



**The African Internet Governance Forum - AfIGF 2012**

**DRAFT COMMUNIQUE | JULY 10TH - 12TH, 2012.**

*PREPARED BY THE RAPORTEURING TEAM*



## Background of AfIGF

The Africa Internet Governance Forum is Africa's multi-stakeholder forum of Internet actors. With other A\* (A stars), 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 in 2011.

The Secretariat of the AfIGF is hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) in its Addis Ababa Headquarters, in Ethiopia. The Forum's website is on <http://uneca.org/afigf>. It currently runs social media outlets on Twitter and Facebook. The official contact is [afigf-secretariat@uneca.org](mailto:afigf-secretariat@uneca.org)

## Objectives of AFIGF 2014

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 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.



## **Participation**

Over 470 participants drawn from the government, private sector, academia, research institutions, technical committee, civil society organisations, media, and other stakeholders from over 41 countries attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) held on 10 to 12 July 2014 in Abuja, Nigeria co-organised by the Federal Ministry of Communications and Information Technology through the Nigerian Internet Registry Authority and Nigerian IGF and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

## **Remote Participation**

AFIGF 2014 ran three concurrent remote participation channels:

1. Webex platform, with the support of the Internet Governance Forum Secretariat, Geneva.
2. Livestream platform, with the support of TriacContractors Nigeria Ltd
3. Twitter platform with support from AFIGF volunteers.

Remote participation was facilitated in English and French. There were 214 remote participants using 9 different languages.

## **Partners**

The third Africa IGF was organised by the Secretariat, and the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum (NIGF) with support from:

- The Federal Ministry of Communication Technology of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- The Nigerian Communications Commission - NCC
- The Nigeria Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)
- The Nigeria Internet Registries Association (NIRA)
- AfriNic
- Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie
- Winrock Nigeria Limited
- Google
- UNIFORM ZACR



- The Association for Progressive Communications
- Internet Society – ISOC
- ICANN
- International Federation of Library Associations - IFLA

### **Pre-Conference Workshops**

Three pre-conference workshops were organised

- On the IANA transition by the International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers – ICANN.
- On data protection and privacy by Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie - OIF
- On Public Access by the International Federation of Library Associations
- On Knowledge Management by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa - ECA

### **Global Processes, Regional and National IGFs**

The Forum received reports and feedback related to on-going Internet Governance processed from

- The United Nations Commission for Science and Technology for Development
- East Africa IGF
- The Northern Africa IGF
- Southern Africa
- Nigerian
- Cameroon
- Kenya
- Benin

### **Issues in AfIGF 2014**

The first AfIGF received expert presentations on:

1. Policies enabling Access
2. Content Creation, Dissemination and Use
3. Internet as Engine for Growth and Development
4. IGF & the Future of the Internet Ecosystem



5. Critical Internet Resources
6. Emerging issues
7. Enhancing Digital Trust
8. Internet and Human Rights
9. WSIS+10 Review and 2015+
10. The African Internet Governance Forum : Issues and statutory matter

Discussions that followed after the presentations allowed participants to arrive at a number of key recommendations.

## **Recommendations**

### **1. Policies enabling access**

- A framework for the regulation of the Internet that can be developed and given to AUC that governments could ratify;
- Enhancing the capacities of libraries and other public access points towards increasing internet access;
- Including a clear target on access to ICTs mainly broadband internet in sustainable development goals.

### **2. Content creation, dissemination and use**

- All stakeholders are encouraged to use efficient, effective and scalable measures to educate the public towards innovation and creativity in content development;
- Countries are encouraged to ensure policies on the protection of intellectual property rights on the Internet (online content)

### **3. Internet as engine, growth and development**

- Encourage policies that drive affordability of the internet;
- Encourage multi-stakeholder coalitions on affordability of the internet at country levels;
- Encourage increase in investment of Internet infrastructure especially in rural areas;
- Support small and medium ICT entrepreneurs in enhancing e-business and applications.

### **4. IGF and the Future of the Internet Ecosystem**



- Welcoming the opening of the ICANN offices in different regions including Africa that made the services of ICANN to the community, participants recommended to enhance the multi-stakeholder cooperation within the AfIGF to increase the participation of all stakeholders in the transition of IANA functions;
- Ensure representation of African stakeholders groups in the Coordination Group for the transition of the IANA functions;
- Ensure the adoption of the best practices in the NetMundial process initiated by the Brazilian government in the AfIGF;

## **5. Enhancing Digital Trust**

- CSOs need to enhance their efforts to pressure governments to ensure the guarantee privacy and confidence in the use of the internet;
- African countries need to create awareness on the provisions of the African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and Data Protection;
- Encouraging the support by the African Union in assisting countries to establish and implement Cyber-legislations and CERTs, stakeholders are requested to play their role in building capacity and awareness among relevant bodies;
- The balance on human rights, economic benefits of the Internet and security should be ensured as countries are promoting increased access to the Internet;
- African countries are requested to adopt and ratify the African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and Data Protection and to work with all stakeholders in the implementation.

## **6. Internet and Human Rights**

- Encourage the respect of human rights online as well as offline;
- Encourage the balance between cybersecurity and the respect of user privacy and data protection;
- All stakeholder to enhance the awareness of among users of the Internet on privacy and security as well surveillance on the Internet.



## **7. Critical Internet Resources**

- All stakeholders encourage migration from IPv4 from IPv6

## **8. Emerging issues**

- Welcoming that 42 countries have signed the AUC application of the dotAfrica management, participants recommended that the process for acquiring and management of dotAfrica should follow a process of multi-stakeholder participation to ensure that it is widely recognized and supported for its successful implementation;

## **Gratitude**

Participants at the first AfIGF express their gratitude to the people and the government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, our sponsors, the personnel of the Nicon Luxury Hotel, and the volunteers who, each, in their various roles, contributed to a successful Africa Internet Governance Forum

Abuja, Saturday, July 12, 2014.

The Africa Internet Governance Forum

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