The Africa Internet Governance Forum – AfIGF 2013

23 – 26 September 2013

Multimedia University

Nairobi, Kenya

DRAFT REPORT

On the 23rd, 24th, 25th and the 26th of September 2013, the Africa Internet Governance Forum held its second annual face-to-face Forum at the Multimedia University of Nairobi, Kenya. The AfIGF was conducted under the general theme of "Building Bridges"- Enhancing Multistakeholder Cooperation for Growth and Sustainable Development", in accordance with the global Internet Governance Forum. The Forum was organised by the Government of Kenya through its Ministry of Communication, the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK), the African Union Commission (AUC), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), TESPOK, KENIC, APC, ISOC Kenya and a team of volunteers.

Participants

Participants of the AfIGF 2013 were physical as well as remote. A total of 195 Internet Governance stakeholders from governments, private sector, civil society, regional and international organisations were physically present. The total number of participating countries was 29.

Institutional messages

During the opening ceremony, the forum received institutional messages from :

1. Moctar Yedaly of the Africa Union Commission - AUC

2. Kasirim Nwuke, of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa – UNECA

3. Fadi Chehade, of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers – ICANN

4. The Government of Kenya

Content and format of meeting

AfIGF 2013 was organised around :

1. Three major pre-conference workshops

2. An official opening and closing ceremony
3. Seven thematic sessions

Format of sessions

Each of the workshops and conference sessions had a moderating Chair, panelists and a team of rapporteurs. Mactar Seck of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa was the platform manager for the sessions. Panelists were given a set of minutes to do presentations and address critical issues from their perspectives. After these, the moderating Chair took contributions and questions from the audience for the panel. In the course of the discussions that followed, key recommendations were made.

Workshops and thematic panels

The following were the workshops and thematic panels of AfIGF 2013 :

1. Workshop organised by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC), Centre for Democracy and Technology (CDT) and NEPAD on sustainable and effective multi-stakeholder participation in ICT policy processes in Africa
2. A regional Consultation on Cyber security in Africa organised by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) ini collaboration with the African Union Commission (AUC)
3. Workshop orgnised by the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) on the Protection of private data in Francophone African Countries : experiences and practices
4. Internet Governance Principles and Enhanced Cooperation
5. Principles of Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation: The Africa IGF
6. Infrastructure development, Knowledge Management and African Content
7. Security: Legal and other Frameworks - Spam, Hacking and Cyber-crime
8. Deepening multi-stakeholder partnership at regional and nationa IGF levels
9. Openness: Human rights, freedom of expression and free flow of information on the Internet
10. Access and Diversity: Internet as an engine for growth and sustainable development

Recommendations

The presentation of issues by ressource persons, feedback from the participants and discussions and deliberations that went on for the four days of the Africa Internet Governance Forum have given rise to the following recommendations :

On Privacy and data security

- Le renforcement de l'indépendance des autorités de protection des données à caractère personnel
- La mutualisation et la capitalisation des travaux réalisés par certains pays francophones dans une plate-forme collaborative accessible à tous.

- La nécessité d'améliorer les règles qui déterminent la frontière entre la protection de la sécurité et la garantie de protection de la vie privée des citoyens.

On Principles Internet Governance, Multi-Stakeholder participation and Enhanced Cooperation

- Public participation in ICT Policy processes should be open to all stakeholders and their engagement encouraged and equally valued
- The Purpose, goals, and modalities of the processes should be agreed by stakeholders from the outset and each should come to the process with a willingness to work towards consensus;
- Public participation in policy processes should be formalised at legislative or constitutional level (as is the case, for example, in Kenya and South Africa);
- Consultation should occur at the early stages of policy making thereby improving buy-in and implementation;
- Stakeholder groups should strengthen their deliberative structures and processes so as to more effectively engage at multi-stakeholder levels. They should be accountable and transparent and report back to their constituencies;
- Documents, proceedings, and submissions should be open and readily available to the public throughout the process to enable stakeholders to assess whether their inputs have been taken into account.
- All stakeholders are encouraged to enable remote participation.

Recommendations for Specific Stakeholder Groups

To young people:
- They should participate in multi-stakeholder processes and seek inclusion where they have not been explicitly invited.
- Universities and student organisations should take account of and be involved in ICT development and policies.

To governments:
- Those that have shown leadership in opening policy processes to participation from other stakeholders should continue to do so and ensure these processes are sustained over the longer term.
- Those that have not yet adopted this approach are encouraged to do so;
- Allocate resources in national and departmental budgets to facilitate and support public participation processes;
- Involve all relevant departments and levels of government, including provincial and local;
- Involve representatives from non-governmental stakeholders in the preparatory process for regional and international policy forums and include them in their delegations to these events.

To regional institutions:
- Regional institutions, including the African Union, ECOWAS, COMESA, SADC and EAC, should actively engage with non-governmental stakeholders on ICT public policy issues, in particular those relating to infrastructure development.
- They should participate actively in multi-stakeholder ICT dialogues and forums.

To business:

- Participate in multi-stakeholder policy dialogues and forums;
- Business associations to play a leadership role in facilitating such participation.
- Where such associations do not exist, we encourage the business community to establish them.

To civil society:
- Their participation needs to reflect the diversity of civil society, and include non-ICT-specific groups such as traditional leaders and human rights and faith-based organisations;
- Continue to convene and self organise to build their knowledge and develop common positions on policy issues when possible.

To media:
- Media, including community media, public/state media and commercial media also social media, blogs etc., are key to raising public awareness about ICT policy, and therefore should be an active participant in ICT policy processes.

Monitoring and implementation

We recommend the development and use of "scorecards" to monitor and assess the progress that is being made by governments and other stakeholders toward achieving the WSIS principles on participation and inclusion of all stakeholders included in the Geneva Plan of Action, as well as substantive goals included in the WSIS Action Lines. Such scorecards can be based on indicators for use throughout Africa, and can be customised to national contexts. We urge the adoption of WSIS-related scorecards to measure progress on adhering to the WSIS principles to complement reporting on implementing WSIS goals, into existing national, sub-regional, and Africa-wide multi-stakeholder processes, including the IGF process.

On Infrastructure development, Knowledge Management and African Content

1. Encourage the establishment of Internet Echange Points at national and regional levels.
2. There should be dedicated national network infrastructures that can connect the government, industry and research community for the benefit of promoting open knowledge engagement, open data system for researchers, innovation, end-users and researchers' synergy and IT development
3. Digital inclusion is a necessity to our development with huge advantages to the nation such as enhancing citizenship integrations, global competiveness, government revenues, national integrity, human development, skills and knowledge sharing and transfer. In the current definition of sovereignty, nations that are not technologically sovereign are not considered sovereign;
4. There should be a National Policy Guideline and Regulatory framework on Digital Inclusion and Integration that must address the following core essentials: Stakeholders' participation, data protection with legal framework, digital independence, adequate digital literacy infrastructural framework, and government direct intervention through her respective institutions; and
5. Mainstream cross-network synergie in the roll out of national Internet infrastructure

On Security: Legal and other Frameworks - Spam, Hacking and Cyber-crime

- Develop a framework at national levels for the development of National Computer Emergency Readiness Team-ecosystem between the National CERT
- convene a capacity building workshop for relevant stakeholders
- Identify aspects of policies that need to be changed to make legislation more supportive of online freedoms
- Establish a common understanding on what should be considered a cyber crime at the regional level
- Invest in relevant cybersecurity research and development
- Enhance the capacity of legislators and law enforcement agencies in cybersecurity.
- Sensitise parent and users o the emerging security issues of cyber space
- Encourage the exchange of experience between different African regional organizations.
- Harmonize the national and sub-regional policies with the regional African Union Cybersecurity Convention
- Raising awareness and spurring multi-stakeholder conversations on the importance of protecting internet rights the way human rights have always been protected and promoted
- Establish an effective mechanism to protect children from these risks and rapid intervention to protect children.
- Adopt and ratify relevant legislative instruments on cybersecurity
- Take into consideration the evolving nature of the Internet and cybersecurity in development and application of legislative instruments

On Openness: Human rights, freedom of expression and free flow of information on the Internet

- Follow up and implement recent resolutions of the UN HR Council and the interpretive statement on Human Rights and the Internet made by the Human Rights Committee

- Encourage states to restate and reinforce press freedom

- Establish minimum regulations to guarantee freedom expression as well as discouraging diffamation

- Encourage all stakeholders to join forces to uphold a free and open Internet

- Adopt a multi-stakeholder approcah in Internete Policy Regulation

- Uphold fundamental Human Rights and their principles in the development of national and regional Internet policies

On Access and Diversity: Internet as an engine for growth and sustainable development

1. Encourage African Governments to adopt and use Open Source Solutions with clear policy support and political will.
2. Build capacity to manage and create African Open Source ICT solutions,
3. Facilitate access and diversity in key social sectors such as health and education through localization of Open Source solutions,
4. Promote cybersecurity through use of Open Source tools in CERTs .
5. Encourage ECA and other lead African organisations to adequately inform and

sensitize Governments on Open Source options and encourage collaboration with key Open Source stakeholders such as the Free and Open Source Foundation for Africa.
6. Extend broadband Internet connection to rural areas in Africa.

On the sustainability of the Africa Internet Governance Forum

1. Establish continuous multi-stakeholder dialogue and forums and where such processes exist they be strengthened and sustained,
2. Create and maintain a stand-alone website for The Africa Internet Governance Forum – AfIGF

3. Estabish a network of national and sub-regional conveners maintaining constant commpunication, sharing experiences and practices

4. Endeavour to organise IGFs first at national, then sub-regional and finally continental evel.

5. Reinforce the capacity of the African School on Internet Governance

6. Work towards a funded and functional IGF secretariat at the national, sub-regional and continental level.

7. Establish Interpretation and remote participation as mandatory for all AfIGF face-to-face forums

On Next Steps :
1. Encourage and finance substantive African participation at the Global Internet Governance Forum in Bali in October 2013.
2. Mainstream current AfIGF recommendations in relevant ICT Policy instances beginning with the WTDC Africa preparatory meeting in Accra

Gratitude

The participants of the Africa Internet Governance Forum 2013 express deep appreciation to the people and government of Kenya, TESPOK, CCK, KENIC, L'Organisation Internationale de Francophonie (OIF) , the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) , ISOC Africa, ISOC Kenya, Google, NIRA, UNIFORUM ZACR, ICANN, APC, and the Multimedia University (MMU).

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Comments:
Mary – sustainable management of secretariat
Ask AUC to ask RECs to support and partner with sub-regional IGF