| | **The African Internet Governance Forum - AfIGF 2015**<br><br>**06 – 08  September  2015**<br>**Africa Union Commission**<br>**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia** |
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## OUTCOME

### I.    Background of AfIGF

The African Internet Governance Forum is Africa's multi stakeholder forum of Internet actors. AfIGF carries the voices and efforts of the African continent to the global agenda, while ensuring that the benefits of a viable information society accrue to every African. It was formally launched in Nairobi, during the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in 2011.

The AfIGF Secretariat is jointly hosted by the African Union Commission (AUC) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.  The Forum's website is www.afigf.org. It currently runs social media outlets on Twitter and Facebook.

The Masters of Ceremony of AfIGF 2015 were Mr. Makane Faye from ECA and Mr. Adil Sulieman from AUC.

### II.   Objectives of AfIGF

AfIGF aims to be a platform for an inclusive multilateral, multi-stakeholder and multilingual discussion on issues pertinent to the Internet in Africa in general and Internet Governance issues in particular. Specific objectives include:

- To increase awareness and build capacity on Internet Governance for African users to ensure that all stakeholders are well prepared for contribution and interaction.
- To ensure that the concerns of Africa are taken into account in the IGF process.
- To put in place a coordinated African process for dealing with Internet governance issues on the continent.
- To strengthen the multi-stakeholder dialogue model for Internet Governance in Africa through regional and national forums.
- To ensure a multi-stakeholder representation of all parts of the continent
- To ensure that all the countries are part of the regional processes and launch/strengthen their national processes.
- To facilitate national and regional exchanges and interactions between countries and regions in the continent.
- To facilitate the participation of African stakeholders in AfIGF and other appropriate regional and national Internet Governance Forums.
- To promote use of African languages in the cyberspace.

## III.    Participation

Onsite Participation

Over 150 participants drawn from government, private sector, academia, research institutions, technical community , civil society organizations, media, and other stakeholders from over 41 countries attended the 4th African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF2015) held from 06 to 08  September  2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Remote Participation

AfIGF 2015 enabled remote participation from several parts of the world and used social media extensively during the meeting as follows:

1.  Livestream platform, with the support of Internet Society Africa Regional Office
2.  The NEPAD Agency sponsored three remote hubs at the University of Jos (Nigeria), ICTAG (The Gambia) and ISOC Uganda. . In addition there were about 30 remote participants.
3.  Twitter platform with support from AfIGF volunteers.
4.  Facebook run by the secretariat.
5.  Use of Skype for remote panelist.

## IV.    Organization of work

### *Before the African IGF*

The African IGF was preceded by a one week capacity building course in the framework of the African School on Internet Governance (AfrISIG) under the aegis of the Association of Progressive Communications (APC) and the NEPAD Agency.

There were also an Orientation session and 4 pre-conference workshops held on Day 0 of the African IGF as follows:

- WSIS + 10 review and recommendations from Africa
- The African Virtual Library & Information Network (AVLIN)
- The Internet and Human Rights: Access to the Internet in Africa as a fundamental human right
- The UNESCO Internet Study

### *African IGF Plenary Sessions*

The Plenary Sessions evolved around the following issues:
- WSIS issues, including the Future of IGF and the African Union Declaration on IG
- Public Access to Information & Knowledge in the context of the SDGs
- Connecting the next billion
- Addressing cybersecurity issues, including SPAM
- Human Rights on the Internet
- IANA Stewardship Transition
- Net Neutrality and its implications for Africa

- Enhancing Multi-stakeholder Cooperation
- Sustainable Development and the Internet Economy

## V.    Recommendations

The following constitutes recommendations of the African IGF

## A)    WSIS+10 Review including the Future of IGF and the AU Declaration on IG

On the WSIS+10 review process, participants noted the absence of an African position on the matter and developed an African contribution to the WSIS+10 non-paper of 2 September 2015, which was subsequently forwarded to the facilitators.

Specific recommendations from the session are below:

1. Encourage the African governments and all stakeholder to submit their comments on the UNGA non – paper before the mid of September.
2. Request AUC to circulate the AU declaration on Internet Governance to all member states so that they can reflect upon.
3. Support the Internet Governance Forum as a place for non-binding dialogue and discussions that help shape Internet public policy and support a renewed mandate of the IGF for at least 5 years beyond 2015.
4. Call upon the United Nations to renew the mandate of the IGF while increasing the resources of its Secretariat, and to allow its proceedings to evolve in order to    produce best practice documents that can be used as a referral for public policy decisions, in line with the recommendations of the report of the UN Commission for Science and Technology for Development (CSTD) Working Group on Improvements to the IGF.
5. Support the continuation of the CSTD and UN specialized agencies to follow up the WSIS reviews.
6. Suggest the renewal of the national WSIS committees by African governments to follow up implementation at the national level.
7. Encourage African governments to foster their participation in the African IGF and global IGF.
8. Encourage participation of the African civil society together with other African relevant stakeholders in the global IGF.
9. Mobilize participation of the African youth in African IGF and global IGF.
10. Put in place national IGFs as part of the global and continental processes.

## B) Public Access to Information & Knowledge in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The panel emphasized the need to address access to information as a key development issue. It noted that inequalities in access limit the effectiveness of ICTs in addressing social needs.  The specific recommendations included the following:

1. All countries should deal with access to information as a human right, in terms of: UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNUDHR) Article 19 and the Charter of African and Peoples Rights Article 9
2. National, regional and continental Internet Governance Forums should include Librarians, documentalists, archivists and information/knowledge specialists as key stakeholders in the process.
3. There should be significant investment in public libraries to equip them with relevant ICT tools to ensure that they play a key role in promoting public access to information and support their development as drivers of access to knowledge
4. Strengthen partnerships among ICT-led instituions, Libraries/documentation centres/archives, media and other organizations in building local digital content
5. Partner with local and international IGF in building a community of practice that advocates for eradication of all forms of barriers to information access.
6. Launch specific programmes for:
   - "Open data" on all type of information and knowledge with specific consideration to intellectual property rights and protection of personal data and online civil rights.
   - Access to information and knowledge for people with disabilities
7. Build awareness on the need for digital inclusion and encourage information and knowledge sharing.
8. Improve the enabling environment to address:
   - the use of universal funds to provide access for all
   - human resources challenges and capacity building issues
   - development of locally relevant content and applications

## C) Connecting the next billion

The panel noted that "connecting the next billion" should be viewed as a Programme/Project by countries and stakeholders and as such should be approached using Programme/Project best practices and methodologies. Specific recommendations on "Reaching the Next Billion Internet Users" were presented as follows:

1. Ministry of Communications & Information Technologies or departments responsible for ICT should review their ICT & broadband policy/plans through enhanced multi-stakeholder cooperation involving diverse stakeholder groups towards ensuring that all are involved in the policy implementation.
2. Government should demonstrate requisite political will to implement viable policies already in place.
3. There should be continuity in government activities to avoid cases where once a government replaces another on going projects are abandoned.
4. Smart Initiatives pioneered by President Kagame at the regional level should be sustained to help remove e-frictions in states/countries such as right of way challenge, multiple taxation and deployment of government services on-line using the open data model.
5. There is need for effective monitoring and evaluation of programme using online real-time portal reportage, preferably based on appropriate indicators and targets.
6. AU should step up its multi-stakeholder approach to its meetings and consultations with governments to better take care of private sector, civil society and academia/technical cooperating and collaborating institutions.

7. Participants and the AfIGF secretariat are enjoined to contribute to the call for input to the IGF Multi-Stakeholder Advisory group consideration of "Policy Options to connecting the next billion".
8. Open Data Model, local content development, eLearning initiatives & others should be used to boost demand.
9. Universal Service Provision Funds should be used to engender infrastructure into underserved areas and to enable access affordability to disenfranchised groups and remote areas.
10. Regional initiatives should be enhanced to promote broadband infrastructure.
11. Power grid capacity should be boosted through diverse sources.
12. AU  in cooperation with ECA should explore the creation of a continental common toll-free Internet platform in conjunction with telcos and other stakeholders to preserve the identity and unique cultural heritage of Africa.

## D)     Addressing cyber security issues, including SPAM

The panel put emphasis on the need for an African Safety mechanism for African e-consumers with an emphasis on Pan-African collaboration and cooperation in the prevention, investigation and prosecution of Cyber Crimes including issues related to effectively countering and combating spam. The following specific recommendations were made:

1. Encourage government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations to work together to raise public awareness on the risks of spam and of cybercrime and of what can be done to combat it.
2. Enhance capacity building in cyber security, including spam for law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, magistrates and judges.
3. Encourage African government to ratify the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection and to transpose their cyber security laws in the framework of the Convention  in such a way as to facilitate international cooperation in preventing and combating these illicit activities.
4. Encourage all African government to update their criminal laws as soon as possible, in order to address the particular nature of cybercrime. In determining the strength of new legislation, States should be encouraged to be inspired by the provisions of the African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection.
5. Build regional and international cooperation in cyber security to enhance public protection and to promote more effective information sharing to address cyber crimes issues (effective regulation adoption, anti-spam technology development, and training/awareness raising of users and providers).
6. Disseminate anti spam best practices for service providers to enable them take the most appropriate measures to combat spam.

## E)     Human Rights on the Internet

The panel noted that Access to the Internet is essential for the full realization of human development and facilitates the exercise and enjoyment of a number of human rights and freedoms, including the rights to freedom of expression and access to information, peaceful assembly and association. The following specific recommendations were made:

1. Establish, with the ACHPR, of mechanisms to promote, monitor, and popularize the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms and UNESCO's concept of internet universality

across the continent to ensure their role as guiding principles for the further development of public policy in support of human rights and the internet;

2. Establish of self regulatory, independent objective oversight, and sanctioning mechanisms in light of the Declaration of principles to ensure Rights to Privacy in the Digital age are protected and the Johannesburg principles on National Security implemented, similar to an Ombudsman.
3. Recognise that meaningful access to ICTs including control over ICTs as a key resource, play and important part in catalysing change towards advancing the status of women and girls, and their human rights.
4. Recognise and develop responses that empower women, working with all other stakeholders, to address the emerging issue of online violence against women.

## F)    IANA Stewardship Transition

The panelists noted and the two parallel tracks, which resulted from the transition announcement made in 2014 by the U.S. Commerce Department ie,  The IANA Stewardship Transition focusing on delivering a proposal to transition the stewardship of the IANA functions to the multistakeholder community; and Enhancing ICANN Accountability to ensure  that ICANN remains accountable in the absence of its historical contractual relationship with the U.S. Government. The following specific recommendations were made:

1. Support and enhance the multistakeholder model.

2. Maintain the openness of the Internet.

## G)    Net Neutrality and its implications for Africa

Through the discussion with the panelists and participants, it emerged that there might be a need for regulation that addressed the specific context of Net Neutrality; however there were views expressed from some participants that net neutrality posed some challenges for African stakeholders which warranted further investigation and dialogue in order to reach a common position on net neutrality. The following key recommendations were made:

1. The African Union in collaboration with ECA and other partners should convene an African Forum on Net Neutrality
2. Research and analysis should be undertaken at national and regional level on the policy, legal and regulatory implications of Net Neutrality
3. Regulatory agencies should take steps to address concerns raised about Internet Service Providers (ISPs) who engage in practices such as Network Address Translation (NAT) which restrict the type and level of service that end users are availed.
4. Civil society in collaboration with other stakeholders should undertake consumer awareness initiatives on Internet access and usage

## H)    Enhancing Multi-stakeholder Cooperation

The panel noted that Multi-stakeholder governance requires trust and mutual respect, and that it was important to create a space where African governments and the other stakeholders would come together to discuss and collaborate in order to build trust and a culture of  multi-stakeholder policy formulation. It also noted that the process should be participatory and inclusive and that its outcome

should result from due consideration given to views and experiences of all. Specific recommendations included the following:

5. There should be mutual trust and willingness to engage amongst different stakeholders.
6. Any panel discussing multi-stakeholder governance in future AfIGF sessions should include government representatives.
7. African governments should embrace the principle of multi-stakeholder policy-making in the Internet governance area.
8. A framework for the rules of engagement should be developed by all stakeholders including government participation, taking into account established best practices in this area. This would enable Africa to define its own approach to multi-stakeholder governance and to develop appropriate working methods for its implementation. It will also establish AfIGF as a space for a real inter-stakeholder dialog towards workable and constructive outcomes.

## I)    Sustainable Development and the Internet Economy

The panel noted the relationship between Sustainable Development and the Internet Economy and looked at how ICTs and the Internet could facilitate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, by bringing economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability, through a more effective collaboration between development stakeholders and new ways to manage programmes. Specific recommendations included the following:

1. Define and elaborate a regional policy on the life cycle of digital tools.
2. Create and develop local content for digital industries.
3. Create a global indicator observatory in the region.
4. Develop e-Waste strategies - anti dumping
5. Invest in research and development to come up with innovative solutions and services that will drive the African continent forward.
6. Build awareness on e-waste and capacity on strategies to encourage use of renewable resources in ICTs.

## VI.   Gratitude

Participants at the fourth African IGF expressed their gratitude to the Government and the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, the Africa Union Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the sponsors and the volunteers who, each, in their various roles, contributed to a successful African Internet Governance Forum

Addis Ababa, Tuesday, 8 September 2015.
The African Internet Governance Forum

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1. ZA Central Registry
2. The Association for Progressive Communications (APC)
3. The Internet Society
4. ICANN
5. UNESCO

6. The Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA)
7. AfriNIC