

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE NIGERIA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (NIGF-2012) HELD AT THE NICON LUXURY INTERNATIONAL HOTEL-NIGERIA, SEPTEMBER 25 2012

PREAMBLES

A National Forum on the Internet Governance was jointly organized by the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), and Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NIRA), in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Communication Technology.

It was a one-day preparatory dialogue seeking various stakeholders' contributions towards the country's participation at the forthcoming Global Internet Governance Forum 2012 taking place at Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, from 6 to 9 November 2012.

The Forum was the products of intra-agencies and multi-stakeholders renewed efforts on promoting domestic input into internet governance issues and related matters at regional and global levels.

The NIGF 2012 was declared opened by Mrs. Omobola Johnson, the Honourable Minister of Communication Technology who delivered the keynote address, while special remarks were made by the representatives of Dr. Eugene Juwah the Executive Vice Chairman of NCC, and Professor Cleopas Aganye the Director General of NITDA respectively.

The Forum was attended by over 300 stakeholders from public institutions, private sector groups, civil societies, professional bodies, trade associations, academia, students and youths, military and para-military organizations, security and law enforcement agencies, government, law makers, ICT industry, ordinary internet users, and the general members of the public. Also in attendance were media groups from print, electronic and online media, scholars and research scientists, editors of peer review journals of both scientific and academic origins, and ICT industry experts.

5 invited papers were presented that addressed variously issues based on the 5-point agendas of the forum covering; *Access and Diversity (AD)*, *Security, Openness and Privacy (SOP)*, *Managing Critical Internet Resources (CIR)*, *Internet Governance for Development (IG4D)*, *Emerging Issues* and *Taking Stock and the Way Forward*

OBJECTIVES

The objective of the Forum was to facilitate collation and articulation of engagement of public and private sectors, civil societies, academia, security and law enforcement, government, law makers, industry, academia, and the general public in a manner that best promotes and protects the nation's position on the internet governance at the African and Global IGF Forum.

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS

Stakeholders at the workshop observed with serious concern that:

1. Internet has become a vital medium for both domestic and global communications and interactions in the current age most especially the growing impact on the national economy and socio-political development.
2. The availability and continuity of the internet access was very paramount in this age by all and sundry. Internet is not restricted to the high and mighty alone but to all for personal, corporate and national usage.
3. The subtle discrimination and IP profiling of internet traffic/transactions from Nigeria thus making it difficult for genuine e-commerce businesses to play in the new world order of internet space
4. National need to balancing right to internet access with the freedom of Information that demands sharing of responsibilities among all stakeholders.
5. Near absence of local multi-stakeholder partnership vehicle to promote and consolidate on the gains and outcome of local and global dialogues on internet governance issues and related matters.
6. Internet safety and security are becoming milestone areas of growing concerns most especially with the absence of relevant law and lack of coordinated response center to handle cybercrime, online child exploitations and social media abuse with the recent case of Cynthia Osokogu still fresh in the participants' memories.
7. Critical and urgent need of generating local internet penetration statistics, and measuring growing presence of Nigerian engagement on the internet with real impact values assessment as compared to the much touted foreign statistics.
8. The nation's unarticulated positions and non or mis-representations at the Africa and Global IGF with conflicting outcome with little or no impact on the country.

9. Only few countries in Africa have sustainable IGF structures.
10. Persisting knowledge gap in the understanding of the working of the internet and challenges of harnessing critical internet resources for the benefit of local community.
11. Unpatronizing attitude of the country at the global internet policy space considering the huge profile of the country in internet penetration and investment growth in Africa and the rest of the world.
12. Critical emergence and sustainability of a national Internet governance dialogue platform.
13. The Internet governance access policy dialogue has enormous benefits to the country, stakeholders, and internet users in general.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

In view of the above mentioned observations, the following recommendations are made:

1. The Federal Government should sustainably promote and encourage the development of annual Internet Governance Policy Dialogue through Multi-stakeholders engagement framework. Thus supporting the Multi-stakeholder model in Internet Governance.
2. Nigeria should take a proactive and harmonized position at the Africa and global on Internet Governance Issues and matters connected with it.
3. Nigeria should raise its concerns about the discrimination and profiling of its IP and e-commerce transactions at the African and Global IGF discuss and demand for the reversal of such attitudes towards the country by global internet users.
4. There should be more intra-agencies participation, cooperation and collaboration with stakeholders on Nigeria Internet Governance Forum.
5. More cross sections of stakeholders should be sensitized on the need to support internet governance forum. They should take interest in what ICANN does and benefit from the evolving new gTLD, including what other partnership institutions in Internet Governance do, ie ISOC, IETF, etc.

6. Stakeholders should be trained on general awareness on internet infrastructure and resource to promote better understanding of internet and its benefits. There should be support for passage of law on declaration of ICT infrastructure as Critical Infrastructure.
7. There should be continuous engagement of stakeholders on internet governance discussions through a sustainable mechanism.
8. National Internet Governance Dialogue and Stakeholders Management Structure should be put into place to drive the annual preparatory dialogue process using multi-stakeholder management model and to serve as strategic think-tank to the federal government on the internet policy matters.
9. Federal government should work with all relevant stakeholders to fast track the passage of the current Cybercrime bill into law.
10. Nigeria Internet community should keep abreast of the critical internet resources and the emerging issues in the global domain name management. Nigerians should participate effectively at global events and canvas for support of the efforts by the Government towards good internet governance.
11. Stakeholders should support government effort aimed at making internet access available to everyone while supporting government position at the global IGF.
12. There is the need to create IGF fund to sponsor more Nigerians to represent the country at African and Global IGF events and to hold such representatives accountable for the outcomes and new perception of the peoples of Nigeria by the generality of the world actors in the internet ecosystem.
13. All internet stakeholders in the country should be responsive to their responsibilities on the safety and security of Nigeria internet space as well as to protect the freedom of Information to which all ascribed to.
14. The Federal government should be more responsive and visible in the global internet policy issues undertakings, and facilitating investment benefit for the country.
15. Therefore the country should seek hosting of Africa Internet Governance in the next one year, while the country should further seek to host Global IGF by the 2014.

16. The stakeholders seek further funding to support the annual NIGF while appreciating both the intra-agencies financial contributions and technical contributions of the facilitators to the development of Nigeria Internet Governance Forum.

The one day event was a success and well attended and the environment of the forum was conducive. The papers were well presented and expounded by the facilitators.

Signed

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NIGF 2012 Planning Committee.