, technical, organizational, capacity development, or cooperation measures, including experts with technical experience in index development, data science, and composite indicators.

- b) Previous Expert Group and Weightage Expert Group participants will be invited to participate in the current GCI Expert Group meetings. Other ITU-D Members may be invited to contribute and participate in these Expert Group meetings.
- c) Based on the experts' expertise and qualifications, they may be requested to contribute and participate in a specific working group meeting.

3.1 GCI Expert Group Meetings

Meetings of the GCI Expert Group will address the following topics:

- 1) Overall methodology of the Index.
- 2) Relevant methodology and calculations related to the presentation and communication of tiered groupings of countries based on their performance in the GCI,
- 3) Relevant methodology and recommendations regarding weightages for the purposes of calculating GCI scores.

NB: The GCI Expert Group will not be able to change the responses or scoring for an individual or group of countries. Recommendations will be applied to all countries.

3.2 Weightage Recommendations

The 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.

- a) For weightage, countries may nominate up to five experts – one for each pillar. An expert may provide recommendations for more than one pillar; however, a country may not nominate more than a total of five experts. If the designated country focal point has relevant qualifications, countries may nominate them to participate in the weightage distribution process as one of, or as the singular nominated expert.
- b) After the deadline for submissions of weightage recommendations, the weightage recommendations will be averaged and compiled for each question. The consolidated average weightage recommendations will be shared with the Expert Group members and published on the GCI website.
- c) Note that weightage shall be used to calculate individual country sub-indicator, indicator, pillar, and overall scores. Based on scores and tier calculations recommended by the Expert Group, countries will be allocated tiers.

Annex A: timeframe for Expert Group

* Note: dates are subject to change. For most accurate dates, please refer to the GCI website www.itu.int/gci

Processes	Overall GCI Activities	Country Actions	Start Date*	End Date*
Expert Group activities			March 2026	July 2026
	1. Official invitation to countries and other ITU-D members to nominate GCI Expert Group.	<input type="checkbox"/> Nominate expert to join the GCI Expert Group.	March 2026	April 2026
	2. Expert Group meetings on GCI	<input type="checkbox"/> Experts participate in GCI Expert Group meetings (6 anticipated virtual meetings)	May 2026	July 2026
	3. Expert Group contribution on weightage	<input type="checkbox"/> Experts complete online survey with GCI weightage recommendations	June 2026	July 2026
Report launch			Tentative late 2027	Tentative late 2027