



Analyzing the Landscape of Multistakeholder Internet Governance and Policy Process in Africa

The Case of the Internet Governance Forum:
Stakeholders, Issues, Challenges and Opportunities



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Africa
(PRIDA)**



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1. Introduction

The Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) is an initiative resulting from a partnership between both the African Union Commission and the European Commission with, notably, the latter supporting a project of Technical Assistance to the Initiative. The overall objective of PRIDA is to foster universally accessible, affordable and effective wireless broadband across the continent to unlock possible future benefits of Internet-based services. Its specific objectives are a) to facilitate efficient and harmonized spectrum utilization, b) to harmonize measurable ICT/Telecommunications policy as well as legal and regulatory frameworks, and c) to strengthen the ability of African stakeholders to actively participate in the global Internet governance processes. Activities pertaining to the latter are collectively referred to as the Internet governance track of PRIDA.

This study reported herein is part of the PRIDA Internet governance track and it focuses Internet governance and policy processes in Africa, particularly the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) at all levels in Africa and from the African standpoint, with a view to improving African participation in those processes. This report is articulated in three parts. The first part addresses multistakeholder policy processes overall before diving into the IGF processes, stakeholders and issues. Relevant institutional actors in this space in Africa are identified and the stakeholder groups are outlined. The report goes on to propose mapping configurations featuring the stakeholder groups, the issues addressed in these policy processes and the interactions in this ecosystem.

The second part addresses the current opportunities and challenges as well as potential synergies between those Internet governance initiatives, taking into account the issues they deal with. We will also be looking at the status of the same initiatives in other regions in a benchmarking effort.

The third part is concerned with the current state of the reporting and feedback mechanism in use in the IGF space, particularly in Africa, with a view to finding enablers for improvements at national, regional and continental levels.

And finally, the report concludes on those three components of the study and offers an array of recommendations on improving interactions and synergies between the stakeholders and all levels of IGF in Africa as well as on improving reporting and feedback mechanisms.

PART I

Mapping national, regional and continental multistakeholder processes

2. Multistakeholder processes other than IGF

Internet governance and policy concerns are certainly not the exclusive subject matter of the IGF as an institutional space resulting from the WSIS process. Just as at global level there are several institutions and actors dealing with various issues pertaining to this subject, so may well be the case in Africa too. As a matter of fact, whether they directly claim a role in Internet governance and policy or not, there are an array of institutions that deal with issues or make decisions which have consequences on the ways people access, use and experiment the Internet and ICTs more generally. Those institutional players fit in one or another of the stakeholder categories presented in Table 1.

A few countries reportedly have some more or less significant level of multistakeholder approach in policy-making processes outside the IGF stream. Namely, early indications show that this is or may be the case in Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, South Africa and Tunisia in the sense that those countries accommodate arenas where multiple stakeholder groups come together to discuss Internet issues of relevance for policy-making and regulation or that in various instances, the elaboration of policies and policy-making has been opened up to public consultations.

In the particular case of Egypt, this country has never held a national IGF per se and yet, it has been quite present and active in the IGF space as an African country since the “Africa on the Road to Athens” meeting which gave the opportunity for African stakeholders to prepare towards the first global IGF then to be held in Athens late 2006 and which was organized and hosted by the Egyptian government earlier that year. Egypt also hosted the 2009 global IGF in Sharm El Sheikh, the first African IGF in 2012 in Cairo and welcome back again the continental IGF in Sharm El Sheikh in 2017.

Table 1: Institutional actors and stakeholders from Africa’s standpoint

National Policy and Regulatory Authorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government Departments (e.g., Ministry in charge of ICTs)• Parliament or National Assembly• Regulators (Telecom, Electronic Communications, Radio Spectrum and Broadcast, etc.)¹• Other national public bodies: Commissions, Agencies, etc.
RECs and Associated Bodies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CEEAC / ECCAS - Economic Community of Central African States (Libreville) - http://www.ceeac-eccas.org• CEMAC - Commission Economique et Monétaire de l’Afrique Centrale (Bangui) - http://www.cemac.int• EAC - East African Community, Arusha, Tanzania• ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States, Abuja, Nigeria• UEMOA - West African Economic and Monetary Union, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso• SADC - Southern African Development Community, Gaborone, Botswana

¹A list of National Telecommunication Regulation Agencies can be found at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/links/nta.aspx> or at https://www.africantelecomsnews.com/Operators_Regulators/List_of_African_telecommunications_regulators.html

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMESA - Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, Lusaka, Zambia • AMU - Arab Maghreb Union (Rabat) http://www.maghrebarabe.org/
Regional Regulatory Associations²
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WATRA - West Africa Telecommunications Regulators Assembly - https://watra.org/ • EACO - East African Communications Organization - http://www.eaco.int/ • ARICEA - The Association of Regulators of Information and Communications for Eastern and Southern Africa • CRASA³ - The Communication Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (Gaborone) • ARTAC - Assemblée des régulateurs des télécommunications de l'Afrique Centrale
Continental Policy or Regulatory Institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AUC - African Union Commission (Addis Ababa) • NEPAD Agency - New Partnership for Africa Development • ATU - Africa Telecommunications Union (Nairobi, Kenya)
Network Operators and Internet Organizations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Network Operators: Telecom Operators and Internet Service Providers • Africa Network Operators Group (AFNOG) • Africa Top-Level Domains Organization AFTLD • Africa Network Information Center (AFRINIC)
African Processes and Events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • African Internet Governance Forum (AFIGF) • Regional Internet Governance Forums (WAIGF, EAIGF, CAIGF, SAIGF, North Africa / Arab IGF) • National Internet Governance Forums • Africa Internet Summit (AIS)
African Civil Society and other Advocacy Organizations or Networks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACSIS - Africa Civil Society on the Information Society • APC - Association for Progressive Communications • AFICTA - African Information and Communication Technologies Alliance • ISOC Chapters • Other national Non-Profit Organizations (Civil Society or Business related) • Article 19 (London with regional offices in Africa) • AccessNow (New-York with office in Tunis)
African Academic and Research Institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AANOIP - African Academic Network on Internet Policy https://aanoip.org/ • National Universities with Internet policy & governance as well as communications regulation related curricula • Research institutions involved with Internet governance & policy issues (e.g., Research ICT Africa)
International or Global Institutions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNECA - Economic Commission for Africa (Addis Ababa) • ITU - International Telecommunications Union • UNESCO - United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization • UNCTAD - United Nations Conference on Trade and Development • WIPO - World Intellectual Property Organization • WTO - World Trade Organization • ICANN - Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers • ISOC - Internet Society • IAB - Internet Architecture Board • IETF - Internet Engineering Task Force

² Regional Telecom Regulatory Associations
https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Regulatory-Market/Pages/RA_Portal/RA_AFR.aspx and http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/treg/Documentation/Table_region_reg_assoc.pdf

³ Previously known as TRASA (Telecommunication Regulators' Association of Southern Africa)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W3C - World Wide Web Consortium • IRTF - Internet Research Task Force • UNGGE - United Nations Group of Governmental Experts • GFCE - Global Forum on Cyber Expertise
Temporary or Ad-hoc Processes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NETmundial • High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation, etc.

Furthermore, Egypt had been involved since 2012 in the foundational process and the launching of the Arab IGF (along with UN-ESCWA and the League of Arab States) for which the Egyptian National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (NTRA) has been serving as Secretariat since then.

However, Egypt entertains several multistakeholder platforms addressing Internet and Internet policy issues, the most prominent of which might be the following two.

1) Cairo ICT Forum: This forum, launched a few years even before the IGF came into existence, is held annually as part of the Cairo ICT Exhibition and Forum. The agenda of the forum is set by a joint committee led by private sector and with participation from government (Ministry of ICT) and civil society (Etisalat NGO, and the Chamber of ICT). Apart from the event invitees, participation in this forum is subject to a paid ticket which puts it outside the realm of the IGF.

2) Internet Masr, the Egypt ISOC Chapter, established itself as an independent NGO in 2012. Its membership is multistakeholder, as it includes individual Internet users as well as representatives of the private sector, government, civil society and the academia. The elected Board is composed of 9 seats and the occupants come from all the stakeholder groups above, including individuals as well as the NTRA (National Telecommunications Regulatory Authority) as a government stakeholder. Internet Masr's events are organized around topics chosen through a mailing list including the organization's members and non-members. Agendas are finalized by working groups that are often led by one of the Board members, but in some instances was also led by other members. The organization holds not just an annual event but various events throughout the year. For instance, one track is dedicated to open workshops around ICT/Internet issues of high interest, which often results in quarterly events. Despite some differences with the IGF model, Internet Masr is regarded as the Egyptian IGF by some observers.

To conclude on this particular case, we will just quote the words of our informant in this regard: "Although the two examples are not 100% in match with the IGF NRI criteria—for reasons like tickets and lack of a formal MAG-like structures, they both have well served the Egyptian Internet community in past years in addressing IG issues, and have often developed reports and recommendations that were propagated to policy-makers and media. That of course is in addition

to the community's active engagement in regional NRIs that Egypt has been active in, harnessing the advantage of being in more than one regional initiative (African, North African, and Arab)."⁴

3. The Internet Governance Forums

In the whole of Africa, the IGF takes place at national level, at regional level and at the continental level. Based on various sources, there are from 20 to 30 countries that have already initiated an IGF process. The information available on the NRIs page from the website of the global IGF⁵ accounts for 23 such countries. These include Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda and Zimbabwe. At least one other source⁶ reports the same number of national IGFs. However, from among them are missing three countries from the above list (Gambia, South Sudan and Tanzania) while they are replaced by another set of three countries (Angola, Congo and Gabon) not included in the list above. This means that by end of 2018, there are most probably at least 26 African countries (total number of countries mentioned above at least once) which have held a national IGF.⁷ More recently, the *Manual for the Development of National and Regional IGFs in Africa* has listed 27 national IGFs in Africa, adding to our initial number of 23 countries the following ones: Burundi, Egypt (Internet Masr), Liberia and Niger. These additional four countries not being included in the previous list of 26, this will bring the total number of presumably currently active national IGFs to 30 or 31, depending on whether one counts the Egypt Internet Masr as an IGF.

Moreover, the reports posted on the global IGF's NRIs webpage do not reflect exactly all of the years the IGF convened in the listed countries. Some effort has been made to document that through our interviews and written questionnaire but still, a notable number of gaps remain. A country such as Cote d'Ivoire held a national IGF twice but has dropped it since 2012. As a consequence, one needs to ensure that all national IGFs ever mentioned on a webpage or in a report are still current — as they appear to be for now.

It is to be observed that Mali has never held a national IGF, which is odd considering that the first WSIS regional preparatory meeting was that of Africa and it was held in Bamako in 2002. Response to our online questionnaire suggests that resistance from government agencies may be part of the reason for this. However, they are planning to have their first IGF this year (2019). Other countries also planning or currently having their first IGF in 2019 include Congo, Liberia, Madagascar, Somalia and Sudan.

⁴ E-mail Exchange, on file.

⁵ <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/african-regional-group>

⁶ Project background provided in the consultancy ToRs for this assignment (ToR-8).

⁷ By the time we are completing this study, we have learned through posts and pictures on social media that Congo is only holding its first IGF this month of July 2019.

Table 2: Regional distribution of main intergovernmental or government-enabled organizations that have blocks of African countries as members

Central Africa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECCAS - Economic Community of Central African States (Libreville) • CEMAC - Commission de la Communauté Economique et Monétaire d'Afrique Centrale (Bangui) • ARTAC - Assemblée des régulateurs des télécommunications de l'Afrique Centrale
East Africa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAC - East African Community (Arusha) - • EACO - East African Communications Organization (Kigali) - http://www.eaco.int/
North Africa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMU - Arab Maghreb Union (Rabat) http://www.maghrebarabe.org/ • LAS - League of Arab States http://www.lasportal.org
Southern Africa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SADC - Southern African Development Community (Gaborone) • CRASA - The Communication Regulators' Association of Southern Africa (Gaborone)
West Africa
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States (Abuja) • UEMOA - West African Economic and Monetary Union (Ouagadougou) • WATRA - West Africa Telecommunications Regulators Assembly - https://watra.org/
Cross-Region
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COMESA - Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Lusaka) • ARICEA - The Association of Regulators of Information and Communications for Eastern and Southern Africa • FRATEL - Francophone Telecommunication Regulatory Network • CTO - Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (London) - https://cto.int • LAS - League of Arab States http://www.lasportal.org
Continental
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AU - African Union • ATU - African

a. Organizing models

All of the IGFs appears to integrate some significant level of multistakeholder approach. Many of them have written governing rules requiring the multistakeholder approach but for some others (Burundi, Malawi, Rwanda, Senegal and Togo among the countries of our respondents) it is just a matter of practice although the multistakeholder approach still verifies at least when it comes to participating in the proceedings. More broadly however, we have observed two models in the set-up structures.

- ***National or regional IGF merely as an event or a process***

In the first model, IGF remains purely an event that is convened by an organization or an entity that exists independently. Generally under this format, there is a pre-existing structure that takes responsibility for convening the IGF. In several countries the role of the convening entity—also

known as the IGF umbrella organization—is played by the local ISOC Chapter for the national IGF, while at the region level that role is devoted to the corresponding REC (regional economic community) organization for the regional IGF. A Working Group, Organizing Committee, Steering Committee or Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) is then formed by volunteers or designated members to do the planning and attend to the organization of the Forum. The membership rules and the composition structure of this organizing entity may vary somewhat from a country to another, from a region to another, but as a general principle they all strive to involve the maximum of the identifiable stakeholders and all the countries in the region for the regional process.

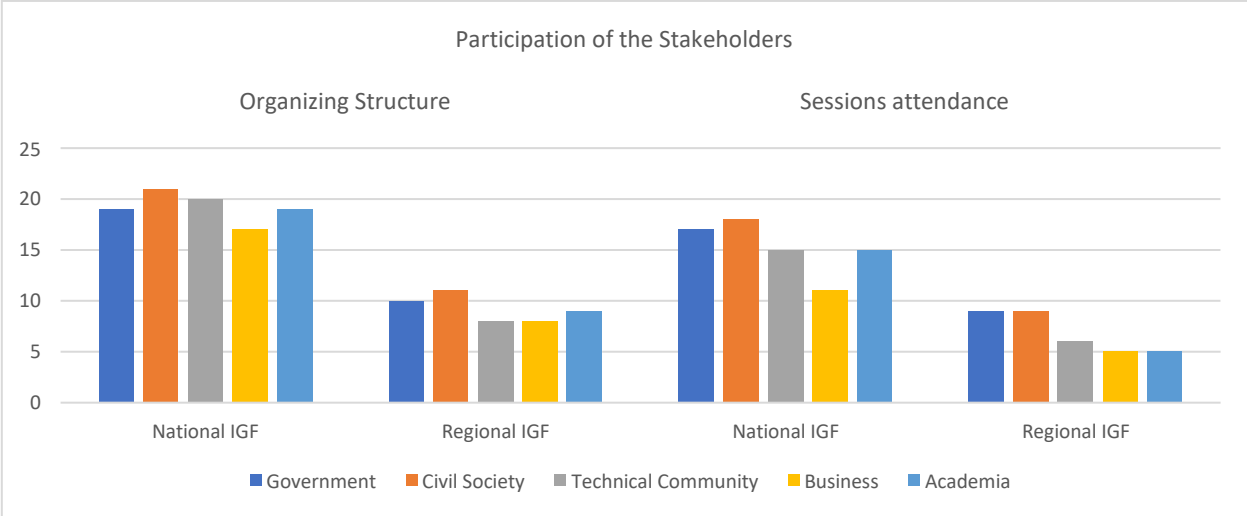
- **National or regional IGF as a structure**

The second model is characterized by the specific step taken to incorporate the IGF itself as an association or a non-profit organization. This makes it more autonomous and self-contained. Under this model the IGF itself becomes its own umbrella organization, its own convener. While such structure itself is deemed to be of the civil society type (a non-profit organization), its membership is open to any individual volunteer from any stakeholder group (for instance a government civil servant is the head of the IGF organization in Benin in his personal capacity along with other private citizens from academia or from the technical community, etc. as members.) While the whole IGF organization/structure is involved in organizing the event, it generally sets up additionally a Working Group, a Task Force, a MAG (Multistakeholder Advisory Group) or any such group to assist with the organization of the event or to lead the process.

Table 3 : Distribution of stakeholder participation both in the organizing bodies and during the proceedings, at national and at regional level (as per the number of respondents)

<i>Stakeholder</i>	Participation in the organizing structure		Participation in the proceedings	
	<i>Nation IGF</i>	<i>Regional IGF</i>	<i>National IGF</i>	<i>Regional IGF</i>
Government	19	10	17	9
Civil society	21	11	18	9
Technical community	20	8	15	6
Business	17	8	11	5
Academia	19	9	15	5

Figure 1: Graph of the distribution of stakeholder participation both in the organizing bodies and during the proceedings, at national and at regional level (as per the number of respondents)



Some countries belonging in the first model have complained to the effect that relying on a proxy for legal existence (the umbrella organization) makes it more complicated to receive financial support, to control the budget and its execution, or to do the financial reporting properly and in timely fashion. Benin which once featured in the first category, but has now joined the second model, confirms that the change has made their IGF operations smoother. On the other hand, Senegal where the IGF is organized by the local ISOC Chapter has indicated that they have not encountered any issue with that model, as they can set up and distinctly manage clear budget lines dedicated to different projects. In the end, this issue may depend on local actors, history, culture and institutional environment.

- More about the IGF Secretariat and the MAG**

Under the first model, the operational unit of the IGF umbrella organization which is dedicated to the IGF process is generally referred to as the IGF Secretariat. In the second model, the IGF process does not need a distinct Secretariat as the IGF organization fully plays that role. The IGF Secretariat or organization is to coordinate the overall IGF process, from all necessary actions needed to successfully hold the IGF event to any intersessional work that might be needed, including related logistic. The Secretariat does not just coordinate but is directly responsible for some of those actions such as, for instance, arranging for the venue or the host country (for the regional or the continental IGF). The MAG (or the equivalent) assists the Secretariat with the event programming through consultations of, and collection of inputs from, all stakeholders and the public generally, in order to select a theme, draw up the event agenda and the contents of its program. In the case of Kenya for instance, their IGF website⁸ states that the role of their MAG is “to assist in convening the Kenya IGF Meeting by preparing the programme, logistics and schedule and improve the IGF process through community consultations, outreach and stakeholder engagement.”

⁸ <https://kigf.or.ke/front-page-features/kenya-igf/terms-of-reference-of-kenya-igf-mag/>

b. The stakeholders and their core objectives

In the Internet, and more broadly the ICT, policy and regulation space, we have identified and categorized a number of institutions, organizations and processes that play a role or pursue objectives which are relevant to Internet governance and policy issues in Africa (Table 1). They may be identified through various groupings:

- Many of them originate from and are based in Africa (e.g., NEPAD, ATU);
- Some are international or global structures which African countries and stakeholders are part of (e.g., ITU, ICANN);
- Still some others are global and open Internet institutions which African stakeholders may choose to participate in or not, depending on their interest and capacity (e.g., IETF, W3C); and
- lastly, there are entities originating from outside but with partners and activities carried out in Africa (e.g., Article 19).

Further observations can be made on a number of these players and processes, from the perspective of their core objectives or their role.

- There are entities which, by the nature of their objectives, play a role in the Internet governance and policy space. These include Regulators (whether individually or in groupings) and Internet professional organizations and networks. Their overall objective is to keep the networks or segments of networks they are in charge of, developing and operating in a satisfactory manner (as intended) under applicable regulations.

- Obviously, national governments and legislative bodies as the primary sources of authority in rulemaking (laws, regulations, etc.) at country level, are de facto eminent players whenever they decide to take up any issue or to make a decision relating to the Internet and more broadly to Information and Communication Technology (ICT). These two entities (government executive and legislative branches) are actually the ones that bring others of the same category, such as the Regulators as well as National Commissions and Agencies, into existence. While the latter have each their specific mission pertaining to their specific domain or subject area, they operate under the umbrella of the government mission which is to keep the country running in orderly and peaceful manner (and the economy thriving, at least in some of the countries which are provided with the proper governance framework whereby the government is held accountable for the economic performance of the nation.)

- A third type of institutional players are those to whom government delegates its authority upward, jointly with other peers—namely, various intergovernmental groupings and international treaty organizations.⁹ Generally, their rationale is aligned with that of national governments subject to adjustments to the needs of, and specific demands stemming from, the international environment surrounding their institutional field.

⁹This indeed is akin to a pluri-governmental delegation of authority upward, symmetrical to the mono-governmental delegation of authority downward through national agencies.

- A third institutional actor profile includes organizations and various initiatives which, by choice, position themselves in the space of Internet governance and policy. They opt for it as their *raison d'être* or as part of their mission and objectives. They then choose to engage on issues they care about according to their mission. In this space, those issues often include affordable access, human rights and rights of individuals online, competition, etc. Those players are mostly civil society or any other advocacy organizations, or any interest group or network. They may be business oriented as well as education and research oriented or broader public interest oriented.

- Lastly, another category of institutional actors is made of landmark events, ad-hoc or transient initiatives, and other long-term processes such as working groups or task forces, etc. There is no specific geographical scope ascribed to their nature as such in that their scope may vary and they may come from a local, national, regional, continental or global source (including the United Nations.) However, their objectives will be shaped by the types of actors found at the origin of such initiatives and the level where they seek to make an impact. Even those of them which are initiated by the UN are not based on state membership in the same way an international treaty organization is but on voluntary participation from among UN member states, and typically decisions or outcomes are reached by consensus. Also, a particularity of this category of institutional actors or processes is that they are not Internet governance and policy stakeholders per se, whether African or global, as much as they set up institutional frameworks within which African Internet governance and policy stakeholders may engage and potentially influence the evolution of the Internet or of its governance, along with other stakeholders. At any rate however, with or without the participation of African stakeholder, their outcomes may shape Internet governance and policy in Africa which is why it is relevant to mention them here.

There are multiple examples of this category of institutional actors. They include the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts¹⁰ (UN GGE) on Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security; the Open-Ended Working Group¹¹ (OEWG), the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise¹² (GFCE) and the High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation.

- **Group of Governmental Experts:** Established by the UN General Assembly in 2004, GGE is a working group in the field of information security mandated to address the challenges stemming from the increasing development of ICT-enabled offensive as well as defensive capabilities and the security risks that pose to states.
- **Open-Ended Working Group:** Established in December 2018 by the UN General Assembly, OEWG is tasked, among other things, to study potential and actual threats to information security and help build capacity and confidence in the digital era.
- **Global Forum on Cyber Expertise:** The GFCE is a global platform bringing together various stakeholders including countries, international organizations, private companies, NGOs, the tech community and academia to exchange best practices and expertise on

¹⁰ <https://dig.watch/processes/un-gge>

¹¹ Idem

¹² <https://www.thegfce.com/>

cyber capacity building and to develop practical initiatives for such. The aim is to identify successful policies, practices and ideas which may be scaled up globally.

- **High-Level Panel on Digital Cooperation:** As stated on its website,¹³ this Panel was “convened by the UN Secretary-General to advance global multi-stakeholder dialogue on how we can work better together to realize the potential of digital technologies for advancing human well-being while mitigating the risks.” It has turned in its final report including recommendations on building an inclusive digital economy and society; developing human and institutional capacity; protecting human rights and human agency; promoting digital trust, security and stability; and fostering global digital cooperation.

One last example is the **NETmundial** as a landmark event, a global multistakeholder meeting on the future of Internet governance held in April 2014 in Sao Paulo, Brazil.¹⁴ It was a global process for a one-time event hosted by the government of Brazil and ICANN, which sought to shape global cooperation around the governance of the Internet. The main outcome of that includes the NETmundial Multistakeholder Statement. A number of stakeholders have tried to build on the momentum of that global meeting to embark on a NETmundial Initiative¹⁵ providing a platform that helps catalyze practical cooperation between all stakeholders in order to address Internet issues in a cooperative spirit and toward the implementation of the NETmundial Principles and Roadmap (included *the NETmundial Multistakeholder Statement*.) However, due to disagreements, that initiative did not succeed.

c. The stakeholders and the issues

With regard to the issues addressed in Internet governance and policy processes in Africa, particularly the multistakeholder processes, and their connection with the stakeholders, we focus on the IGF as it is the one process that is fast reaching

Table 4: Most critical internet policy and governance issues according to the respondents, at their country level as well as for the rest of the continent

Compiled results of question 12 from the Study Questionnaire in French (F) and English (E)

Question 12: In your view, what are currently the most critical Internet policy and governance issues that need attention in your country, your region and Africa?
[checkbox grid]

¹³ <https://digitalcooperation.org/>

¹⁴ <https://www.giplatform.org/resources/what-netmundial>

¹⁵ <https://netmundial.org/>

	National		Total N.	Régional Continental &		Total R&C
	F	E		F	E	
Access	11	10	21	8	7	15
Infrastructure	12	9	21	10	6	16
Cybersecurity	13	10	23	9	7	16
Critical internet resources	13	6	19	5	5	10
Privacy & data protection	10	9	19	11	5	16
Digital rights, Human rights	8	10	18	9	5	14
Digital trust	10	8	18	7	5	12
Internet for dev., SDGs	12	8	20	9	5	14
Digital economy	10	7	17	9	5	14
Net neutrality	13	4	17	7	4	11
Digital entrepreneurship	8	7	15	6	3	9
Local contents	14	10	24	8	4	12
Internet number resources	6	4	10	7	4	11
Domain names	10	4	14	7	5	12
Research	7	9	16	8	6	14
Emerging technologies	11	8	19	8	6	14
ICANN and IANA operations	6	6	12	7	4	11

Visible and stable institutional contours across all regions of Africa. We have put together a compiled list of the issues addressed at all AfIGF annual meetings since its start in 2012 (Appendix B) and consolidated it in light of the regional and national IGF agendas available (we have looked at the agendas of those processes of lower geographic scopes to see whether they have once addressed key issues that never featured on the continental IGF agenda, in which case we could add them.) Building on the Internet governance taxonomy (Table 5) designed by Raymond and DeNardis (2015), we propose a reformed and augmented taxonomy (Table 6) that is adjusted to the African context, identifying the key issues (based on the list of issues addressed so far at the African IGFs) and the main stakeholders concerned. Moreover, our survey has yielded a ranking among a list of key issues proposed to the respondents, distributed by country as well as over the rest of Africa (Table 4 and Figure 3).

Figure 2: Internet governance and policy stakeholder sphere/stack

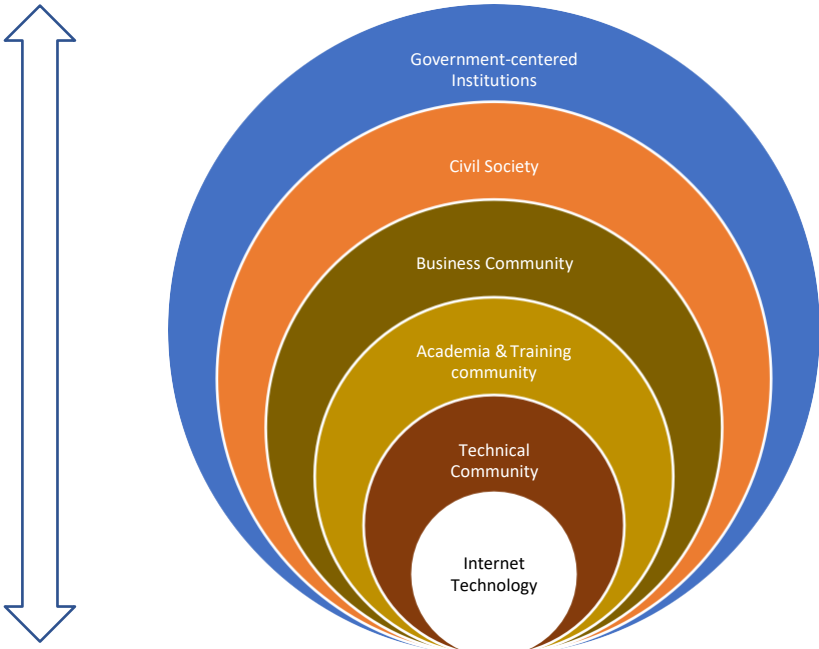


Figure 3: Graph of Most critical internet policy and governance issues according to the respondents, at their country level as well as for the rest of the continent

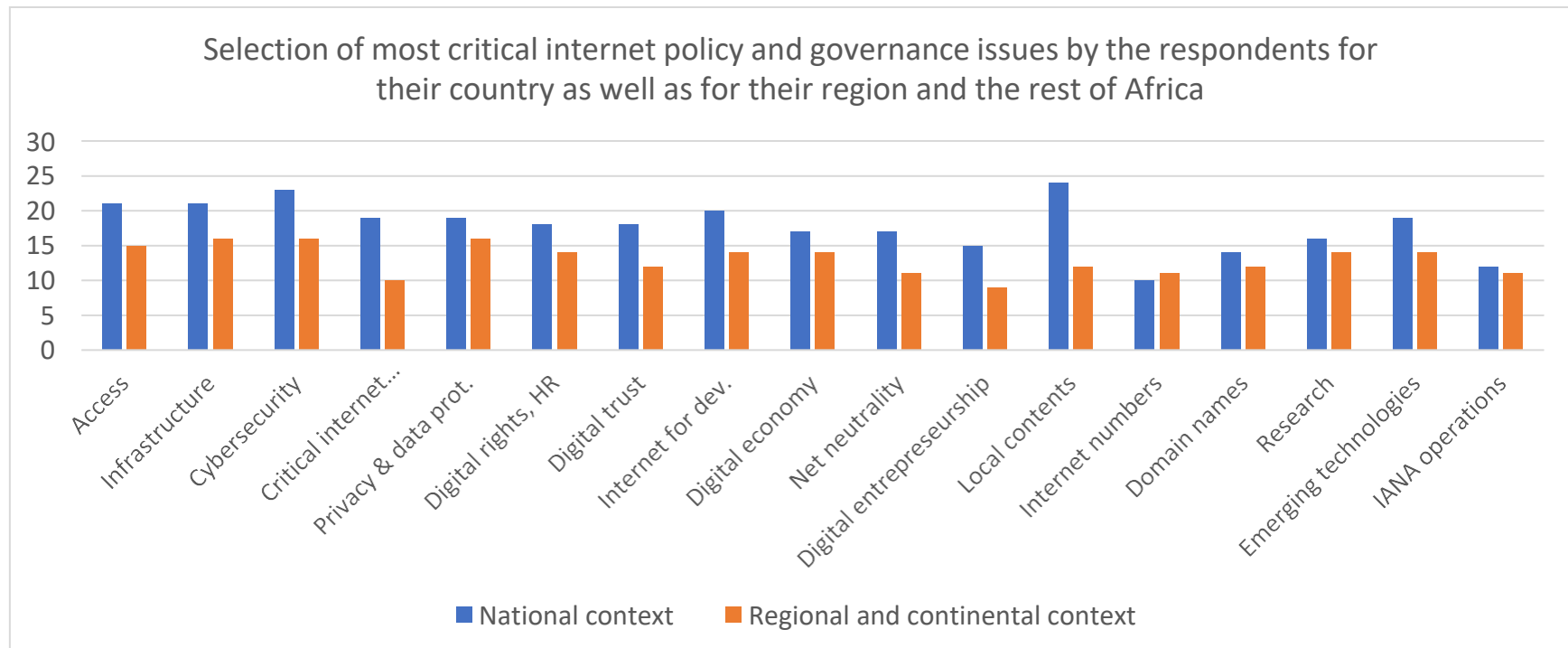


Table 5: Raymond and DeNardis Taxonomy

Functional area	Tasks	Primary Institutional Actor
I. Control of “Internet Resources” Critical	Central Oversight of Names and Numbers	ICANN, IANA, US DoC
	New Top-Level Domain Approval	ICANN
	Domain Name Assignment	Internet Registrars
	IP Address Distribution (allocation/assignment)	IANA, RIRs, LIRs, NIRs, ISPs
	Autonomous System Number Distribution	IANA, Regional Internet Registries
II. Setting Internet Standards	Protocol Number Assignment	IANA
	Designing Core Internet Standards	IETF
	Designing Core Web Standards	W3C
	Establishing Other Communication Standards	ITU, IEEE, MPEG, JPEG, ISO, others
III. Access and Interconnection Coordination	Facilitating Multilateral Network Interconnection	Internet Exchange Point Operators
	Peering and Transit Agreements to Interconnect	Private Network Operators, Content Networks, CDNs
	Setting Standards for Interconnection (e.g. BGP)	IETF
	Network Management (Quality of Service)	Private Network Operators
	Setting End User Access and Usage Policies	Private Network Operators
	Regulating Access (e.g. Net Neutrality)	National Governments/Agencies
IV. Cybersecurity Governance	Securing Network Infrastructure	ISPs, Network Operators, Private End User Networks
	Cybersecurity Regulation/Enforcement	National Statutes/Multilateral Agreements
	Securing Routing, Addressing, DNS	Network Operators, IETF, Registries
	Responding to Security Problems	CERTs/CSIRTs
	Trust Intermediaries Authenticating Web Sites	Certificate Authorities (CAs)
V. Information Intermediation	Commercial Transaction Facilitation	E-Commerce Sites, Financial Intermediaries
	Mediating Government Content Removal Requests (Discretionary Censorship)	Search Engines, Social Media Companies, Content Aggregation Sites
	Establishing Privacy Policies (via End User Agreements and Contracts)	Social Media, Advertising Intermediaries, Email Providers, Network Operators
	Responding to Cyberbullying and Defamation	Content Intermediaries
	Regulating Privacy, Reputation, Speech	Statutory and Constitutional Law
	Mediating Govt. Requests for Personal Data	Content Intermediaries, Network Operators

VI.Architecture-Based Intellectual Property Rights Enforcement	Domain Name Trademark Dispute Resolution	ICANN UDRP, Registrars, Accredited Dispute Resolution Providers
	Removal of Copyright Infringing Content	Content Intermediaries
	Blocking Access to Infringing Users	Network Operators/ISPs
	Domain Name System IPR Enforcement	Registries/Registrars
	Regulating Online IPR Enforcement	National Statutes, International Treaties

d. The stakeholders and their interactions in promoting IG in Africa

With the involvement of the African Union Commission in the IGF process in Africa, especially at the continental level with AfIGF, and the progressive involvement of the RECs at the level of the Africa's regions, one may note an increasing level of interactions between those organizations, as well as between them and other stakeholders involved, in promoting Internet governance in Africa.

Furthermore, within their region or across the continent, most of the non-state actors entertain interactions among members of their own stakeholder group. For instance, it is clear that the technical community organizations or networks heavily interact among themselves using online tools and spaces as well as recurrent physical meetings such as the Africa Internet Summit, the DNS Forum, etc. not to mention the global meetings they also participate in. Civil society, too, works across borders to coordinate their interventions, build synergies and promote their values and positions with regard to Internet governance and policy issues (although this happens at the global level more than at any other level within Africa, notwithstanding the existence of ACSIS¹⁶.) And lastly, even the business sector with AfICTA (Africa Information and Communication Technologies Alliance) is striving to build bridges to the Internet governance space for businesses across the continent.

While there are good cases of interactions and cooperation between stakeholders at country level (e.g., Malawi), what remains to be developed to a point of significance is building avenues for ordered and result-oriented interactions across stakeholder groups and among all stakeholders, particularly at regional and continental level.

¹⁶ African Civil Society for the Information Society, which both an organization and a network of various African CSOs.

Table 6: Adapting and completing the Taxonomy for the African context

Functional areas (IGF sub-themes)	Tasks (IGF Issues)	Primary Institutional Actors (Stakeholders)
I. Stewardship of Internet Critical Resources	Coordination of Internet Names and Numbers	ICANN, IANA/PTI, Internet Registrars, AFRINIC, LIRs, NIRs, ISPs
	New Top-Level Domain Approval	
	Domain Name Assignment	
	IP Address Distribution (allocation/assignment)	
	IPv4 to IPv6 migration	
	Autonomous System Number Distribution	
II. Infrastructure, Interconnection and access	Accessibility and affordability (public access, etc.)	National Governments/Agencies, Regulators, Operators Internet Exchange Point Operators Private Network Operators, Content Networks,
	Local content creation and linguistic diversity	
	Broadband and fiber optic	
	Facilitating Multilateral Network Interconnection	
	Peering and Transit Agreements to Interconnect	
	Network Management (Quality of Service)	
	Setting End User Access and Usage Policies	
	“Connecting the next billion”	
	IPv4 to IPv6 migration	
	Regulating Access (e.g. Net Neutrality)	
III. Cybersecurity	Securing Network Infrastructure	ISPs, Network Operators, Private End User Networks National laws/Multilateral Agreements, Convention, IETF, Registries, CERTs/CSIRTs, Certificate Authorities (CAs)
	Data protection	
	Cybersecurity Regulation/Enforcement	
	Securing Routing, Addressing and the DNS (DNSSEC)	
	Responding to Security Problems	
	Trust Intermediaries Authenticating Web Sites	
IV. Legal, policy and regulatory frameworks	Cybercrime, cyber laws and law enforcement	Governments, Regulators, Law enforcement agencies
	Intellectual property rights	
	Securing digital transactions	
	Inclusive, multistakeholder policymaking processes	
	Conducive policies and regulations re. licensing, competition, access, etc.	
	Implementation of relevant international agreements	

Functional areas (IGF sub-themes)	Tasks (IGF Issues)	Primary Institutional Actors (Stakeholders)
V. Information Intermediation	Commercial Transaction Facilitation	E-Commerce Sites, Financial Intermediaries, Search Engines, Social Media Companies, Content Aggregation Sites, Social Media, Advertising Intermediaries, Email Providers, Network Operators, Content Intermediaries, Statutory and Constitutional Law
	Mediating Government Content Removal Requests (Discretionary Censorship)	
	Establishing Privacy Policies (via End User Agreements and Contracts)	
	Responding to Cyberbullying and Defamation	
	Regulating Privacy, Reputation, Speech	
	Mediating Govt. Requests for Personal Data	
VI. Internet and digital economy	Developing the DNS industry	Governments, Business sector, Education and research institutions, Network operators, ISPs, Web service companies, Social media companies, End users
	Leveraging IP addresses	
	Incubators for start-ups	
	Linking universities with industries	
	Investment and innovative financing models	
	Competition, pricing and affordable access	
	Digital trust	
VII. Capacity-building, Education and Research	Building youth ICT capacity, digital literacy	Education and research institutions, Civil society, Business sector, Internet organizations (technical community)
	Integrating ICTs in academic curricula	
	Research and innovation	
	Capacity-building for decision makers	
VIII. Internet Governance for development: SDGs and socio-cultural issues	Affordable access	Governments, Civil society, End users, Multilateral and Bilateral development agencies, Private development partners
	Geo-location names, digital heritage	
	Gender divide and women empowerment	
	e-Health, e-agriculture and e-education applications	
	Child online protection + geo-strategic names?	
	Openness, content and language diversity	
IX. Internet rights/Human rights online	Privacy and personal data protection	Governments, Civil society organizations, Citizen movements, End users, Web service companies, Social media companies, Consumer protection organizations/ agencies
	Freedom of expression/speech	
	Censorship, Internet shutdowns	
	Law enforcement for protection of rights online	
X. Emergent issues and challenges	Digital multistakeholder cooperation	All stakeholders for digital cooperation
	Big data and IoT	

Functional areas (IGF sub-themes)	Tasks (IGF Issues)	Primary Institutional Actors (Stakeholders)
	Blockchain and crypto-currency Artificial intelligence Other emerging technologies	Internet companies, Large corporations, Research institutions

Figure 4: Mapping Internet governance and policy stakeholders and issues

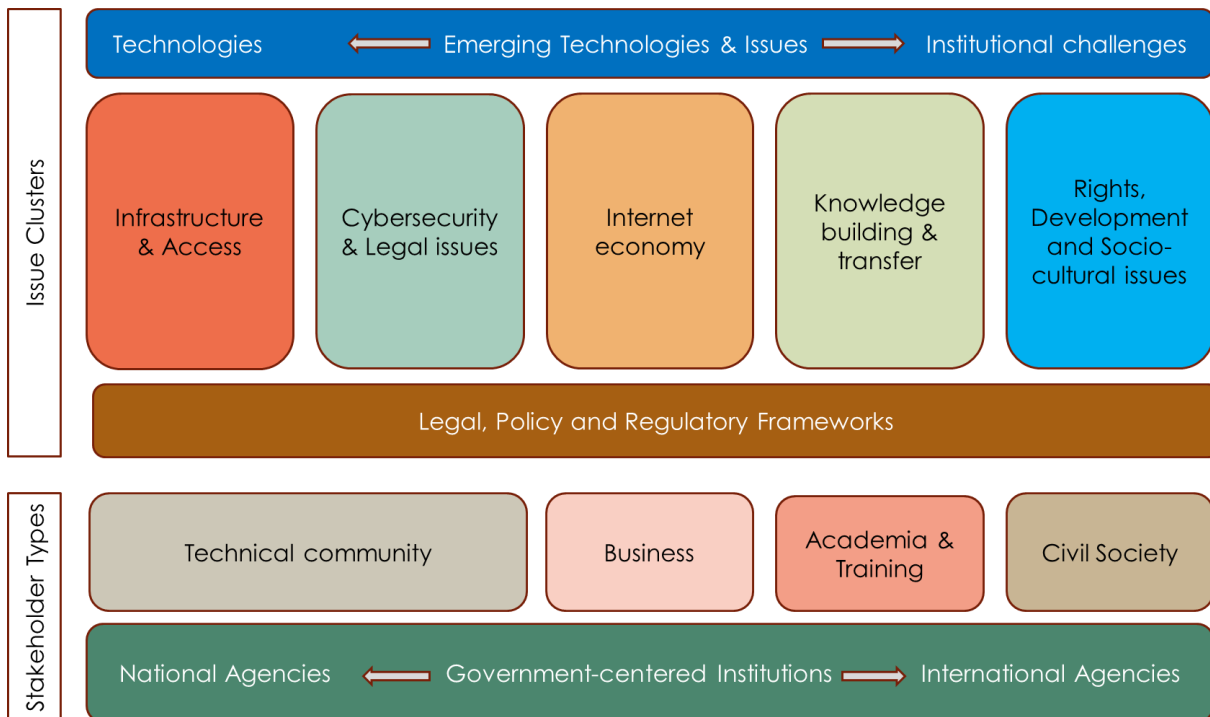


Figure 5: Mapping Stakeholders based on their functions and their relationships

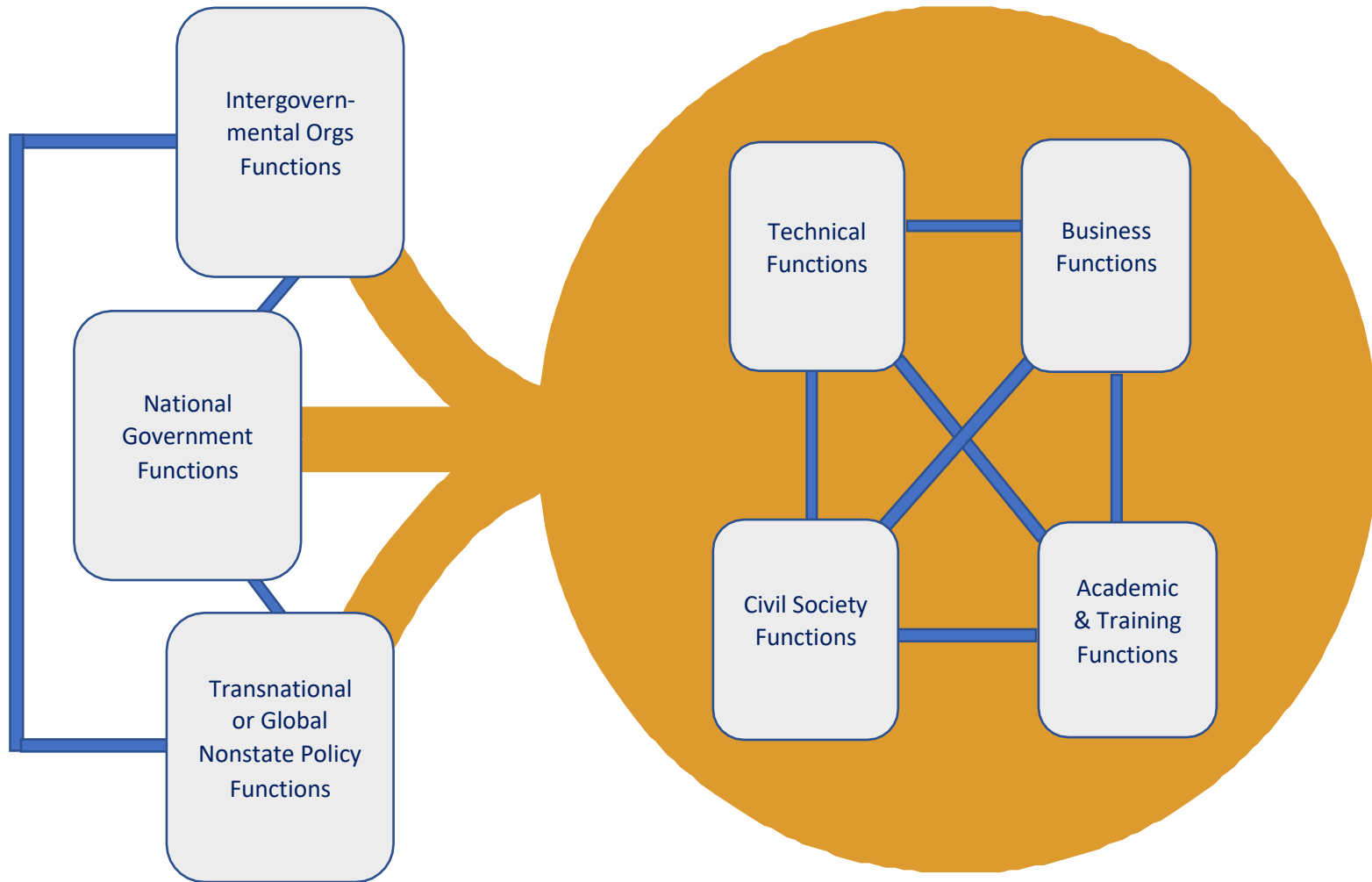


Table 7: List of stakeholders per functional areas

Functional areas	Stakeholders	
I. National Government	ICT Ministry	
	Other relevant Government Departments	
	Parliament/ National Assembly	
	Communications Regulator	
	Other relevant National Agencies	
II. Intergovernmental	AUC	UNECA
	NEPAD	ITU
	ATU	UNESCO
	CEEAC / ECCAS	UNCTAD
	ECOWAS	WIPO
	EAC	WTO
	SADC	
	AMU	
	CEMAC	
	UEMOA	
	COMESA	
	III. Transnational or Global Nonstate Policy	ICANN Policy Functions
GFCE		
UNGGE		
OEWG		
Other Punctual Working Groups, High-level Panels or Committees		
ISOC		
IV. Technical	Internet Service Providers	
	Telecom and other Network Operators	
	AFNOG	
	AFRINIC	
	AFTLD	
	Communications Regulators (technical functions)	
	ATU Technical functions	
	ITU Technical functions	
	ICANN Technical Functions	
	IETF	
	W3C	
V. Civil Society	ACSYS	
	APC	
	Article 19	
	AccessNow	
	ISOC Chapters	
	National CSOs	
VI. Business	AFICTA	
	Individual Businesses from all sectors	
	Network Operators as Business	

VII. Academic & Training	Universities and other relevant Education & Research Institutions
	Non-academic Capacity-Building Organizations
	AANOIP - African Academic Network on Internet Policy
	Other relevant research networks

Overall, the outputs of our mapping exercise are captured in Figures 2, 4 and 5 complemented by Table 7. First, let us note that from fig. 4 to fig. 5, we have an increase of stakeholder groups by 2, going from five stakeholder groups to seven stakeholder functional areas (or groups). The reason is twofold. What we previously put in one box as ‘government-centered institutions’ splits into two (national government and intergovernmental organizations.) Moreover, we have added a new stakeholder group for entities that are usually not considered stakeholders but the institutional actors that set the processes which stakeholders seek to influence; after all, if governments may be considered stakeholders in ICANN processes, for instance, why couldn’t ICANN be a stakeholder in government decisions that may impact the functioning of the global internet or in some intergovernmental Internet related processes?

Fig. 5 represent in total seven stakeholder functional areas rather than stakeholder groups, or much less individual stakeholder entities. This is done so in order to avoid overloading the graphic by listing the actual stakeholder entities one by one; instead, the detailed listing is provided in Table 7. Most importantly however, there is an analytical value at labeling the functional areas as the entry points for stakeholders, as opposed to jumping directly to identifying individual stakeholder organizations or entities. That approach enables us to recognize that some organizations or entities may assume at least two distinct competences putting them in two separate stakeholder groups. For instance, ICANN is not just an Internet organization (technical function ascribed to the technical community) but it also makes global policy for the Internet; ITU does technical standard setting but they also address policy and regulation; on the other hand, IETF and W3C only deal with technical standards.

In terms of the relationships between the stakeholders, each stakeholder has some level of relationship with each one of the other six stakeholder groups (outside its own group.) For instance, network operators assume technical functions while they are also businesses serving customers. Their customer base is part of the civil society while their services, operations and results may be of interest for researchers, including for the purposes of academic research.

All the seven stakeholder groups identified are subject to Internet governance issues and debates. However, the three stakeholder groups represented by the three functional areas on the left-hand side in fig. 5 are categories of stakeholders that hold policy-making primary responsibilities (it is among their prerogatives to initiate, host or validate policy-making processes and to enforce policy.) The four stakeholder groups concerned with the four functional areas on the right-hand side in fig. 5 have no policy-making power per se but thanks to the multistakeholder policy-making process, they can influence policy or even co-create policies that are applicable beyond their own organizational boundaries (such as is the case for public policy.) The branches linking the first group of three to the second group of four indicate that information can flow both ways between those two blocks. In other words, not only civil society, business, academic and technical stakeholders can interact with each other, each one of them can also engage in interactions with national governments, with intergovernmental organizations as well as with global nonstate organizations when it comes to addressing Internet governance and policy issues.

PART II

Current challenges and opportunities and potential synergies

4. Current challenges and opportunities

In this part of the study, we will focus on the current challenges and opportunities as well as the potential synergies between the various initiatives, taking into account the issues they address. We first start with the challenges and then the opportunities.

a. Challenges

The idea of PRIDA itself was based on the finding that the level of African stakeholders' participation is weak when it comes to global Internet governance and policy processes, signaling the lack of weakness of such processes within the continent. An array of challenges contributes to that state of affairs. Among the challenges cited by our respondents feature the following.

Lack of awareness, sensitization and capacity is paramount among those challenges, as it applies to all stakeholders to various extents. There is a ***lack of awareness and understanding from the government*** and subsequently an absence of government department or service that is competent for and dedicated to addressing Internet governance issues. Many African states are not aware of the stakes involved with the critical issues addressed in global debates regarding Internet governance, and they have a limited understanding of Internet potential as well as its challenges from the standpoint of their nation. They are yet to integrate the notion of digital diplomacy, which can bring them to forge alliances in global and regional decision-making processes so as to advance common interests, and certainly do not practice it.

The lack of awareness, the lack of understanding from policymakers including the legislator and the government has a wide impact starting at home. It makes it more difficult to have proper legislations or enabling laws. It maintains the gap between decision makers and the Internet governance stakeholders, which does not lead to crafting sound policies with a balanced view of the needs and interests of all stakeholders in mind.

The other stakeholders also face the same challenge regarding the level of awareness and capacity. For although they may be more visible in the Internet governance space, those with sufficient awareness and capacity to engage still are far from reaching a critical mass allowing them to have any significant impact on the outcomes of the discussions they may be involved in. And not only that, ***only a tiny portion of the participating stakeholders comes sufficiently prepared*** on the issues in order to be able to have any impact.

Funding for participation is also a challenge that is often mentioned. It is clear that apart from the government and maybe the technical community, the rest of the stakeholders can rarely fund themselves to participate. But even with government, when the leadership or the hierarchy is not aware of the relevance of the opportunity or its applicability to their policy objectives, funds will not be made available to participate. The technical community fares better in this regard probably because attending to those questions are part of their day job (which means there is an economic value attached to that) and they belong in a global professional community (which makes the economic basis or rationale even stronger.) The rest of the stakeholders are generally at the mercy of exogenous funding which is completely exposed to the risk of being sporadic or maybe

even random, and therefore prevents from building up long term gains in terms of institutional capacity.

A respondent made the remark that **availability of funding is decreasing** and that they are facing increasing difficulties to raise funds to organize Internet Governance related events and to support participation in those events as well as other relevant meetings and negotiations. Perhaps that trend applies only to their regular funding sources but, if nothing else, that would only underline the fragility of a situation of reliance on exogenous funding as mentioned above.

In addition, the **funding challenge also applies to capacity-building** obviously, all the more so that participating in meetings is also an opportunity for some to build or gain capacity. Along the line of capacity-building, one respondent has noted the need to prepare, and pass on the baton to, a new generation of actors in this arena, as the generation that has been around Internet issues since the 1990s and early 2000s is progressively leaving the scene.

With regard to Internet governance and policy processes themselves, the IGF particularly, it is a challenge to **make sure the outcomes impact policy** or contribute one way or the other to shaping the landscape. It is critical to devise a mechanism allowing to follow up on the recommendations and monitor their implementation, if any.

Government attempts to interfere in the functioning of the Internet such as shutdowns and censorship on social media have been noted as a concern and a challenge.

Further challenges that have surfaced from our survey include the lack of **harmonization of national policies** in order to achieve regional cohesion; the need to promote the **sense of service to the community** in the Internet ecosystem; the **radicalization of online speech** (personal attacks, hate speech, etc.); and lastly **accessibility** and **net neutrality** (cost and QoS).

b. Opportunities

African stakeholders approached in the course of this study recognize the need to work through the above challenges and perceive PRIDA as a potentially crucial catalyzer if well executed. On top of the various existing Internet governance and policy processes, **PRIDA adds greatly to the opportunity to increase awareness and participation**. The mere existence of a multistakeholder process, if well conducted and well resourced, is a promise on the capacity to influence, sooner or later, policy change on Internet governance issues at national level. This might very well apply to supranational levels, too.

At this juncture, the African stakeholders see the need and the opportunity to try and **harmonize Internet related legislation and legal framework** at least within regions and, to the extent possible, aim at some level of convergence across Africa, in order to **foster a more conducive environment**.

African Union level initiatives and the active involvement of the its Commission will help **raise awareness with political leadership** in the countries and in the regions, and will ultimately benefit initiatives at national level.

This may also be a good opportunity for AUC and partners to **collaborate with the technical community** (AFRINIC, ICANN, IETF, W3C, etc.) in order to help form the next generation of technical experts in Africa at par with their global counterparts, and to support African research in Internet governance and policy issues across disciplines including social sciences. In order to achieve more impact, it is now critical to promote the **participation of multi-disciplinary researchers** as well as members of the local and regional technical communities in and around Internet governance through the IGF processes.

The momentum in the current activities relating to Internet governance and policy in Africa helps **popularize the concept** and the relevance of the subject matter in the effort to resolve the digital divide. This is indeed the opportunity to **highlight the link between economic development and the development of the internet** by promoting synergy in, among other things, the actions that are required to leverage Internet as a critical development tool for African countries through sharing **experiences and promoting best practices**.

Multiplying Internet governance meetings and trainings such as AfriSIG (the African School of Internet Governance) as well as those of ICANN and ISOC, etc. gives opportunity to raise further awareness, to **educate on digital citizenship** and **Internet governance future generation leadership**, and to promote the **inclusion of local issues** and concerns.

Here may also lie the opportunity to **develop virtual classes and short videos to train on current issues of internet governance** and what is at stake for African stakeholders as well as to **spur action-oriented dialogues** including the participation of the local and rural populations. All of this could be done through a learning platform at continental level or at regional level.

5. Processes and Issues: potential synergies and benchmarking

As we saw in Part I, Section 3, the organizational design of most IGF processes in Africa mimics to some significant extent that of the first of all IGFs, that is, the global one. They all have an entity serving as Secretariat and then an organizing structure which may bear different names in different places. The organizing structure may have sub-committees or working groups to tackle specific aspects of the programming and the convening of the event. A call is generally issued for the community to decide on the theme of every annual IGF and to submit proposals for program contents such as panels or workshops if applicable (not all IGFs in Africa organize parallel workshops.) The question is, how can synergies be improved among stakeholders — keeping in mind that all stakeholder groups are not equally engaged — as well as between the national, regional and continental IGFs? To that end, we have tried to look at how things are done elsewhere in terms of achieving a good level of synergy. Following is what we have learned from the European region.

First, there is definitely a need to ensure that strongly relevant linkage is maintained between Internet stakeholders and the issues addressed by Internet governance and policy processes in their country or region. From the European standpoint, it is noted that this task is more complex now than it was six or seven years ago when a process such as the EuroDIG (or of the IGF type) was still quite unique and had less competition with potential other avenues addressing Internet governance and policy issues. Today, there is a wider array of competing events which

stakeholders can choose from for sharing their attention, and this makes it more difficult for the IGF type event (in this case the EuroDIG) to stay relevant despite its unique characteristics including the multistakeholder model and the UN legitimation (at least vicariously through the global IGF.)

Let us pause to observe that Africa does not exactly have the same problem. In this context, the IGF model is still relatively unique. There are a very little number of Internet governance and policy processes which IGF stakeholders are already, or may find more value in being, involved with, especially at regional and continental levels.

Secondly, in the course of this study, we have been reminded at various occasions that NRIs do not flow from the UN mandate given to the global IGF or any other UN mandate and, as such, they are autonomous as Internet governance processes and independent from the global IGF. However, they are obviously designed as the national and regional counterparts of the global IGF and thus, they are the natural channels for the local and regional voices to be heard at the global level on issues of interest. To that effect, meaningful linkages need to be built across all levels of IGF, starting from the local communities in Africa and going up to the global arena. While the EuroDIG is yet to achieve such smooth linkage, it is recognized at the European Commission that this is crucial and the NRIs have a critical role to play in that regard. As stated by our respondent at the European Commission¹⁷: “We envisaged [sic] the NRIs, and especially the Regional fora to collect and bring up to the annual meeting a coordinated European voice (for EuroDIG).” And she goes on to note that for the first time this year, EuroDIG is coordinating the preparation of a European response to the UN High-level Panel on Digital Cooperation report to be presented at the global IGF in Berlin this coming November.

In the context of Africa, the regional IGF would be a good meeting point where the voices coming from the lower levels or the bottom (including grassroots communities and national processes) can form coherent and comprehensive sets to be used as building blocks for African common positions or messages to the world.

And lastly, some institutional arrangements may be implemented in order to further facilitate synergy in the process of linking stakeholders with the issues taken up in the Internet governance and policy debates. In the case of the EU, representatives of EU member states from an expert group named the High-level Internet Governance Group (HLIG) in order to assist the European Commission with soft coordination on Internet governance matter. The Group meets three times a year and starting in 2016, each one of their meetings includes two parts: the first half is open to all concerned European stakeholders and the second half is only with the representatives of member states.

Such structure would certainly help mobilize many relevant stakeholders and register their concerns and interests so as to take them into consideration in setting the agenda for governance debates and policy-making processes relating to the Internet. For a similar mechanism to work out well in Africa, one needs to make sure those African stakeholder groups which are yet to engage with multistakeholder Internet governance and policy processes have structures in place

¹⁷ E-mail exchange with a staff of the Next Generation Internet at the DG-Connect

that can represent them in this space at regional level (with the RECs for instance) and at continental level (with the AU Commission).

Overall, Internet governance and policy challenges are still many in Africa, as one might expect for such a complex or at least dense subject area (and field of practice) that still is at a nascent phase or relatively new in this socio-political context. A lot of education and capacity-building still need to be done with the particularity that not even all the stakeholders are on board with the notion that the issues at hand should be addressed in a multistakeholder fashion. As to the opportunities, they seem to be shifting toward a positive direction. With an increased interest in the need for meaningful African voices in the Internet governance and policy debates, including by stakeholders and partners with the resources and the decision-making power necessary to help move the process forward, it appears the capacity-building needs can be met and with that, an increased awareness for the African stakeholders about the necessity to fully reclaim their ability to contribute and their role in this space. Yet, such opportunities will fully come to fruition only if there is enough synergy between the different levels of IGF so as to reinforce their capacity to overcome the challenges and to collectively address their common internet governance and policy issues. The concluding part of this report includes a few recommendations on actions that may be taken in order to improve synergy between the national, regional and continental initiatives.

PART III

Potential enablers to improve reporting and feedback mechanism

6. Reporting and Feedback Mechanism: Current Status

This section addresses the IGF reporting and feedback mechanisms currently implemented within Africa and then between the African NRIs and the global IGF. But first, we start by recalling the process by which the NRIs came into existence in reference to the global IGF.

a. Background

The Tunis Agenda establishing the United Nations' IGF (para. 72) did not precisely recommend any similar process to be organized at national level or at various regional levels. However, in its para. 80, it encourages “the development of multi-stakeholder processes at the national, regional and international levels to discuss and collaborate on the expansion and diffusion of the Internet as a means to support development efforts to achieve internationally agreed development goals and objectives...” Based on that, the idea to initiate those processes and label them identically as IGF at those other geographical levels sprung from as early as in 2006, the same year the first global and UN-mandated IGF was launched. Here it may be noted that the first national IGF ever held by an African country took place right from the beginning, that is, the same year as the launch of the global IGF in Athens in 2006.¹⁸

The period running from then up to 2009 saw a growing number of initiatives forming and formalizing an IGF process at national and regional levels. The question then quickly came up as to how they relate to the global IGF in the absence of any UN framework or mandate for the IGF Secretariat to entertain such initiatives. In a bottom up process however, these self-initiated IGFs in the countries and in the regions entrusted the IGF Secretariat to conduct a recognition process whereby they agree to follow core principles and characteristics of the IGF, which would allow them to be formally identified with the IGF and be listed on its website.¹⁹ All of these self-initiated IGFs are thus organic in their formation and they remain independent from the original and global IGF. However, there are channels of interaction between them including reporting and feedback mechanisms. In this part, we will review the current status of those reporting and feedback mechanisms between the different levels of IGF in Africa and between Africa and the global level IGF.

b. Between national, regional and continental IGF

There seems to be a general consensus that ideally for any given year, the national IGF ought to take place before the regional IGF which ought to be held before the continental IGF. This comes from the notion that the outputs of the lower level should feed in, or shape in some way, the process at the next higher level. This is all done in a self-organizing way—which also means it doesn't always happen that way for potentially various reasons. Typically, the actors involved in the regional IGFs are also actively part of a national IGF, maybe except from among them the ones who are affiliated to the REC (or to any supra-national entity that might be related to the regional process.) Likewise, many of the people involved in the African IGF (namely through its MAG) have some linkages with either a national or a regional IGF, or both. In a sense, these

¹⁸ That was the case of the Uganda national IGF in 2007.

¹⁹ Presentation: “National, Regional and Youth IGF Initiatives (NRIs), Third IGF 2019 Open Consultations: Status Update,” IGF, United Nations, 2019.

linkages provide living reporting and feedback conduits between the three IGF processes and makes it easier to coordinate them.

As to formal procedures for reporting and providing feedback, the predominant pattern is to share written reports and to hold sessions for the reporting IGFs to give an oral presentation of their report during the proceedings of the IGF being reported to. In that scheme, national IGFs give an oral presentation of their report at the regional IGF, and regional IGFs give an oral presentation of their report during the African IGF proceedings. Then feedback is mainly provided through Q&As and discussion following the oral presentations of the reports.

c. Between African NRIs and the global IGF

The African national, regional and continental IGFs, along with Youth IGFs wherever applicable, constitute what would be referred to as the African NRIs²⁰ from the standpoint of the global IGF. In order for the NRIs to be identified with the global IGF at their respective level, they have agreed to follow certain defining principles and characteristics of the original IGF itself. Those principles and characteristics form the criteria for their recognition from the global IGF standpoint, which includes the following:

- Open and transparent;
- Inclusive;
- Non-commercial;
- Multistakeholder with all stakeholders participating on equal footing;
- Bottom-up process development; and
- Consensus driven decision-making.

More specifically, the organizing committees must be composed of at minimum three different stakeholder groups and all stakeholders must be represented in the program which is developed in a bottom-up manner. Moreover, the NRI coordinators have voluntarily defined basic requirements, the main of which is to submit an annual report to the IGF Secretariat which is posted to the IGF website.

The NRIs hold at least a session during the annual IGF meeting. Notably, they are very much involved with the Best Practices Forums (BPFs) where they contribute concrete case studies and analyses on the topic retained for the BPFs, using their annual report submitted to the Secretariat as the basis for their intersessional work.

The IGF Secretariat has dedicated one staff member to serve as the NRI Focal Point. As part of her responsibilities, she handles all the communications with the NRIs and addresses their logistical and other concerns.

The NRIs also have a dedicated mailing list to communicate within their network on NRIs related issues including their inputs to the NRIs collective work, the implementation and improvement of their respective IGF processes as well as the recognition process and criteria. There are a number

²⁰In the terms of the global IGF Secretariat, this acronym designates all the national, sub-regional, regional and youth IGF initiatives.

of other lists that are also of interest to the NRIs, for instance the Best Practice Forums (BPFs) and the IGF Intersessional mailing lists. Moreover, and as part of their working methods, the NRIs have online conference calls bimonthly, which they refer to as their virtual meetings. With regard to those meetings over this 2019 cycle, it is stated on the IGF website that “[t]he NRIs Network works toward achieving joint objectives: 1) integration in the IGF 2019 by organizing several sessions and hosting a booth; 2) Strengthening the IGF 2019 intersessional work by contributing with good practices; 3) Advising on IGF improvements; 4) Exchanging good practices among NRIs to improve national and regional processes.”²¹ Those objectives are basically applicable to every cycle and can be used to characterize the intersessional work of the NRIs more generally.

For most NRIs, reporting is done first through sharing a written report and then discussing various aspects of the shared report during larger IGF proceedings and mailing lists, over which discussions they share feedback. At African level and in comparison with what is done at the global level, there still is room for further elaborating on the report for intersessional work and sharing feedback. As nearly half of the African continent is still to launch their national IGF, it is critical to design and implemented streamlined and effective reporting and feedback mechanisms. In the concluding part of this study, we will offer a few recommendations toward achieving this.

²¹ See <https://www.intgovforum.org/multilingual/content/igf-2019-nris%C2%A0preparatory-process>

Part IV

Conclusions and Recommendations

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

This study conducted within the framework of PRIDA set out to analyze and map the implementation of the multistakeholder model of the IGF process in Africa including the issues and the stakeholders; to identify the challenges it faces and the opportunities that it bears; and to report on potential synergies as well as enablers to improve reporting and feedback mechanisms.

This main focus of the first part of this report was to map the Internet governance and policy space in Africa, particularly identifying the multistakeholder processes, the key issues and related institutional actors as well as the stakeholders involved. While about a half of the continent is still to carry out a national IGF, the IGF process remains the most commonly known and implemented multistakeholder process in any policy area on the continent. This report has elicited the organizing mechanisms at work, the main institutional actors and the stakeholder profiles involved, the key issues addressed as well as the interactions that sustain the IGF space, particularly in Africa.

Specifically, regarding the stakeholder types, this study suggests a new categorization based on four role layers or action-profiles including the following:

- The *Technical Community layer*: these stakeholders have been around as actors in this space as far back as the Internet goes;
- The *Civil society layer*: which includes civil society organizations and users;
- The *Government layer* which is further subdivided into three sections with at the center the national government itself (namely, its ministry in charge of ICTs and other relating Departments), plus on the one hand the government delegated authority through national agencies, commissions and regulatory bodies, and on the other hand supranational institutions enabled by governments;
- The *Business layer*: which includes private businesses and business advocates;
- And lastly, the *Academic and Capacity-building layer* which is concerned with researching any part of the ecosystem or the role of any of the other stakeholders as well as to build and transmit knowledge about it.

As to the functional areas or key issues, this study suggests five large clusters including:

- 1) Infrastructure and access;
- 2) Cybersecurity and legal issues
- 3) Internet economy
- 4) Knowledge building and transfer;
- 5) Rights, Development and Socio-cultural issues.

The proposed mapping models draw on these two high-level categorization schemes to make the field view as heuristic and yet as simple and practical as possible.

The limited time devoted to this study has not allowed us to dive deeper in investigating potential national multistakeholder processes in the Internet governance and policy area other than the

IGF. However, our preliminary findings indicate that there might be a case to be made about a different model of public participation in policy-making processes in the context of two or three countries.

The second part of this report focuses on challenges, opportunities and synergies and the third and last substantive part focuses on reporting and feedback mechanisms. After outlining current challenges and opportunities according to the respondents of our survey and after tracing the current reporting and feedback mechanism in those parts of this report, we will now turn to the recommendations that we can draw from this study on improving synergies in the IGF space in Africa as well as on improving reporting and feedback mechanisms.

a. Recommendations on improving synergies

Considering the findings of this study on the IGF as a multistakeholder model of Internet governance and policy processes in Africa, the following recommendations are formulated on the actions and interactions that might improve synergies between Internet governance and policy issues, stakeholders and processes.

Online platform

- It is critical to build a continental online platform dedicated to events and exchanges about Internet governance and policy issues in Africa, among African stakeholders, and on African issues as well as global ones of interest to African stakeholders. A reference model needs to be designed for such a platform so as to be implemented in cascade at regional and country levels, too. Moreover, it would be even better to integrate all the three levels into the same platform enabling a one-stop shop for all things IGF in Africa. The RECs could ensure the curation of the regional space on the platform which should facilitate interactions between the African NRI community members within the countries, within the regions and across the continent.

- Integrate to the platform(s) a system of voting/ranking allowing to vote or rank issues and topics that may require further attention, education or capacity building, and invite the appropriate Internet organizations, researchers and experts to provide educational contents or explanatory briefs, or to address the stakeholders' questions on the platform. The same ranking or rating system can be used to build agendas for the Forums.

- The platform could also be used as a tool for knowledge sharing and knowledge management by serving, among other things, as a repository for case studies on specific Internet governance and policy issues, in the context of national, regional or continental IGFs. The platform can be used to put issues or stakeholders in the spotlight.

Mobilizing stakeholders and strategizing on the issues

- Make the necessary effort to bring under the IGF tent at every level all potential stakeholders who are yet to engage, particularly from the government, business and academia. This may be achieved by organizing regular webinars and extending invitation to attend to targeted potential stakeholders. Webinars may also be organized as part of the preparatory

processes for youth and new comers in order to improve participation to critical upcoming events and for better experience.

- A group modeled on the EU Commission's High-Level Internet Governance Group (HLIG), or otherwise named, with the aim to provide expert and strategic guidance, can be instrumental in bringing new stakeholders on board, particularly the business and the government. It would be a mixt group of experts, AUC policy officers and a handful of representatives of AU member states. They will hold two or three yearly meetings, first part of which is open to any voluntary stakeholders in addition to specially invited stakeholders (the latter will include potential stakeholders who are yet to get involved and stakeholders whom the Group might need to consult with on specific issues of the moment.) The second part will see the participation of the Group members and representatives of any member states who are willing to participate.

- For the African business stakeholder group to effectively participate in these exchanges, the AU Commission should initiate discussions with the business sector in order to devise best working methods for their effective participation. For instance, instead of expecting businesses to participate individually in continental level or regional level discussions that are not directly about business opportunities for them (the cost would be too high for the perceived potential benefit), businesses should be encouraged to work through their institutional advocates including Chambers of Commerce and other associations such as AfICTA, etc. Relevant institutional actors and concerned stakeholders need to work together in order to structure the path and create a sound rationale for business participation.

Programming and synergy

- The AfIGF should include a session for delegates from all African NRIs to exchange about their experiences, their challenges as well as their wins or progress registered in their respective space. And that session itself should have on its agenda a discussion on national IGFs and another discussion of regional IGFs. That part of the session may be followed by a discussion on one or two IG substantive issues chosen by consensus (these may be labeled "hot issues" or "pressing issues"). This could be envisioned through a one-day pre-event: first half of the day devoted to the discussions on national and regional IGFs and the second half devoted to the hot or pressing issues and/or to starting the preparatory discussion about the important IG *rendez-vous* in the year to follow, etc. The session on the "hot issues" may also be used jointly with, or integrated as part of, the IG school or capacity-building program if applicable.

- The African IGF's agenda should not be just retrospective or about reporting on activities past and present, but also prospective. While it generally includes a session on emerging technologies, it also should initiate discussions on near future opportunities for African stakeholders to take action or position. African IGF should discuss about the agendas or probable agendas of the main Internet governance events in the year to follow, and carry on with such preparatory discussions on the continental platform, with a view to reaching a clear sense of what the stakes are for Africa and a consensus or rough consensus on what the African position(s) should be on the issues to be addressed. The above mentioned HLIG Group will have a critical role in this effort by exercising a strategic watch and identifying intervention opportunities on the global scenes for African stakeholders.

- The African AfIGF should strive to rotate in each one of the 5 regions successively. The region where AfIGF is being held will have the opportunity to showcase one or two Internet governance and policy success stories or good practices experimented in the region. At any rate, every annual session of African IGF must be an opportunity for delegates from the other regions of Africa to learn about what is working well in the host region. This may take the form of developing case studies which will be presented during the proceedings.

IGF Outcomes

- There could be two types of IGF outcomes in Africa. One could be called “Messages” designed to send signals about what African stakeholders consider as desirable goals or norms in the Internet governance and policy space. The second type would be the actual “Recommendations.” While it is the general consensus that IGF outcomes are not binding, that does not rule out a reasonable expectation from the stakeholders that the result of all the talk should help shape decisions and actions to some notable degree. Messages have no targeted or intended recipients other than the broad public while recommendations imply specific action by identifiable actors who are the intended recipients of the recommendation. At every level of IGF, the recommendations should be addressed to the relevant stakeholders or institutional actors, with a clear description of action points, desirable timelines and monitoring mechanisms as much as possible. Messages and Recommendations should be read out at the closing ceremony of the concerned IGF.

- Summarize and consolidate the recommendations from national to regional level, and from regional to continental level with an emphasis on linkages from one level to the next, in terms of the roles and responsibilities or the different actors concerned, by addressing the following question. What can be done at the regional level (by regional institutional actors) to facilitate or contribute to the implementation of national level recommendations and help address national concerns; and what can be done at the continental level (by continental institutional actors) to facilitate or contribute to the implementation of regional level recommendations and help address regional concerns? Part of the regional level recommendations may originally be national IGF recommendations that have been validated at the regional as a priority, for instance, in an effort to achieve regional harmonization or coherence.

More integrated Internet governance and policy stakeholder landscape

- IGF stakeholder participants from Africa should strive for more integration across organizations and institutional venues. For instance, effort should be made so that Africa participation in ICANN stakeholder groups is reflected in the IGF stakeholder community, and so on. The idea is that Africa needs to avoid duplication of efforts and instead leverage existing resources for a more effective participation. There is no need to have one African civil society for ICANN and another one for IGF, one business sector for ICANN and another one for IGF, and so forth.

b. Recommendations on reporting and feedback

Recommendations are also offered here with regard to improving reporting and feedback mechanisms between all levels of IGF as much as desirable. These recommendations build on

enablers that can be leveraged to achieve such result. It is also useful to note that improving these mechanisms also would improve potential synergies.

- All IGFs organized in Africa and by African stakeholders should submit a report to the African IGF Secretariat. If need be (for instance, to make sure this happens consistently), the AUC could make it systematic to provide financial support to all national and regional IGFs in Africa within the limits of the budget that can be allocated to this purpose. In any case, some mechanism must be put in place in order to get the organizing committees of those IGF to build a sustained relationship with the African IGF Secretariat in such a way that national and regional IGFs submit their report without difficulties. This can be enabled by the use of the platform that is being developed for all the stakeholders of Internet governance and policy in Africa. In that case, countries and regions will just post their report directly to the designated place on the platform, and they will have a given timeframe to post their report after completion of their IGF in the current cycle and shall be reminded when they exceed that timeline.

- The African IGF website or the future online platform should include a space for posting all the annual reports and publications relating to all the African NRI processes (national, regional, continental and youth.) It is not normal that some of these reports which can be found on the global IGF website are nowhere to be found on the current AfIGF website. It would be even less normal that possible national IGFs are nowhere documented through publicly available reports. In any case however, the web platform that is being developed for the IGF processes in Africa may play that role of repository for IGF reports, instead of the AfIGF website.

- The web platform that is being developed for the IGF processes in Africa should include country profiles and region profiles for all African countries and regions and those profiles should be updated every year with regard to their IGF processes (or continuous non-existence thereof) and any other Internet governance and policy processes happening in those countries and regions during that year and for any given year.

- National IGFs should liaise with their regional counterpart to develop proposals of regional workshops at the African IGF in order to reflect and discuss countries' experiences beyond what is written in the reports.

- The MAG or its equivalent at the regional level in the five regions of Africa must include representatives who are involved in their national MAG or equivalent from existing national IGFs within that region. In addition to addressing specifically regional issues, it should be part of the agendas and proceedings of the regional MAG (or equivalent) to address issues of concern and challenges encountered at the national level and which are yet to find definite resolution, within the limits of the mission areas of a MAG. To that effect, the national MAG representatives seating on the regional MAG as well as any other well-informed members should share details about their experiences and issues encountered in the latest cycle. This is a first step in the right direction for a knowledge management mechanism and for building a 'know-how' knowledge base among the actors.

- The recommendations which have been formulated at any level of IGF in Africa, including the continental level, and which are not specific to only one country, should be

consolidated at the continental level in a comprehensive list of All African IGF Stakeholders' Recommendations. This is not meant to be just a compilation but truly a consolidation exercise which will require to take the time to review all the recommendations and bring similar or nearly similar recommendations together into one that is reformulated in such a way that it could apply to several countries or regions.

- Subsets of the comprehensive list of All African IGF Stakeholders' Recommendations should or could be packaged into key messages including, wherever relevant, clear action points and be addressed to clearly identifiable stakeholders to take into account and, to the extent possible, follow through. A monitoring mechanism should be put in place and report to the concerned level of IGF, from national to regional to continental.

- Use social media to engage the broader public and the tools available to analyze the traction on, and collect feedback from, those media (see the Kenya example for their IGF 2018.)

APPENDICES

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- *Tanzania IGF 2018 Report*
- *Democratic Republic of Congo IGF 2017 Report*
-

B. Themes and issues on the African IGF agenda since its start in 2012

2012

- Access and diversity
- Emerging issues
- Management of critical Internet resources
- Internet governance for development
- Security, openness and privacy
- African digital representation
- On the Africa IGF

2013

- Privacy and data security
- Internet governance principles, enhanced cooperation
- Principles of multistakeholder cooperation and participation: the Africa IGF
- Infrastructure development, knowledge management and African content
- Security: Legal and other Frameworks - Spam, Hacking and Cyber-crime
- Openness: Human rights, freedom of expression and free flow of information on the Internet,
- Access and Diversity: Internet as an engine for growth and sustainable development
- Sustainability of the African Internet Governance Forum
-

2014

- Connecting Africa for enhanced multi-stakeholder Internet governance
- Policies enabling access
 - Internet access as a basic human right
 - Use, management and regulation of the Internet
 - Broadband access and Internet Exchange Point (IXP)
 - Competition, pricing and affordability of Internet access in Africa
 - Inclusivity of the Internet
- Creating, disseminating and using content
 - Language and multilingualism
 - Culture
 - Intellectual property rights and open source, open commons
 - Net neutrality
- Internet as an engine for growth and development
 - Exploration of the economic contribution of the Internet;
 - e-Learning and the future of education in Africa,
 - Internet-enabled job creation: Digital jobs.
- Internet governance forum and the future and the Internet ecosystem
 - Privacy and national security
 - NETmundial;
 - Capacity building for Internet governance, Internet public policy;
 - Stewardship of key Internet functions and responsibilities.
- Critical Internet resources:
 - new gTLDs vs growth in ccTLDs;

- IPv6 vs IPv4 the Africa's adoption level
- Emerging issues:
 - US intent transition oversight of IANA functions;
 - Key Internet domain name functions including African TLDs;
 - dotAfrica.
- Enhancing digital trust:
 - The African Union Convention on Cybersecurity;
 - Commonwealth cybergovernance model;
 - Cybersecurity, as distinct from cybercrime.
- Internet and human rights:
 - Privacy and end-user rights;
 - Openness and citizenship;
 - Access to media and information.
- Enhancing multistakeholder cooperation -- the African IGF: issues and statutory matters
 - Future activities and plans;
 - Coordination with regional forums;
 - Tracking / following up on recommendations
 - Nature of outcomes document from African Internet Governance Forum,
 - Communique, messages from African Internet Governance Forum

2015

- SMSI+10 Review including the future of the IGF and the Declaration of the African Union on Internet Governance
- Public access to information and knowledge in the context of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)
- Connecting the next billion
- 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
- The African IGF: the way forward

2016 : Inclusive Development and the Digital Transformation of Africa

- Assessing the role of Internet governance in the SDGs
- Bridging the gender divide in the digital transformation of Africa
- Africa digital economy: Africa and human rights on the Internet
- Connecting the next billion: Which role for Africa
- Security and privacy issues on the Internet
- Inclusive development and digital transformation in Africa
- Youth entrepreneurship and innovation: Accelerating the digital transformation in Africa
- Review and approval of the African IGF Charter and reports on Regional IG conferences
- The African Union Declaration on Internet Governance

2017

- Promoting digital Africa: Internet economy

- Enabling the digital transformation of Africa: the role of youth
 - Connection of public libraries and information center in remote areas.
 - Internet accessibility and affordability.
 - Integrating ICTs in Curriculums.
 - Internet, human rights and freedom of speech.
 - Contents and language diversity.
 - Building Youth ICT capacity.
 - Youth participation in SDGs.
 - Youth and leadership.
 - Internet and digital opportunities/research & innovation.
 - Youth and policy dialogues.
 - Linking universities with industries.
- Empowering Global Cooperation on Cybersecurity for Sustainable Development and Peace
 - DNS Abuse
 - Law Enforcement
 - Legal Instruments & Enhanced Cooperation
 - Connectivity and cybersecurity.
 - Categories of cyber-crimes.
 - Building the capacity of law enforcement institutions and officers.
 - Collaboration against local and trans-boundary cyber-crimes.
 - Local and global cooperation on Cyber-security
 - Implications of cyber-security on peace, stability, and sustainable development.
 - Lack of forensic tools to capture digital evidences.
 - Crypto-currency and cyber laws in Africa.
 - Regional and global cyber-security conventions.
 - Digital rights and cyber-security.
 - Key challenges to law enforcement against cybercrimes.
- Emerging issues
 - ISOC and an open Internet eco-system.
 - Surveillance over the Internet and violation of personal freedoms.
 - Internet governance and human rights.
 - Women and economic development.
 - Challenges that women face in using technologies.
 - Six key drivers of change: the Internet and the physical world, cyber security/cybercrimes, role of governments, artificial intelligence, Network standards and interoperability and the Internet economy
 - Women and the digital divide.
 - Gender inclusion and women empowerment.
 - Women and Internet policymaking.
- Review and Approval of the Draft African IGF Charter
- National and Régional IGF Initiatives
- Local Interventions: Thriving in DNS Industry and Maximization of the Opportunities of dot.africa
- The AUC Declaration on Internet Governance and Capacity Building Efforts on the Continent

2018

- National and régional IGFs (NRIs)
- Unlocking the development of the Digital Economy and Emerging Technologies in Africa

- The need to prepare a conducive policy and regulatory framework for the development of the digital economy;
- The policy and regulatory system must not be for controlling but for enabling;
- Inclusion of all stakeholders and enhance cooperation among them;
- Consideration of the demand and supply sides of the digital economy;
- Minimizing mistrust of users by improving the availability of infrastructure, data protection and cybersecurity; and
- Promotion of research for the development of the digital economy
- Promoting Digital Africa: Digital Entrepreneurship and Innovation for a Digital Africa
 - Creation of incubators for start-up to develop their ideas, projects and transform them into viable business models, encouragement of research and development, investment in infrastructure to facilitate connectivity, elaboration of digital economy policies by government and development of new models of financing businesses.
 - Putting in place appropriate innovations that focus on solving social problems including for women and girls to empower them in participating in the development of a sustainable digital economy
- Africa's Digital Economy: Access and Infrastructure as a fundamental for Digital economic growth
 - Challenges faced by regulators as they strive to ensure that customers get good connectivity.
 - The need for the African continent to embrace and deploy Internet Protocol version
 - The importance of local content in developing Africa's digital economy.
 - The importance of internationalized domain names in ensuring that African content can be uploaded onto the Internet.
 - The importance of creating safe spaces for the Youth on the Internet to ensure that they participate actively in the digital economy on the African continent.
- Empowering Digital Cooperation towards building trust
 - The regional imbalance of the UN high level panel was raised as an issue of concern. It was observed that an African position may not be well presented as only 2 Africans were on the panel and there was a lack of mechanism for Africans to put a common consolidated input to the high-level panel
 - On themes to be addressed, there was need to lay out specific issues to be addressed by the high-level panel and that cyber security should be highlighted
- Emerging technologies, part 1: IoT and big data
- Emerging technologies, part 2: AI and Blockchain
 - What is the technology and how does it work?
 - Who manages what and is it truly decentralized and where is Africa in these technologies?
 - There is a need for an African language voice recognition system which requires African developers in this research.
 - The opportunity is huge, but is not being recognized on the continent. What are the steps required to get Africa involved?
- The Digital Economy and the attainment of SDGs and AU agenda

C. Main Questionnaire

Following is the main questionnaire which potential respondents were collectively invited, from various mailing lists, to answer. It has been designed an online questionnaire using Google Form.

Section 1 of 6: Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) Project - Africa Participation in IGFs and other IP&G Processes or Structures

This questionnaire addresses mainly Internet Governance Forums (IGFs), and possibly other Internet policy and governance (IP&G) structures or processes, organized in Africa at national, regional or continental level. The regional level refers to West, North, East, Central and Southern Africa. While answering the questions below, please make sure whenever applicable to specifically identify the IGFs, structures or processes you are referring to, including their geographical scope (national, regional or continental.)

Section 2 of 6: Basic Information

If you provide your country for Question 1, any reference to "your IGF" in all the rest of the questionnaire should be taken to mean your national IGF, unless stated otherwise. If your response to Question 1 is a regional organization, any reference to "your IGF" in all the rest of the questionnaire should be taken to mean your regional IGF. You are welcome to discuss both your national and your regional IGF in your responses provided that you clearly specify which one of the IGF you are referring to.

1. Your COUNTRY or your ORGANIZATION, depending on the primary role you assume in responding to this questionnaire, whether it is related to a national or a regional IGF (*for instance, if you are an official or a staff from a REC that hosts the Secretariat of a regional IGF, you will go by your organization rather than by your country.*)
2. List the years in which your IGF has taken place (*e.g., separated by a coma: 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018; or 2008 to 2018 meaning all eleven years going from 2008 to 2018 included*)
3. Briefly describe the set-up of the organizing structure of your IGF, including its components (*e.g., Secretariat, MAG, Working Group, etc.*), *their status as registered entity or not, and their relationships.*
4. Which are the stakeholders participating in the organizing entity for your IGFs?
[checkbox grid]
5. URL of the Website serving as the primary repository of your IGF reports

Section 3 of 6: Mapping Internet policy and governance structures and issues

6. Are there written governing rules for your IGFs which allow for the participation of all stakeholders?
[checkbox grid]
7. Do the governing practices of your IGFs allow for the participation of all stakeholders?
[checkbox grid]
8. Which stakeholders among the following actively participate or are visibly represented during your IGF sessions?
[checkbox grid]
9. If there are stakeholders that do not participate or exhibit a low level of participation (the ones unchecked in your answer to the previous question), what could be the possible impediments to their full participation?
10. Are there other established instances, processes or structures addressing Internet policy or governance issues in your country? If so, provide their full name.
11. Which ones of those instances, processes or structures listed above (Q10) have embraced a multistakeholder model in addressing Internet policy or governance issues? Specify their defining issues and their stakeholders.
12. In your view, what are currently the most critical Internet policy and governance issues that need attention in your country, your region and Africa?
[checkbox grid]

**Section 4 of 6:
Current challenges and opportunities and potential synergies**

13. What are the challenges currently facing Internet policy and governance processes in your country and/or in your region?
14. What opportunities, would you suggest, are currently there to strengthen Internet policy and governance at your national and/or your regional levels?
15. What opportunities do you see that can help create synergy or strengthen cooperation between national, regional and continental initiatives of Internet policy and governance?

**Section 5 of 6:
Reporting and feedback mechanisms**

16. Are you aware of any reporting and feedback mechanisms between national, regional and continental IGFs? Please specify.
17. How can those mechanisms be improved (or enabled if there were none)?
18. Are you aware of any reporting and feedback mechanisms between the continental African IGF and the global IGF? Please specify.
19. How can those mechanisms be improved (or enabled if there were none)?

Section 6 of 6:
Observation and general feedback

20. Please add here your general feedback along with any other observations you may still have about the topics addressed in this questionnaire.

D. Other Questionnaires

These are questions sent in the form of email messages to sub-sets of informants in relation to specific issues. They may also be referred to as sub-questionnaires as opposed to the main questionnaire.

Questions to actors involved with organizing other world-regional IGFs (namely, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America and Caribbean)

1. What is being done, if anything, to create or improve synergies between different (and different levels of) Internet governance and policy processes as well as between related multi-stakeholder structures or models within your region?
2. Have any particular steps been taken to equally achieve synergy or build meaningful linkages between your regional IGF and the global IGF?
3. How, in your region, do you ensure that the link between Internet stakeholders and the issues addressed by your Internet governance and policy processes (including the regional IGF) remain strongly relevant?
4. Are you aware of any mapping exercise trying to match the stakeholders, their objectives or concerns, and the issues addressed by IG and policy processes in your region? If so, please provide pointers?

Questions on NRIs (To the NRIs Focal Point at the UN IGF Secretariat)

1. What might be the best practices globally in terms of achieving synergy (if so desirable) and strengthening the linkages between the NRI processes and the global IGF process. Are there best cases that might be pointed to?
2. Regarding the graphs you have the slides 5 and 6 of the Status Update presentation, are there disaggregated data concerning the NRIs from Africa?
3. Mention is made of the NRIs as contributors to the IGF intersessional work (slide 10). Would you be able to please provide more information as to how these contributions unfold, or how they are organized or structured?
4. Are there other types of routine interactions between the NRIs and the IGF or IGF Secretariat?
5. Is there anything that you think might or should be done to improve the interactions and strengthen the relationship between the NRIs and the IGF -- especially the African NRIs and what they might need to improve on?

- Or still on that point, are there some NRIs more exemplary than others, with practices that would be desirable to emulate? Of course, there is no need to specifically identify them, but only the practices, if any

E. The 23 African NRIs currently reported by global IGF with their respective websites checked

African NRIs	Websites
CONTINENTAL	
African IGF (AfIGF)	https://www.afigf.africa/
NORTH AFRICA	
North Africa IGF	http://naigf.org/ (nonfunctional)
• Tunisia	http://www.igf.tn/
•	
WEST AFRICA REGION	
West African IGF	http://www.waigf.org/
• Benin	http://fqi.bj/
• Burkina Faso	http://igf-burkina.org/
• Chad	http://www.igf.td/
• Gambia	http://www.gmigf.gm/
• Ghana	http://ghanaigf.org/
• Nigeria	http://www.nigf.org.ng/
• Senegal	http://isoc-senegal.org/
• Togo IGF	http://www.fqi-togo.tg/ (nonfunctional)
CENTRAL AFRICA REGION	
Central Africa IGF	http://fqi.ac.org/ (nonfunctional)
• Cameroon	http://www.igf.cm/
• Democratic Republic of the Congo	http://www.fqi.cd/
EAST AFRICA REGION	
East Africa IGF	http://www.eaigf.org/ (nonfunctional)
• Kenya	http://www.kenyaigf.or.ke/ (nonfunctional) ²²
• Mauritius	https://mauritius.intgovforum.org/
• Rwanda	http://ricta.org.rw/
• South Sudan	http://southsudanigf.net/
• Sudan	http://igf.sd/igf/
• Tanzania	https://www.digitalgrassroots.org/p/tanzania-internet-governance-forum-tzigf.html
• Uganda	http://www.eaigf.org/ (nonfunctional)
SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION	
Southern Africa IGF	http://saigf.org/ (nonfunctional)
• South Africa	https://www.zaigf.org.za/index.html (nonfunctional)
• Malawi	https://malawi.intgovforum.org/
• Mozambique	http://www.siitri.ac.mz/sdig (nonfunctional)
• Namibia	https://namibia.intgovforum.org/
• Zimbabwe	http://www.zigf.org.zw/

²² Refer instead to the KICTANet website: <https://www.kictanet.or.ke/>

