



**Telecommunication
Development Bureau (BDT)**

Ref.: Circular BDT/DNE/CYB/015

Geneva, 13 April 2026

To:

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

Subject: Invitation to participate in the sixth edition of the Global Cybersecurity Index (GCIv6) and to nominate a country focal point

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am pleased to announce the beginning of work on the sixth edition of the ITU Global Cybersecurity Index (GCIv6) and request your country to nominate a country focal point for the data collection process, which is expected to take place from August to December 2026. The report is tentatively planned for release in late 2027.

The Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI), first launched in 2015 by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), aims to assess countries' commitment to cybersecurity across legal, technical, organizational, capacity development, and cooperation measures. Following the support expressed by Member States in Resolution 45 at the World Telecommunications Development Conference (WTDC) held in Baku, Azerbaijan from 17 to 28 November 2025, and the preceding GCI editions, the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D) is proceeding with a sixth edition of the Index.

ITU will continue to draw on a broad range of expertise to further enhance the GCI questionnaire, including through the GCI Expert Group. Member States will also receive a circular letter inviting them to nominate an expert for the Global Cybersecurity Index Expert Group.

Focal point nominations, including the name and contact details of the designated focal point, should be sent to gci@itu.int by **30 June 2026**. The focal point will coordinate national inputs and facilitate completion of the GCI questionnaire.

When data collection commences, the Cybersecurity team will contact your assigned focal point and provide further instructions on how to access the online questionnaire. Additional information will be available on the GCI website. More information regarding the GCI is available at www.itu.int/gci.

I would greatly appreciate receiving a response from you or your country's focal point by **30 June 2026** to gci@itu.int. If your country has already updated or confirmed its focal point since 1 October 2021, no further action is required; the most recently designated focal point will be used for GCIv6 communications.

Mr. Orhan Osmani, Head of the Cybersecurity Division (Orhan.Osmani@itu.int), together with those working on the GCI (gci@itu.int), remain at your disposal for additional inquiries and will support your focal point in answering the GCI Questionnaire.

I take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the Member States that contributed to previous editions of the GCI, and to those that have used the Index to strengthen national and regional cybersecurity efforts.

I look forward to continuing our collaboration.

Yours faithfully,

[ORIGINAL SIGNED]

Cosmas Luckyson Zavazava
Director

Annex: ITU Global Cybersecurity Index - Guidelines for Countries



ITU-D Cybersecurity Program
Global Cybersecurity Index – GCIv6
Guidelines for Countries

Version 1.0
January 2026

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1 Introduction

This document details relevant Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) processes and engagement in those processes. Descriptions for the following processes are outlined in this document:

- Development of the GCIv6 Questionnaire.
- Expert consultations on methodology and weightage.
- 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.
- 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 follows 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 “support ITU initiatives on cybersecurity, including the GCI, and the Global Network Resiliency Platform, in order to promote national 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 Study Group Question 3/2, the GCI Expert Working 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 2/3 Correspondence Group, the previous GCIv6 Weightage Expert Group, and other expert contributions.

2 Development of GCI Questionnaire

Role of Countries

- Provide ongoing feedback to the GCI team to support continuous improvement.
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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) Member States are invited to nominate members to the GCI Expert Group, who are tasked with bringing their expertise on relevant components of the GCI.
- c) The draft questionnaire is shared with the GCI Expert Group for feedback.
- d) Following the revised questionnaire, the reference model (methodology) is revised. The reference model will reflect discussions and recommendations from the GCI Expert Group and previous expert input.
- e) 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

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

- d) 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.
- e) The GCI Expert Group will not be able to view or change the responses or scoring for an individual or group of countries. Recommendations will be applied to all countries.

3.1 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 an expert to provide input into weightages within the GCI. That expert will be asked to provide expertise only on pillars where they have relevant expertise. With this in mind, countries may nominate up to five experts – for each pillar – with specific relevant expertise from academia, civil society, the private sector, or government. An expert may give input into more than one pillar if they have relevant expertise.
- b) After the deadline for submissions of weightage recommendations, the weightage recommendations will be arithmetically 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.

4 Official invitations to countries and other ITU-D Members

Role of Countries

- Nominate GCI focal point.
 - Coordinate with other relevant agencies to gather data.
 - May coordinate with GCI country expert (GCI Expert Group) (optional)
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4.1 Official invitation to countries to designate/confirm GCIv6 focal point.

- a) A formal invitation is sent out through the BDT Director's office or the GCI mailbox to all country administrations/representatives, and shared country missions and ITU regional offices. Each country is requested to designate a focal point or confirm the continuation of an existing focal point, who will be responsible for collecting data and completing the GCI Questionnaire.
 - o The focal point is the main point of contact for any related GCI communications. They may coordinate with their country's nominated GCI Expert Group member(s).
 - o The designated focal point must be able to coordinate with all relevant governmental and non-governmental entities in order to gather the necessary information to answer the GCI Questionnaire accurately.

- The contact information for the designated focal point should be provided to ITU's GCI team as soon as possible once the email is received.
- For GCIv6, countries that have shared updated focal point details during the preceding six months may opt out of responding to the Director's email; alternatively, they may still confirm the appointment of the focal point.

4.2 Official invitation to countries and other ITU-D members to nominate experts to GCI Expert Group

- a) A formal invitation is sent from the BDT Director's office or from GCI's mailbox to all country administrations, with a copy of the invitation shared with country missions and ITU regional offices.
- b) Each country is recommended to nominate experts with relevant expertise, such as data science, cybersecurity, or other directly relevant technical or methodological expertise. A country may nominate one expert per working group or several experts.
- c) Expert nominations should be accompanied by the expert's contact information, their area of expertise, and, if appropriate, which pillars/areas the expert should be engaged in.

5 Survey and data collection

Role of Country Focal Point

- Review GCIv6 guidelines and timeframe.
- Provide responses to the questionnaire.
- Provide accurate supporting documents/URLs to questionnaire responses.
- May request GCI team for support during survey period.

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- a) The focal point will receive an email with information on how to complete the GCIv6 Questionnaire, including access information to the online survey platform and access instructions.
 - b) The GCIv6 Questionnaire will be available in English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish, and Russian.
 - c) When the online survey platform for the GCIv6 Questionnaire is opened, the focal point must refer to the questionnaire's guidelines to ensure accurate responses. Where possible, all responses should include supporting documentation and/or links.
 - d) The GCI team is available to assist the focal point throughout the survey period.
 - e) Focal points must submit responses to the questionnaire through the online survey platform by the survey close, to allow time for verification and validation of responses as well as the preparation of the report.
 - Once questionnaires are submitted, the GCI team will verify the responses provided and supporting evidence to ensure accuracy.
 - Periodic reminders will be sent to focal points related to the GCIv6 Questionnaire deadline.
 - f) Responses submitted through the questionnaire platform after the submission deadline will be considered for the next GCI edition.

6 Primary data collection for non-responding countries

Role of Country Focal Point

- Validate collected data: approve or provide supporting evidence where applicable.
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- a) The GCI Team will be gathering data on behalf of countries that have not replied to the BDT Director's official invitation to designate a focal point and have not been reached through the ITU Regional Offices or other means.
 - The desk research will be conducted using publicly available information through government websites and ITU's available databases.
- b) The ITU-completed questionnaire will be sent to the country's representative to the ITU to approve or amend the collected data.
 - Note that the ITU-completed questionnaire may lack data, and country representatives are urged to carefully validate the data to ensure accuracy.

7 Verification/validation and post-verification of country responses

Role of Country Focal Point

- Validate verified responses: approve or amend answers.
 - Consider a meeting with the GCI team for post-verification questions/clarifications.
 - Focal point provides final validation.
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- a) Once the deadline for the GCI Questionnaire has passed, the GCI team will verify questionnaire responses. The verified questionnaire responses will be returned to the focal points for clarification, validation, and approval.
- b) Focal points can clarify or revise their answers during the validation process. Focal points may approve or disagree with the GCI team's validations by providing new relevant supporting evidence.
- c) Focal points must approve the verified responses within two weeks of notification.
 - Should feedback not be received by the GCI Team from the designated focal point after two weeks, the GCI team will use verified data sent to the focal point for analysis purposes and the calculation of scores.
- d) During the post-verification period, a country may meet with the GCI Team to clarify responses.

8 Scoring and Tiers allocation

Role of Countries

- Understand the process of scoring and tiering.
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- a) Once a country focal point has validated verified questionnaires or has not notified the GCI within two weeks of notification of any amendments to answers, the questionnaire responses will be scored, and data used for grouping countries into tiers. During the process of scoring, no further data from the focal points will be accepted.

9 Report Development, Publication, and beyond

Role of Countries

- Understand the process of report development.
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- a) The GCI team will produce a report summarizing key trends and measures. Countries' assessments will be included, with consideration of recommendations on tiers and presentations made by the GCI Expert Group.
- b) The GCI report is submitted to the BDT Editorial Services to ensure it meets ITU publication guidelines standards.
- c) The report will be publicly released during an event organized by the GCI team.

Feedback on the GCIv6 process will be collected and used to improve future GCI editions.

Annex A: timeframe

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

| Processes | Overall GCI Activities | Country Actions | Start Date* | End Date* |
|--|--|---|-------------|-----------------------|
| Official invitation to countries and other ITU-D members | | | March 2026 | Pending report launch |
| | 1. Official invitation to countries to designate/confirm country focal point. | | March 2026 | 30 June 2026 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focal point assistance. • Focal point registration. | <input type="checkbox"/> Designate/confirm GCI focal point. <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate with other relevant agencies to gather data. | | |
| | 2. 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 |
| Survey and data collection | | | August 2026 | December 2026 |
| Online survey platform | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review translated questionnaire versions. • Publish questionnaire in the 6 UN languages on GCI web page. • GCI team will be available for questions. • Reminders will be sent to MS related to questionnaire. | <input type="checkbox"/> Review guidelines and timeframe. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide responses to the questionnaire. <input type="checkbox"/> Provide accurate supporting documents/URLs. | | |

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|-----------------------------|---|---|-------------|---------------|
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> May request GCI team support during survey period. | | |
| Primary data collection | | | August 2026 | November 2026 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITU GCI team will collect data on behalf of countries that will not respond to take part in the survey. • Data will be collected through publicly available information and the ITU repository. • The draft questionnaire is sent to focal points for review. • Focal points improve the accuracy and return the draft questionnaire. • The corrected draft questionnaire is again sent to each focal point for final approval. • The final validated and approved questionnaire is used for analysis, scoring, and tier distribution. | <input type="checkbox"/> Validate collected data: approve or provide supporting evidence, where applicable. | | |
| Verification and Validation | | | August 2026 | June 2027 |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closure of the questionnaire. • Data will be verified by data validators and sent back to the country focal point for amendments or approval (this may start as soon as focal points submit responses). • Identifying any missing responses, supporting documents, links, etc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Validate verified responses: approve or amend answers by providing accurate response where necessary. <input type="checkbox"/> Consider a meeting with the GCI team for | | |

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|----------------------|---|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The corrected draft questionnaire is sent to each focal point for final approval. • The final validated and approved questionnaire is used for analysis, scoring, and tier distribution. | post-verification questions/clarifications. | | |
| | Post-verification and approval <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCI team to re-verify additional data provided by country. | <input type="checkbox"/> Focal point provides final validation | | |
| Report launch | | | Tentative late 2027 | Tentative late 2027 |