



## Identification of the Challenges to African Involvement in Internet Policy & Governance and Identification of Challenges for Lack of Contribution in the Technical Aspects of Internet Governance

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**Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital  
Africa  
(PRIDA)**



Your contact persons  
with GFA Consulting Group GmbH are

Dr. Birgit Boetius  
Dr. Linda Kleemann

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR THE POLICY AND  
REGULATION INITIATIVE FOR DIGITAL AFRICA (PRIDA)  
AFRICAN UNION - EUROPEAID/139421/DH/SER/MULTI  
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**Report by: Pria Chetty**

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**Address**

GFA Consulting Group GmbH  
Eulenkugstr. 82  
D-22359 Hamburg  
Germany

Phone +49 (40) 6 03 06 - 215

Fax +49 (40) 6 03 06 – 199

Email: [Birgit.Boetius@gfa-group.de](mailto:Birgit.Boetius@gfa-group.de)



## List of Abbreviations

AIS	African Internet Summit
AfIGF	African Internet Governance Forum
Af-IXP	African Internet Exchange Point
AfPIF	African Peering and Interconnection Forum
AfREN	African Research and Education Networks
AfriCANN	African Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
AfriNIC	African Network Information Centre
AfriSIG	African School on Internet Governance
AfTLD	African Top-Level Domain Association
ALS	At-Large Structures
APC	Association for Progressive Communications
AUC	African Union Commission
AfricaCERT	African Computer Emergency Response Team
CERT	Computer Emergency Response Team
CIPESA	The Collaboration on International ICT Policy for East and Southern Africa
ccTLD	Country-code Top-Level Domains
CTDI	Creative Tech. Development International
DOA	Digital Object Architecture
DSA	DigitalSENSE Africa Media
DTPS	Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services
FGI-CA	Forum de Gouvernance de l'Internet en Afrique Centrale
FMoC	Federal Ministry of Communications
GIPO	Global Internet Policy Observatory
GNC	Global Network for Cyber Solutions
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
IDRC	International Development Research Centre
IEEE	The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force
IG	Internet Governance
IGB	Internet Governance Bodies
IGF	Internet Governance Forum
ISOC NG	Internet Society Nigeria Chapter
ITICC	Initiative tic et Citoyennete
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
IXP	Internet Exchange Point
MAG	Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group
NCC	Nigeria Communications Commissions
NCUC	Non-commercial Users Constituency
NIRA	Nigeria Internet Registration Association
NITDA	National Information Technology Development Agency
NRI	National Governance Initiatives
PRIDA	Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa
REN	Research and Education Networks
RIR	Regional Internet Registry
RIA	Research Institute Africa
SAIGF	Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
WAIGF	West African Internet Governance Forum
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
WSIS	World Summit on Information Society
WTO	World Trade Organization

## BACKGROUND TO RESEARCH

Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) play enabling roles for social and economic development. As a key sector, ICT contributes relevantly to national economic growth. ICTs enable governments to deliver efficient services to businesses and citizens; and citizens benefit from ICT-enabled education, governance and health-services. Generally affordable and accessible ICT services have the potential to generate benefits such as more competitive markets, social inclusive growth and more equitable development, in line with the Roadmap adopted at the 4th EU-Africa Summit and the Multiannual Indicative Programme 2014-2017.

ICT diffusion is growing fast in Africa, with mobile services now playing the leading role in bridging the digital divide. Data from the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) shows that three-quarter of the African population has access to mobile SIM cards. Yet, the success in mobile ownership has not been replicated in other areas of ICT. Internet access falls far behind the rest of the world. Broadband penetration, especially the fixed broadband that indicates the intensity of ICT use in the government, business and anchor institutions like schools, health centres and universities is still very low. The average broadband speeds are generally lower in African countries compared to the rest of the world, while the cost of using services and devices are higher in relation to the average income of the population.

The global nature of services and applications also implies that efforts that pertain to the internet infrastructure especially those involving critical internet resources such as numbers and domain names, as well as issues related to the safety and security of the internet (e.g. spam, network security, cybercrime) are important. In addition, intellectual property rights, trade, and capacity development have direct impact on the deployment and use of broadband networks. Therefore, the participation of African countries in evolving internet governance structures and processes is critical to stimulate access to broadband services advances. Yet, Africa's participation in most of the institutional structures in charge of ICT is very limited.

African participation is extremely low and its technical contribution to the Internet Architecture Board (IAB), the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF), the Internet Research Task Force (IRTF), the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) and the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Number (ICANN) is very limited. Participation in these international *fora* demands capability and complete understanding of technical issues, such as protocols and the complex governance and interests of stakeholders, communities and players.

There has been a good progress in creating the African Internet Governance Forum and Regional and National Internet Governance initiatives (NRIs), since the holding of the World Summit for Information Society in 2005. The Internet Governance space in Africa has been very active during the WSIS process with regional meetings held from 2002 to 2005 in Bamako, Accra, Addis Ababa, Cairo, Johannesburg, Douala and Tunis. Moreover, within the IGF global initiative, Africa has hosted IGF in Egypt (2009) and in Kenya (2011).

The Africa Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) that was formally established in 2011 with its Secretariat hosted by the African Union Commission and supported by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa has since hosted various regional meetings with its first conference held in 2012 in Cairo, followed by the Second Africa Internet Governance meeting that was held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2013. Subsequent meetings were held in Abuja (2014), Addis Ababa (2015), Durban (2016) and Sharm El Sheik (2017). In addition, there have been initiatives to hold regional Internet Governance *fora* including the West Africa Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF), the East Africa Internet Governance Forum (EAIGF), Forum de Gouvernance de l'Internet en Afrique Centrale (FGI-CA), and the Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum (SAIGF). Countries like Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria have also been active in bringing stakeholders together and holding National Internet Governance *fora*. By 2017, about a third of Africa (i.e. 18 countries) had established their National Internet Governance *fora*.

Despite these efforts, African **participation in the Internet Governance issues** (both face-to-face and virtually) is said to be limited. However, there is little evidence as to the extent of this limitation in internet policy and governance through structures such as the IGF, ICANN and other Internet public policy forum as well the technically-oriented *fora* such as the IAB, IETF, IRTF and W3C. This is an analytical report on such challenges and limitations assessed using the methodological approach suggested by PRIDA and described below.

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

## RESEARCH PROBLEM

There is a general understanding that active participation of African stakeholders in Internet Governance issues, and meaningful contributions to the technical issues discussed by technical *fora*, is limited<sup>1</sup>. However, there is limited evidence of the actual problem. The shift from face to face participation towards ongoing online engagement on Internet Governance issues also means that there is limited work that assesses African stakeholders' participation in the Internet governance issues virtually.

It is therefore important to assess and identify the challenges of different African stakeholders – youth, civil society, governments, academia and private sector – in actively participating in the Internet Governance and mapping this against the process (from agenda setting to decision making), space (virtual and face to face meetings), stakeholders (youth, civil society, governments, academia and private sector) and *fora* (ICANN, IGFs, WSIS, WIPO, WTO, etc.).

## OVERVIEW OF METHODOLOGY

In response to this research problem, this study has been undertaken to determine and understand the challenges faced by African stakeholders in participating in Internet Governance issues at multi-stakeholder Internet Governance meetings, as well as those faced by African stakeholders in making technical contributions to technical *fora* such as the IAB, IETF, IRTF and W3C.

This study utilised quantitative and qualitative research methods relying on a questionnaire that includes a self-administered survey, telephonic surveys and personal interviews (predicated on the questionnaire).

## STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

A total of 26 stakeholders were interviewed spanning across the African continent from Central Africa (5), East Africa (4), North Africa (7), Southern Africa (7) to West Africa (3) (see *Figure 1* below). The interviewees are involved in the following sectors: Academia (5); Civil Society (10); Government (5); Intra-Government (4); Private Sector (6); and Youth (5).

### The stakeholders interviewed serve on the following committees:

- IEEE Ad-Hoc committee on Africa Activities.
- Advisory Network of the Freedom Online Coalition.

<sup>1</sup>See Technical Framework Prefacing Report below.

**Interviewees serve/served on the Board of the following organisations:**

- Internet Society (Uganda Chapter);
- Internet Society (Kenya Chapter);
- Internet Society (Benin Chapter);
- Internet Society (Egypt Chapter);
- Board of the Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NiRA);
- Board of Trustees at Sovrin Foundation;
- Advisory Board member for Microsoft's Digital Peace Campaign

**Interviewees serve/served in senior positions in the following organisations:**

- ICANN's Stakeholder Engagement for the Africa region;
- Administrative Personnel of Africa top Level Domains Organisation;
- Board Member at AfriNIC;
- E-Governance Advisor at the United Nations Development Program;
- Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) of the global Internet Governance Forum from 2012 – 2014;
- Coordinator for the Association for Progressive Communications (APC);
- Board Member at ACSIS;
- Director, Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services (DTPS);
- Director, Internet Governance and Digital Object Architecture (DOA);
- Executive, House of Africa;
- Executive, International Telecommunications Union.

**Interviewees have the following additional roles in Internet Governance:**

- Technical Adviser to the Prime minister of the Republic of Congo.
  - Founding member of various ICT NGO's, African Diaspora ICT NGO's

**Interviewees serve/served as members in the following organisations:**

- ICANN;
- Computer Society of Kenya;
- European Commission Global Internet Policy Observatory's (GIPO) Advisory Group;
- Advisory Group for Code Red.

**Interviewees are serving/have served as Ministers in the following countries:**

- Kenya;
- Rwanda.

**Interviewees attended as fellows in the following *fora*:**

- ICANN;
- AfriSig;
- AfriniC;
- Raisina Young Fellows.

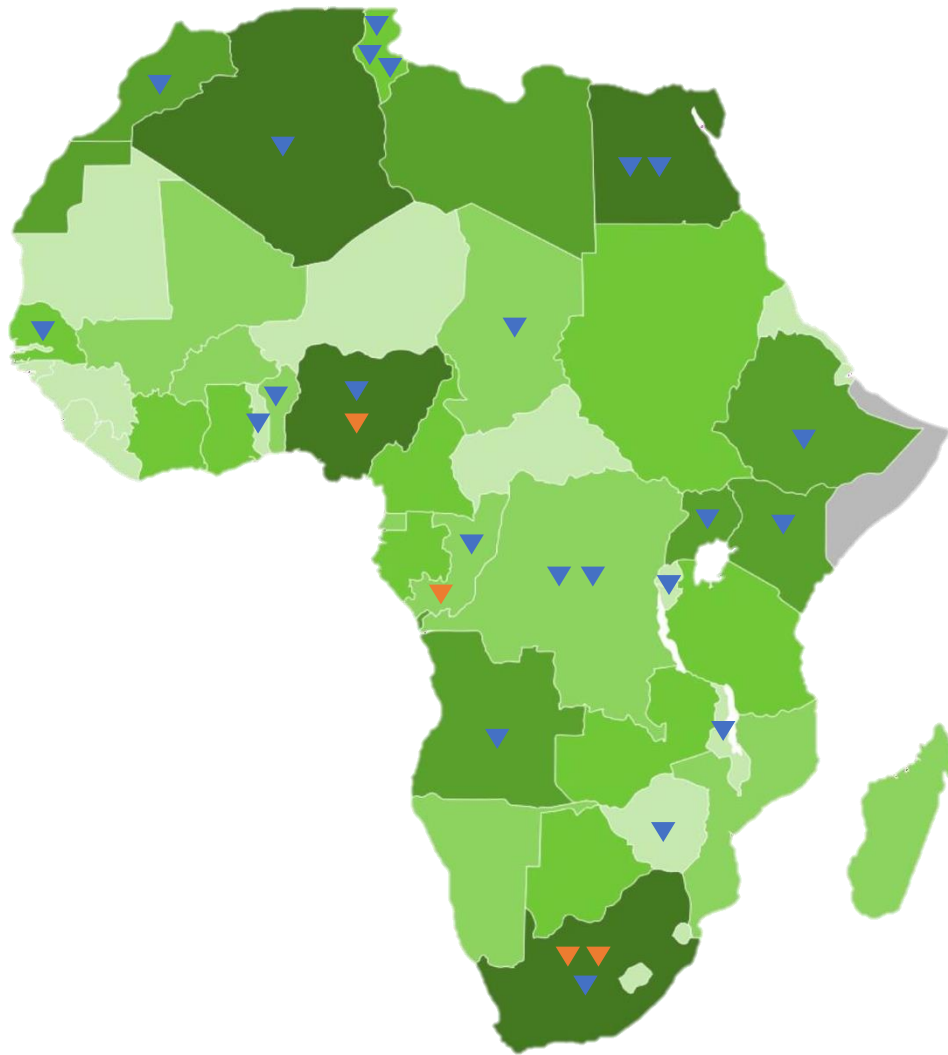


Figure 1: Stakeholder Spread

KEY	
YOUTH	▼
OTHERS	▼
INTERVIEWEES FROM ANOTHER CONTINENT	1



## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK PREFACING REPORT

The nature of the Internet renders it a challenge for traditional forms of national governance built on local models of control, jurisdiction and sovereignty. This global distribution of infrastructure, networks, content and affected communities have resulted, according to one paper, in “*an internet ecosystem...tailored to the requirements of the internet itself...and draws its strength from the involvement of a broad range of actors working through open, transparent and collaborative processes to innovate, address common challenges, and build the internet*” (Nyirenda-Jere and Biru, 2015). On the other hand, this decentralisation has been described as the cause of “*a complex web of distributed Internet governance bodies (IGBs) with distinct purviews and different operating procedures that coordinate the various international standards that enable the Internet to operate as a truly global network*” (Cath, Ten Oever & O'Maley, 2017).

This is a report of the survey conducted to assess the challenges to active participation by African stakeholders in internet governance meetings and fora. This report is prefaced by the Background statement acknowledging that despite several initiatives to establish national and regional internet governance initiatives, African participation in policy and technical internet governance meetings is at undesirable low levels (with variations at the national and sub-regional levels).

There is, however, a compelling case to address this. The internet is recognised by the UN World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS+10) as central to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This fundamental link to development outcomes renders active and meaningful participation in internet governance an imperative for African stakeholders, despite the apparent distributed and complex governance approach. The internet is key to Africa's development of information societies and participation in internet economies. Africa also has a sustained interest in ensuring access to the internet for Africans and that the standards, protocols and policies developed through internet governance processes do not prejudice African interests associated with access to the internet. The section below highlights findings from other studies assessing African participation in international internet governance meetings and fora. This data is used to benchmark the findings of the current survey in the concluding analysis.

A study with similar objectives to the current study was conducted by Research ICT Africa (RIA) in 2014<sup>2</sup>. The methodology of the RIA study differed from that of the current study (described above) in that data was collected through a Roundtable discussion as well as a survey. Similar to this study, however, respondents were asked to forward barriers to participation in international internet governance meetings. Respondents named the lack of financial resources as the primary barrier and the lack of awareness of the dates and venues of meetings, while others noted the general disinterest in the issues of tabled at such meetings.

<sup>2</sup> Enrico Calando 'Findings of a Survey on Multistakeholder Participation in Internet Governance from Africa' (2017) available at <https://researchictafrica.net/2017/06/28/findings-of-a-survey-on-multistakeholder-participation-in-internet-governance-from-africa/> accessed on 19 June 2019.

Stakeholders consulted through the study cited the challenges to meaningful participation in internet governance meetings including:

The lack of coordinated approach at the national and sub-regional level(s) to provide data or research on internet policy; and The absence of cohesion amongst the African stakeholder groups attending the meetings in working towards concrete outcomes.

Survey respondents cited in the main internet access, internet for development and internet content regulation as being the pressing points on internet governance agenda for the continent. ISOC was named as the most effective organisation for the provision of information, data and research on internet governance from an African perspective while national governments were named as the least effective. ISOC was regarded by respondents as the most effective in advocating for internet rights. The majority of the survey's respondents agreed that the African Internet Governance Forum was the most appropriate forum to pursue the African agenda in internet governance fora. Both the global and African IGFs were regarded by the respondents as the ideal platforms for discussion, data and research on internet governance. ICANN was regarded by a significant majority of respondents as the most effective in active decision making in the areas of internet governance it leads but struggled, according to the respondents to build consensus.

In the course of the Roundtable, respondents reflected on the multistakeholderism approach to internet governance. Multistakeholderism meant, according to a quoted respondent, "increased accountability, transparency and accessibility to decisions taken in the public domain". Another respondent regarded it as a new form of governance that supports the identification of innovative solutions to complex problems. Respondents raised concerns with dominant actors such as governments involved in the internet governance meetings and *fora* and the perception by the stakeholders that USA approaches were dominant despite the multistakeholderism ambitions. Turning to African participation in the multistakeholder make-up the study quoted a respondent emphasising that "the failure of many African countries to meet the democratic thresholds of representation and participation make multistakeholder engagement unfeasible or impossible at the national level, which translates in lopsided participation at the international level".<sup>3</sup>

Respondents recommended interventions in capacity building on internet governance concepts for African stakeholders that intend on participating in international internet governance meetings, with a view to promoting active meaningful participation in the decision making processed. Others called for greater emphasis by Africans on human rights focussed internet policy approaches and greater commitment by African governments. The study concluded that the participation of African stakeholders in internet governance *fora* was still not at acceptable levels and that what was needed, ultimately was greater coordination on internet policy issues nationally and regionally on the continent.

Other studies tend to focus on the analysis on the need for and effectiveness of national and regional structures for internet governance on the continent.




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<sup>3</sup> Enrico Calando 'Findings of a Survey on Multistakeholder Participation in Internet Governance from Africa' (2017) available at [https://www.researchictafrica.net/presentations/Presentations/RIA\\_2014\\_-\\_Survey\\_results\\_on\\_Mapping\\_Multistakeholderism\\_in\\_Internet\\_Governance\\_from\\_Africa.pdf](https://www.researchictafrica.net/presentations/Presentations/RIA_2014_-_Survey_results_on_Mapping_Multistakeholderism_in_Internet_Governance_from_Africa.pdf) accessed on 19 June 2019

According to a UNESCO report<sup>4</sup> the assessment of African participation in internet governance must extend to an assessment of initiatives to strengthen local internet governance on the continent. According to the report:

- There is a lack of initiatives to develop a local internet governance agenda based on multistakeholder participation derived through democratic processes – pointing to exclusion of internet industry and civil society from meetings locally on the continent.
- Non-governmental organisations in particular do not have the resources for travel which limits their ability to advocate on internet policy issues (at the national, regional and international levels).
- On the issue of furthering internet governance on the continent, the national governments and regional economic communities lack the capacity, skills and financial resources to implement.
- On the question of an African agenda in internet governance, African stakeholders default to adopting the agenda of inter-governmental or donor organisations with dominant actors setting the ICT policy reform agenda with regulatory reform approaches based on “mature, better resourced markets” with “more stable institutional, political and economic contexts” (Van Der Spuy, 2017).

A 2017 ISOC study<sup>5</sup> collated the efforts to strengthen the African internet ecosystem referring to the range of actors and initiatives in Africa at the regional and national levels as well as sector focussed. Below is a snapshot adapted from the ISOC study.

	<p>The African Network Information Center (AfriNIC)</p>	<p>The Regional Internet Registry (RIR) responsible for distributing and managing internet number resources, such as IP addresses and Autonomous System Numbers for Africa. Established in 2005, AfriNIC is a non- government, not-for-profit, membership-based organization, with headquarters in Mauritius. AfriNIC Public Policy Meetings are held twice each year and provide stakeholders the opportunity to discuss internet policies that affect the region, in addition to training opportunities, workshops, tutorials, and peer exchanges.</p>
	<p>The AfriNIC Government Working Group (AfGWG)</p>	<p>Established in 2010 on the initiative of AfriNIC to work with African governments and regulators addressing general internet governance and the challenges of building an effective internet economy in Africa.</p>
	<p>African Network Operators' Group (AfNOG)</p>	<p>A forum established in 2000, which brings together operators of internet -connected networks to exchange technical information and discuss issues requiring cooperation for development of Africa's network and internet infrastructure.</p>
	<p>Africa Research and Education Networks (AfREN)</p>	<p>A grouping of Research and Education Networks (RENs) established in 2007. AfREN holds annual meetings that provide a platform for RENs to discuss and coordinate activities and share best practices on implementing networks for the research and education community. AfREN serves as the umbrella body incorporating regional alliances of RENs: UbuntuNet Alliance serving east and southern Africa, WACREN serving West and</p>

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<sup>4</sup> Anri Van der Spuy What if we all governed the Internet? Advancing multistakeholder participation in Internet governance UNESCO Series on Internet Freedom (2017) available at <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000259717>.

<sup>5</sup> Towel Nyirenda-Jere & Tesfaye Biru 'Internet Development and Internet Governance in Africa' (2015) available at <https://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/cybersecurity-capacity/system/files/Internet%20development%20and%20Internet%20governance%20in%20Africa.pdf>, accessed on 19 June 2019.

		Central Africa and ASREN serving North Africa and the Middle East.
	African Top-Level Domain Association (AFTLD)	Established in 2002 and brings together managers of country-code Top-Level domains (ccTLDs) to coordinate and collaborate on issues pertaining to Africa's Domain Name System (DNS) and ccTLD management. In 2013, AfTLD joined forces with ICANN and the Internet Society to launch the Africa DNS Forum. AfTLD also participates actively in ICANN's country code names supporting organization (ccNSO). The secretariat of AfTLD is in Kenya and 43% of African ccTLDs are members.
	The Internet Society (ISOC)	Through its Africa Bureau and chapters is an active participant in Africa's Internet development, and Internet Society chapters in Africa are counted as being part of Af*. There are currently chapters in 31 African countries.
	The African Peering and Interconnection Forum (AfPIF)	Launched in 2012 as an annual multistakeholder forum for interconnection and peering with the goal of improving the efficiency and cost effectiveness of cross-border Internet infrastructure and services in Africa. AfPIF provides the space to discuss opportunities and challenges and drive regulatory and policy issues affecting interconnection. AfPIF was established and is led by the Internet Society.
	Africa Computer Emergency Response Team (AfricaCERT)	An umbrella body for CERTs or CSIRTs (Computer Security Incident Response Team) in Africa, which aims to promote establishment of CERTs and their cooperation and coordination to maintain the health of Africa's Internet systems. Nine countries have CERTs (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Kenya, Mauritius, Morocco, South Africa, Sudan, and Tunisia) while two (Cameroon and Ghana) are in the process of establishing theirs. AfricaCERT was conceptualized in 2010 and launched in 2012.
	Africa ICANN Community (AfrICANN)	Brings together stakeholders involved or interested in ICANN processes to discuss issues of common interest. It also provides the space to engage more actively with ICANN in developing and implementing ICANN's strategy for Africa, which was launched in 2012.
	The Africa Internet Summit (AIS)	Launched in 2012 as "a pinnacle multistakeholder event combining, workshops, conferences and networking for the Internet Industry". AIS is held annually, bringing together all the Af* organizations and fora to discuss and exchange ideas and information on the Internet and ICT industry in Africa, blending technical aspects with the business world and the real-world needs of users.
	The Africa DNS Forum	Launched in 2012 as a joint collaboration between the Internet Society, AfTLD and ICANN to provide a platform for the advancement of the DNS industry in Africa. This annual Forum is intended to foster collaboration between key stakeholders (registries, registrars, registrants, DNS experts, Government representatives, and policy makers) to find ways of growing and sustaining Africa's ccTLDs and explore new opportunities in the DNS industry.
	The African IXP Operators Association (Af-IX)	An umbrella body for IXP operators that seeks to maximize the collective benefits of interconnectivity for IXPs and provides a platform for capacity building, peer learning and exchange of best practices.

The ISOC study discusses additionally the issues on Africa's internet governance agenda referring to issues of interconnection and cross border connectivity, economic opportunity, local content and multilingualism, and human capacity building as national priorities. A specific regional priority was digital migration while Africa has a shared interest in global issues including cybersecurity, IPv6 transition, and human rights and freedom of expression (Nyirenda-Jere and Biru, 2017).

The study accepts, however, that the progression of the African internet governance ecosystem is a work in progress and efforts to grow and strengthen the ecosystem must continue.

Drawing from the above it is clear that active participation by African stakeholders in internet governance meetings and *fora* is assessed to be at undesirable levels. Prior studies have assessed the barriers to participation to include access to resources for travel and access to information including internet policy data and research. Barriers to meaningful participation in decision making are far more complex with a range of issues including skills and expertise, predisposition to adopting default policy reform proposals of dominant actors and the lack of coordination and cohesion amongst African stakeholders participating to progress the issues on the African internet governance agenda.

National and regional efforts to strengthen the African internet ecosystem including the actors, the inclusiveness of the range of stakeholders, the relevance of the issues to African priority issues, according to the prior studies are necessary.

It is with this background that we report on the findings of the current survey in the section to follow.

## KEY FINDINGS

### Constraints to participation (in person and online) at international IG meetings

*Interviewees pointed to a broad range of constraints:*

**Financial Means:** African stakeholders with an interest in participation in international internet governance meetings cannot afford the costs of attendance. These costs include air -travel, accommodation, ground transport and visa costs. While there are initiatives to support greater inclusion of developing country participants in IG meetings, including African participants, the costs that are supported can vary from supporting travel costs only to full coverage of all costs, including costs of training participants prior to IG meetings. Where limitations are placed on costs that are supported, this has an impact on the applications for financial support as well as the overall inclusion of targeted participants i.e. African stakeholders are hesitant to apply for partial funding opportunities.

Interviewees pointed to the criteria set out for applications for financial support being a further inhibiting factor. Donors may limit the profiles of participants that may apply for financial support according to their own mission for instance promoting inclusion of youth or women from least developed countries. Some donors provide support for its community of engaged partners but not for persons or organizations that are not engaged in projects with the donor.

**Language of Discourse:** In the main, invitations to meetings, requests for proposals for meeting sessions, working groups and agenda contributions are communicated in English from the conveners of internet governance meetings. This prejudices potential African participants who do not speak English, potential participants who speak English as a second, third or fourth language who experience difficulties communicating in writing or in person or through online communications with IG meeting conveners. Both an interviewee from civil society and a member of a panel that selects meeting sessions from proposals noted a bias in favor of proposals for meeting sessions that are well articulated in English.

**Translation Facilities:** Related to the language of discourse is the issue of limited or no translation facilities for IG meeting proceedings and information disseminated by IG meeting conveners. Translation facilities, where available, presents the challenges of non-English speaking participants responding after English speaking participants creating a fictional hierarchy of responses and potential for inaccurate contributions (lost in translation) as well as asynchronous discussions. Another interviewee noted that whilst *fora* such as the IGF and ICANN provide translation facilities, more preparation is required from participants in order to be adequately prepared for contributing in such a manner.

**Transparency:** Some interviewees commended the efforts to disseminate information about international IG meetings while other interviewees pointed to the need for greater transparency, communication and publicity before, during, and after the IG meetings. One interviewee pointed to the use of mailing lists to convey information resulting in the same set of mailing list subscribers receiving the information with no indication of whether the mailing list is growing its subscriptions. Certain mailing lists are for African stakeholders but suffers the identical issue of reaching a limited set of mailing list subscribers.

**Poor Co-ordination and Planning:** Several interviewees raised in positive terms the African Union's efforts to support an African IGF with a view to growing interest and participation in global internet governance matters. Interviewees pointed to shortfalls in coordination and planning, however, pointing to the delays in determining the dates and locations of the African IGF and the dissemination of the Agenda just prior to the event. This, according to the interviewees does not support applications for funding to attend the African IGF (both internal and external applications). This would have a ripple effect on growing African stakeholder interest and participation at international IG meetings.

**Inclusiveness across Stakeholders:** Interviewees spoke to the dominance of certain actors in the *fora* with the result that the opportunity for participation by African stakeholders can be limited. This is true for technical institutions and *fora* where the familiarity with the forum and the issues overrides the voice of the new participant (including African stakeholder participants). A private sector interviewee noted that individuals and organizations funded to participate in international IG meetings are indirectly called on to champion the private sector funder interests.

**Internet Subject Interest:** One interviewee pointed to the internet as a technology perceived to be developed in the global West and global North and owned and governed in these quarters. Other interviewees pointed to the failure of the IG meeting conveners particularly the case for the technical meetings as failing to adequately include African stakeholders in the leadership structures or place adequate emphasis on the issues prevalent in developing economies prioritizing the interests of the existing participant set. One interviewee singled out the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) as a specific forum where African stakeholders (including African technical experts at African universities) are not in attendance.

**Internet Governance Subject Interest:** Albeit that the interviewees represented African stakeholders familiar with the subject of internet governance and IG policy matters (to varying degrees), several participants pointed to the limited understanding of IG and IG policy matters at national level particularly with grassroots stakeholders in the respective countries. This can translate into a disinterest in participating in such IG *fora* at the national, sub-regional, regional and international levels.

African governments can at times see internet access within the state as a sovereign issue but do not see global internet governance and related policy and regulation as a priority. Institutions do not see issues of developing countries that necessitate reform of internet governance approaches and frameworks as a priority. ICANN was identified by an interviewee as not having a real commitment to the IG development agenda. The interviewee noted that where development focused issues were included in the Agenda, these did not translated to actionable points for ICANN or constituents.

**Technical Subject Interest:** *Fora* such as the IETF are regarded as too technical and are not perceived as multistakeholder platforms. One interviewee noted that the African private sector participation in IETF and ICANN has steadily increased due to the ability to associate the benefit of attendance with commercial interests. Meeting agendas can include however highly topics including cybersecurity and data protection specialized: areas where African expert skills are emerging but not widespread.



**Connectivity and Online Participation:** Where IG meetings provide for online participation, quality of connectivity is the primary barrier. Internet access can moreover impact access to data and resources required by African stakeholders to adequately prepare for IG meetings and influence the meeting agendas. In this regard, it has been noted by one interviewee that internet quality is slow in Africa with a large pool of IPv4 protocol available in Africa.

**Logistical Constraints:** Over and above securing funding to travel to global meetings, interviewees cited issues with immigration control authorities and challenges with obtaining VISAs to attend the meetings. Where international meetings are held in Africa, there should be according to interviewees an improved attendance by African stakeholders.

**Socio-Cultural Barriers:** One interviewee pointed out that the differences in culture between African participants and those of international origin (exacerbated by language barriers) is an indirect barrier to participation.

## **Constraints to consistent African participation in international IG meetings**

*The consistency of participation has an association with the constraints to participation (i.e. the prevalence of the constraint limits the first instance of attendance and the consistency of attendance). Added to this is observation on the makeup of participants who attend consistently. Specific profiles of African participants are observed as consistently participating in IG meetings:*

- **Civil society organizations** such as CIPESA, Paradigm, RIA and APC. Furthermore, the levels of engagement with the Agenda, coordination on responses to matters raised at the meetings are observed as high.
- **Private sector** particularly in the technology sector consistently attend ICANN with the observation by one interviewee that this sector is represented by large multinational technology firms and not adequately by smaller African technology firms. Several interviewees noted that private sector participation is higher at the technical IG meetings versus the IG policy focused meetings.
- **Academia, organizations** funded by respective research funders, and grant making organizations attend the IG meetings through the availability of such funds and as a result of their proposals for meeting sessions being accepted. The perceptive and knowledgeable African academic participant has an advantage in (i) their ability to submit proposals and abstracts that meet the acceptance criteria and (ii) their academic credentials.
- **African government representatives** routinely attend meetings hosted by treaty making organizations such the ITU and WIPO and in recent years have grown their participation in existing sub-regional and regional IG policy meetings but are notably absent from global IG meetings that promote multi-stakeholder attendance.
- **Officials and leadership of IG meetings:** People holding office in IG institutional leadership structures including African stakeholders tend to attend the meetings and *fora* consistently owing to lengthy terms of office. On the other hand, according to an interviewee, changes in political administration and leadership in the relevant Ministries in the African countries can result in inconsistency of government officials attending the meetings.
- **Other notable observations:** Two interviewees observed that Nigerian government representatives are in regular attendance of international IG meetings.

Several interviewees concurred that the stakeholder most notably underrepresented in the IG meetings is the (internet and internet services) **User** community – being the end users of the internet and internet services. Users are unaware of the approach to internet governance, the institutions and *fora* to foster inclusive internet governance and do not have access to information about opportunities to participate. Users represent the forgotten stakeholder whose interests are prejudicially neglected.

African **Small to Medium Private Sector**: Some interviewees discussed the need to grow the involvement of grassroots organizations from all sectors but the majority of interviewees spoke to a critical need to sensitize the small to medium private sector involved in internet linked businesses to participate in IG meetings at local levels and internationally. Over and above, the opportunities to positively impact the IG outcomes, interviewees pointed to education and economic opportunities for such stakeholders arising from the IG meetings and *fora*.

**Government attendance at Technical IG Meetings**: There was consensus amongst interviewees that whilst government officials may attend policy centric IG meetings, the interest and participation in technical IG meetings (such as IETF) are low. There was acceptance that certain meetings have no dependency on government participation but there were several benefits to increased government participation.

One interviewee suggested that the divide that exists between the private sector and government on approaches to ICT regulation may be narrowed if such groups collaborated at the international IG *fora*. Another interviewee suggested that the technical IG meetings could benefit from pressure to provide recommendations for national implementation of outcomes and participation by African government stakeholders may produce this rationalizing of outcomes into material implementation actions. Interviewees pointed to the dependency on government stakeholders to implement enforcement mechanisms for ICT policy and technical recommendations arising from the meetings as the other sectors are not in a position to enforce compliance by local actors.

Several interviewees suggested that technical IG meetings can be a platform for development of technical expertise in the internet and the practicalities of internet governance contributing to more robust policy and regulation. Interviewees stressed the need for consistent African government stakeholder attendance.

**Multi-stakeholder attendance at Technical IG Meetings**: One interviewee questioned whether technical IG meetings can aspire to a multi-stakeholder format given the expertise needed to meaningfully participate. The interviewee raised that there was an inherent expectation of specialized knowledge of the structure of the internet for efficient decision making. Initiatives to grow inclusion of African stakeholders in international meetings should, according to the interviewee be directed at appropriately skilled and qualified African actors with a corresponding effort to grow the technical skills and qualifications of Africans in the African IG ecosystem.

Translation and connectivity constraints (described above) were restated by interviewees as the most significant barriers to online participation by African stakeholders in IG meetings. Non-English speakers and persons with intermittent connections feel prejudiced in the IG meetings and are reluctant to participate.

Further, a lack of leadership and ‘champions’ for internet governance in Africa has been noted as being a detriment to preparation for these meetings.

In certain instances, universities were believed to be active in creating and disseminating internet governance research whilst in other instances, universities were called on to play a more active role in internet governance research particularly in developing the African internet governance agenda. There was agreement amongst several interviewees that universities should be central points or “hubs” to grow engagement in internet governance in Africa – and coordinate preparation for international meetings.

One interviewee suggested that senior government officials are unlikely to participate in online coordination efforts with a resulting need for parallel/alternative/sequential methods of preparation and coordination (online and in-person) in advance of international meetings. Several interviewees emphasized that meaningful participation at international meetings has a dependency on efficient methods of preparation and coordination in advance of such meetings. National, sub-regional and regional internet governance *fora* should have online participation facilities. Interviewees noted that the regional forum (AfIGF) does permit online participation but national IGFs tend not to.

## **Specific barriers to multi-stakeholder African participation in IG meetings**

Several of the barriers to participation of African stakeholders in IG meetings are generally applicable to various sectors of stakeholders: private sector, public sector and civil society stakeholders in the same country are equally prejudiced by the language barriers.

There are, however, certain constraints that are unique to a stakeholder category that present challenges to realising multi-stakeholder African representation at international IG meetings:

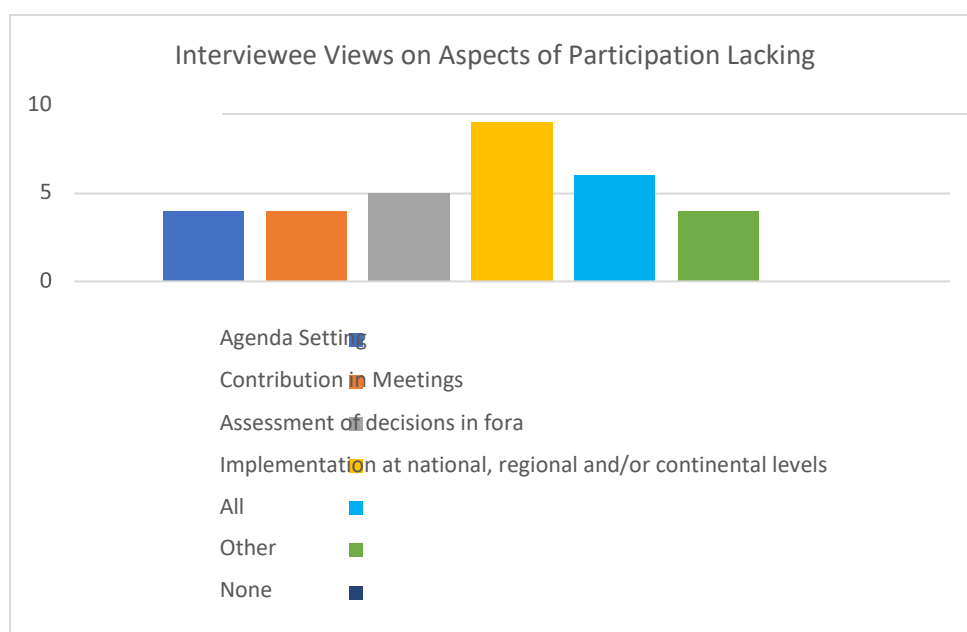
□ **Private Sector:** Where private sector participation, Private sector attendance at meetings tends to be dominated by technology multinationals and not African ICT sector representatives. According to an interviewee, this is due to the ICT sector in the majority of African countries in a growth phase. African firms are not internet infrastructure and equipment manufacturers.

□ **Government sector:** The majority of interviewees raised their concerns with the lack of participation of government representatives at the technical meetings. Technical meetings may be framed as multistakeholder in principle, but the agenda setting, moderation and communication platforms are not inclusive of government stakeholders in internet governance.

- **Civil Society:** Civil society have a dependency on donors to attend costly international meetings and in the absence of the relevant donor interest in the meetings, civil society participants are unable to attend. Civil society interviewees related the conflict of interest where donors provide financial support for civil society to attend – that is not ideal.
- **Sub-Regional Representation:** Interviewees suggested the need to review the effectiveness of sub-regional IG ecosystems. In particular are the sub-regional IG meetings inclusive of the countries in the sub-region and is there co-ordination between sub-regional and regional efforts. North African interviewees suggested that access to internet governance *fora* in North Africa is concentrated with certain countries whilst others have minimal engagement with internet governance. In particular countries where the ICT Ministries have not had consistent engagement with the African Union tend to be excluded from engagement in IG. This may, according to the interviewee be representative of other sub-regions as well.

## Forms of participation lacking

Interviewees noted that African stakeholders are not prominent on the agendas of IG meetings particularly technical IG meetings. It is unclear whether this is attributable to limited interest by African stakeholders in submitting proposals for topics at the meetings or rate of rejection of proposals submitted or both. Please see graphic below on survey responses to areas of participation lacking:



Interviewees emphasized the need for more active engagement by African stakeholders in the decision making at international IG meetings. There was broad acceptance that greater coordination in the continental IG ecosystem would promote active engagement and that awareness of the import of IG to developmental objectives at the national and regional levels was key i.e. how does the internet and internet governance advance economic and socio- economic objectives at the national and regional levels?

## Stakeholder Ratings of different fora

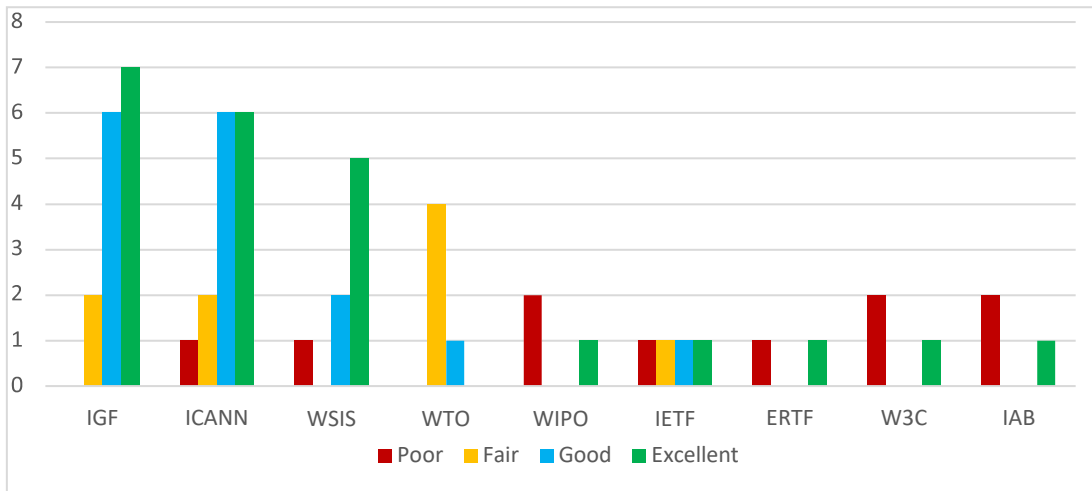
### Efforts and initiatives to improve African participation in IG meetings

*Below are examples raised by interviewees of efforts and initiatives to improve participation in IG meetings?*

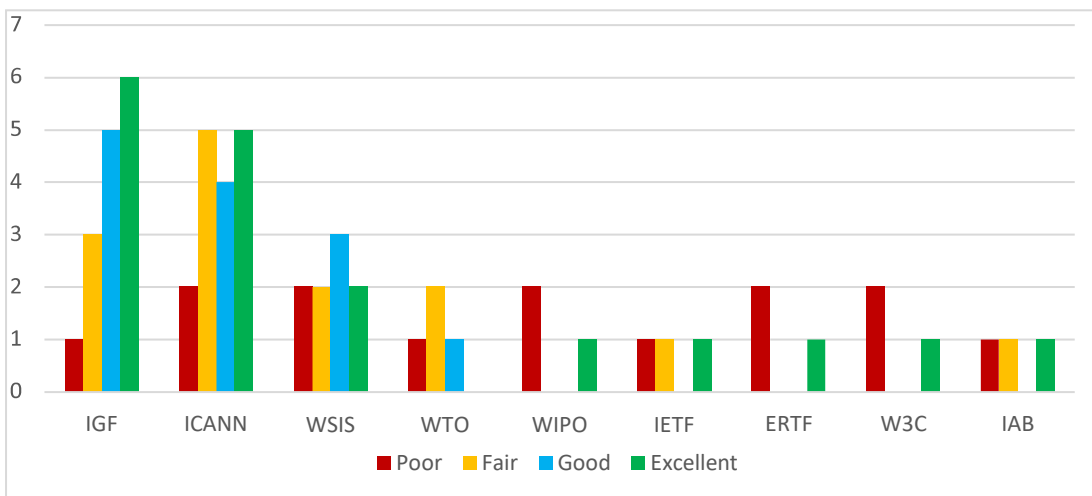
- **ISOC**: has an Ambassador Fellowship programme targeted at improved inclusion of developing country participants in internet governance meetings.
- **IDRC** supports the attendance of its engaged partners but does not provide external fellowships.
- **African IGF** has a bottom-up approach promoting national, sub-regional and regional internet governance meetings for the purposes of promoting inclusion and participation in international meetings.
- **AfriNIC** supports attendance at AfriNIC meetings through financial support and has a training programme to promote understanding and engagement on issues raised at the meetings.
- **ICANN** has a Fellowship programme and a NextGen programme to support inclusion at ICANN meetings. These are not specific to African participants but promoting broader inclusion of underrepresented profiles (such as youth and women).
- **International IGF Host Countries**: For the 2019 IGF in Germany, the German government is funding African stakeholders to promote inclusion in the IGF.
- **African Internet Summit**: Groups of African users with technical issues (numbers/ security) organised the African Internet Summit. This forum has been growing with observed participation particularly by the private sector. The Summit does not, however, have positive attendance by African governments. Government representatives have described the Summit as being too technical in nature.
  - **Schools for Internet Governance**: Annexure 3 introduces initiatives towards capacity building in internet governance subject matter for African stakeholders. Interviewees commenting on such initiatives pointed to the significance of such schools in growing African participation in IG and overall positive effects of such initiatives. *Annexure 2* contains a blog post about the ways in which AfriSIG, in particular, has positively contributed to African participation in IG. There was by and large consensus that these schools have positively impacted African attendance at IG meetings and understanding of IG concepts and issues of African stakeholders. Criticisms of such efforts have focussed on whether the ecosystem of IG in Africa has been impacted. For instance, are African participants at international IG meetings interested in filtering the international Agenda into national and regional implementation or discourse.

## Stakeholder Ratings of different fora

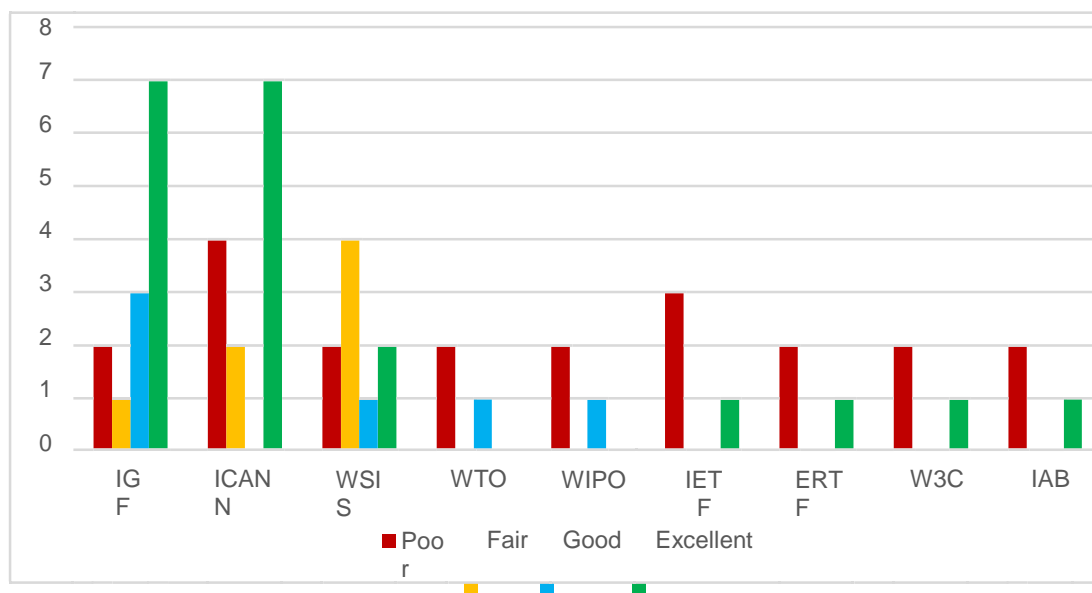
Engagement (in person) with Internet Governance issues arranged by:



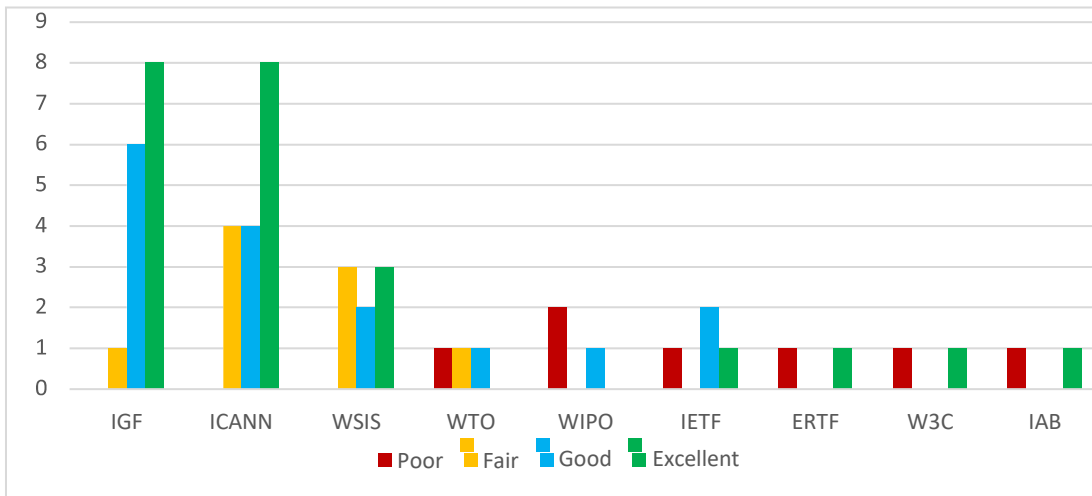
Engagement (online) with Internet Governance issues arranged by:



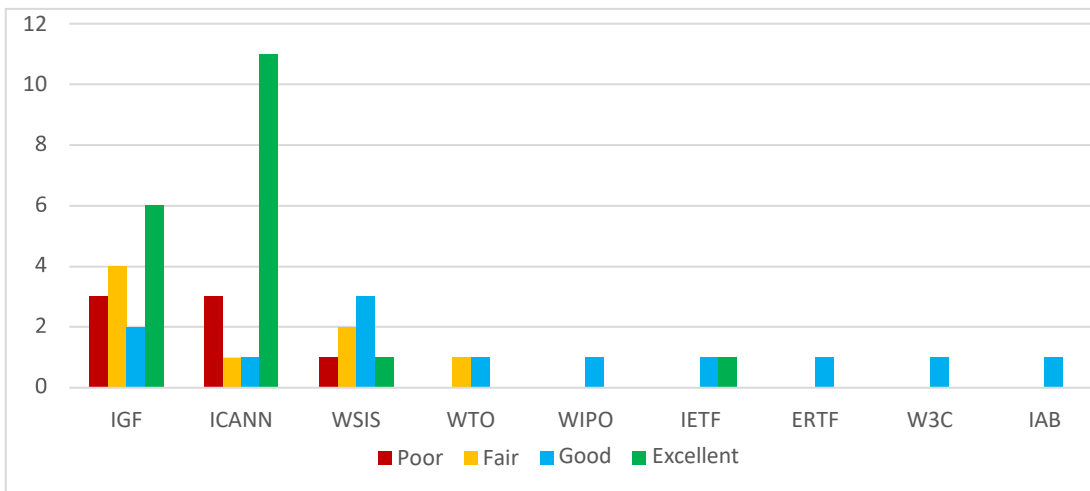
Engagement in online preparation for Internet Governance meetings arranged by:



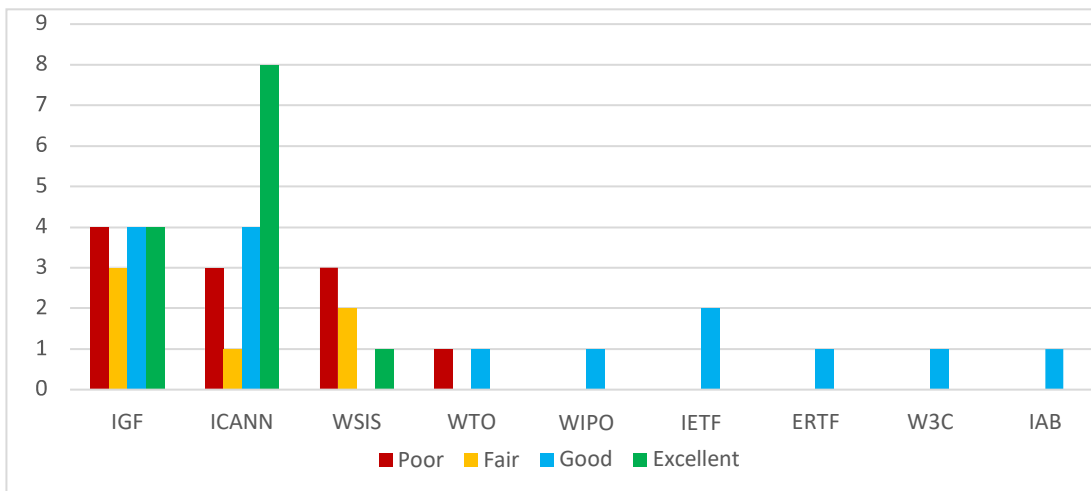
Access to Information on the Internet Governance issues, before and during meetings arranged by:



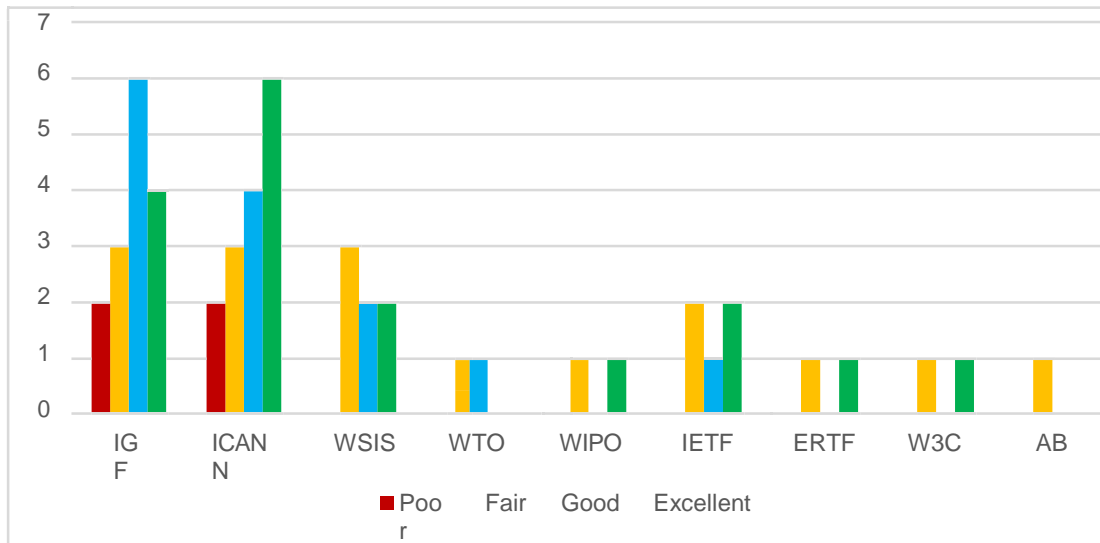
Logistical support for attendance of the internet governance meetings organized by these institutions:



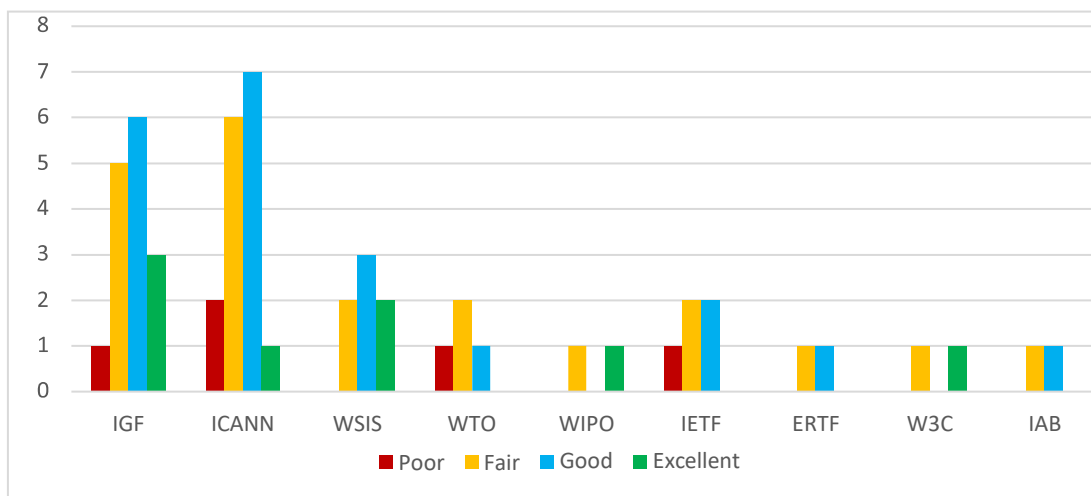
Financial support for attendance of the internet governance meetings organized by these institutions:



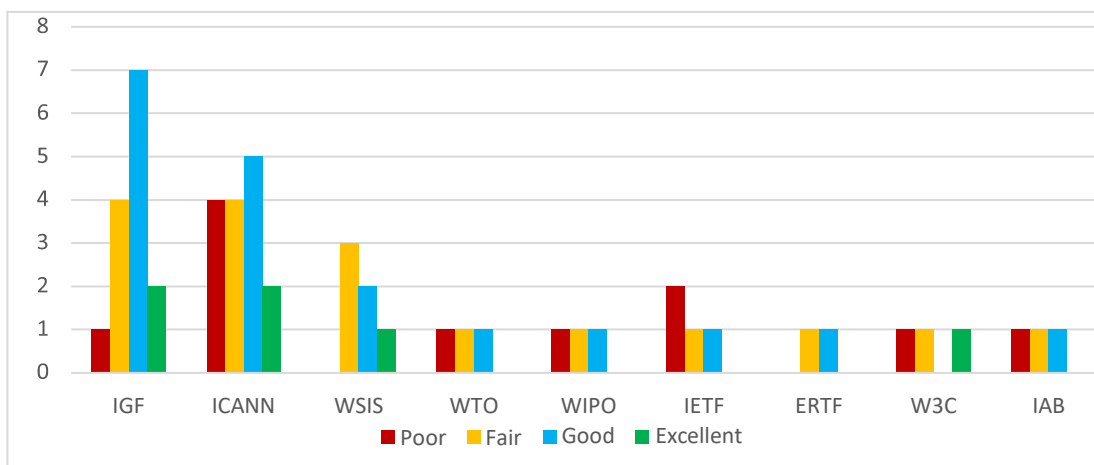
Effectiveness of the institutions/*fora* in addressing the internet governance issues that matter to your organisation:



Effectiveness of the institutions/*fora* in addressing the internet governance issues that matter to African countries:



Alignment in the agendas of national (such as country level IGFs), sub-regional (e.g. West Africa IGF WAIGF) and continental level (African IGFs) internet governance meetings with the issues raised at the internet governance meetings arranged by the:





## RECOMMENDATIONS

### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

**Funding:** Several interviewees called for increased funding from regional and international IG meeting convenors to facilitate attendance by African multi-stakeholder attendance. Interviews suggested that the funding should be through sustainable schemes that removed the dependency on any donor (countering the risk of changes in donor's interests) and facilitating funding that is not structurally affiliated with any one donor to address issues of conflicts of interest. IG Training programmes that offer the benefit of attendance of an IG meeting in the first year should look to secure funding for add-on training and multi-year attendance to grow the voice of emerging IG experts on the continent and consistent multi-stakeholder participation. Funding for facilitated remote participation should be prioritised given the potential to reach grassroots organisations and small ICT companies in Africa that face financial and logistical constraints with the added benefit that the facilitated participation allows for input from the remote participants.

**Focus on WSIS Recommendations on inclusion in ICT Policy processes:** One interviewee pointed out the mandate set by the WSIS Forum to grow participation by the underrepresented groups at ICT Policy meetings presenting an imperative for international IG meeting convenors to invest in and substantiate how inclusion objectives are set and realised. Another interviewee suggested that political will amongst the leadership structures at the technical IG meetings to grow participation of African stakeholders was needed.

**Balanced Agendas at the IG Meetings:** Several interviewees requested balanced agendas at the IG meetings that focus equally on policy and technical issues relevant to developing countries (such as ICT infrastructure, digital inclusion and securing human rights and media freedom on the internet) to encourage participation from African stakeholders. The meeting agendas should suggest how the subject matter associates with the agenda to reduce poverty and economic exclusion in African countries. The association between internet governance and the digital economy priorities expressed by a growing number of African countries should be strengthened.

**Improved coordination by African stakeholders:** Effective multi-stakeholder consultation at the national, sub-regional and regional levels is necessary for balanced and substantive input at international IG meetings, as well as effective localisation of internet governance agenda at a local, regional and continental level. Access to information on internet governance, IG meeting information, data, research, profiles of African experts are needed to promote coordinated responses from African stakeholders.

**Local Coordination of online participation:** Where there is online participation opportunities for IG meetings, funding is needed to facilitated remote online

Participation providing for a meeting venue, quality connectivity and structured opportunities to input into the discussions. Universities present as the ideal hub to grow and coordinate IG participation.

**Improved selection of African stakeholder representatives participating in such meetings:**

Organisations representing various sectors should be deliberate in their selection of who attends the meetings prioritising subject matter expertise but also promoting inclusion of new voices – young people in particular.

**Translation:**

– **Translation Budget Increased:** Interviewees called for greater investment in translation through budget increases for translation costs.

– **Translation Technology and Innovation:** Greater use of translation technology including technology that enables real-time translation is needed to limit language related constraints to participation.

– **Commitments to translation to include major African languages:** Interviewees raised the need to acknowledge that African stakeholders do not speak English, French and Portuguese alone and other translation into other major languages should be considered for real inclusion.

**Training:** Funding for travel for African stakeholders alone does not result in substantial contributions by African stakeholders in IG meetings. Particularly the technical IG meeting convenors must invest in training and capacity building for first time attendees and persons entering the field of IG. Interviewees called for structured and formal training rather than informal seminars and asked for training facilitators to include global and regional experts including non-English speaking experts. Interviewees called for schools for internet governance (including AfriSIG and ITICC) to receive greater support and investment from meeting convenors particularly technical meeting convenors to bring greater alignment between the school curricula and the IG meeting subject matter. Graduates of such schools, should, according to an interviewee, have preference in the assessment of funding applications.

**Trust and Confidence in Pan African Expertise:** Associated with the need for training and capacity building is the need to grow Pan African expertise. Interviewees suggested that whilst Europe has so called European experts, there is a need to grow the body of experts that have Pan African expertise particularly in the technical aspects of IG. Efforts toward growing Pan African expertise should be led by the African Union or similar Pan African institutions.

**Funding for Grassroots Organisations and Small African ICT Companies:** There was an emphatic plea for funding aimed at supporting African grassroots civil society organisations; and small African ICT companies to attend international IG meetings particularly technical meetings. These meetings should be prefaced by training and capacity building initiatives.

Two interviewees suggested that AfriNIC and ICANN were positive examples of a institutions with programme for training and capacity building prefacing technical meeting attendance.

## What can be done by various fora to improve African participation?

**Improve reach and consistency of communications:** Interviewees called for the institutions and *fora* that convene international IG meetings to audit their mailing lists for subscriptions by African stakeholders and furthermore the regions, countries, sectors and language preferences of African stakeholders on such mailing lists. The prevalence of African user communities, small African ICT companies and young Africans on such mailing lists should furthermore be audited. Efforts toward growing inclusion should target the underrepresented. Interviewees called for: (i) greater consistency in communications; (ii) commitment to translation (iii) reporting on inclusion objectives. Interviewees suggested that there should be better coordination between national, regional and international IG institutions and *fora* particularly for technical meetings to coordinate communication and extend the reach of communications. There was recognition that for policy meetings such as the IGF there has been improved coordination.

**Address barriers in the meeting topic proposal submission and award process:** Interviewees cited the rejection of proposals submitted as a barrier to attendance as well as the lack of awareness of the call for proposals. Others on the review panels for meeting proposal raised concerns with the quality of the proposals and the prejudice to non-English submissions in certain proposal selection processes. One interviewee suggested a bias in selection of proposals for certain keywords that resonated with topics more prevalent in the developed countries or popular in the developing countries without a real applying of the mind to the proposal submitted. Another interviewee suggested that known IG expert's proposals were favoured over *new* voices which impacts inclusion of *new* African stakeholders looking to attend their first IG meeting. International IG institutions and *fora* should review the extent to which constraints in the proposal call and selection processes may be addressed to increase participation by African stakeholders in IG meetings.

## What could be done to establish platforms to provide data or research on internet governance in Africa and internet governments meetings and fora?

**Localized Data:** Several interviewees suggested that there were existing repositories of information on African ICT policy but limited resources that subject matter of technical IG subjects perpetuating the issue of the subject matter being regarded as technical, private sector focussed, commercial and irrelevant to government officials.

**Universities are key:** At least 4 interviewees suggested that African universities have a greater role to play in research and data supporting IG issues and priorities on the continent. African universities must grow their participation in IG meetings and include IG research topics in their focus areas. One interviewee particularly emphasised that there are no African universities with curricula covering internet governance from a policy and technical perspective and that "*we are yet to create*

*the appropriate environment*" for adequate African participation on technical topics in the technical internet governance communities.

**Incubation of internet governance think-tanks and thought leaders:** One recommendation was for a deliberate and structured effort with investment for supporting emerging internet governance think-tanks and thought leaders. The support would include financial resources for travel to IG meetings, mentorship and leadership support as well as other support offered through incubation programmes.

**IG Multi-stakeholder Framework:** In various forms, recommendations were made for the African Union Commission to coordinate the development of a framework that establishes the roles and responsibilities of African actors in the various sectors in the internet governance ecosystem including roles and responsibilities in capacity building, promoting African representation at international meetings and the development of the African internet governance agenda.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

This report collects from African internet governance stakeholders representing various regions on the continent, their experiences and perspectives the constraints to participation at international internet governance meetings and fora. The purpose was to gain a deeper understanding of the barriers to inclusion in such meetings and *fora* - in person and through virtual (online) participation. The second objective was to generate actionable insights on how to improve the efforts to better secure the voices of African stakeholders at such international internet governance meetings and fora.

The report uses as a point of comparison, prior studies reflecting on the one hand, the challenges and barriers to participation in international internet governance *fora* and meetings, as well as the positive initiatives to grow inclusion through capacity building and grow the African internet governance ecosystem. This directs the conclusion of this report toward a view on whether the challenges and barriers reflected in prior studies align or differ to current challenges and barriers and whether the positive initiatives have shifted the landscape on African inclusion in international internet governance and fora.

Compared with prior studies, this report reflects that certain challenges to participation have endured. The lack of financial resources to fund travel costs to attend in person and this remains a key reason for lack of participation in person. Similarly, issues of lack of access to information regarding the internet governance meetings such as the agenda and logistical information continues to limit participation. Prior studies emphasised the need for greater coordination on African internet policy issues to take forward an African agenda into international meetings. Emphasis was correspondingly placed on growing the inclusion of stakeholders from across Africa's private, government, non-government and civil society sectors to realise multistakeholder internet governance on the continent. Finally, prior work suggested the need to grow capacity of African stakeholders entering the internet governance field to promote active or meaningful participation by influencing the agendas of international meetings and active decision making at such meetings.

This report points to several initiatives in recent years to do just that, from the initiatives to grow access to funding for African stakeholders from underrepresented groups, to the schools to grow capacity of African actors entering the fields of internet governance to the range or national and regional internet governance *fora* (see Annexure 3) to localise internet governance priorities. Albeit difficult to statistically determine, these efforts (particularly those in Annexures 2 and 3) are perceived by respondents to the current study, to have produced a positive shift from prior levels of participation. The respondents are in agreement, however, that despite positive efforts the levels of participation remain sub-optimal. Advanced and specific skills development particularly in internet governance subjects of a technical nature are necessary.

Language barriers emerge in this study as the key barrier, both to participation by attendance, and meaningful participation in decision making and internet governance outcomes. Non-English African actors felt prejudiced by the dominant English medium for internet governance engagement despite recent efforts for inclusion of French Africans in IG engagement.

Compared with prior studies, there appears to be growing scepticism of the value of participation. Respondents express concern with the lack of processes to implement outcomes of international internet governance meetings at the regional and national levels. Concerning the opportunities for influencing the agenda and decisions of the meetings and *fora*, respondents raised concerns with dominant actors, and a form of censorship of, for instance, civil society actors who felt restrained from voicing opinions that went against the interest of the organisations that funded their participation.

Localisation of the IG agenda and distilling IG priorities for the range of African actors is key. Closely associated is the need for data and research that defines the African IG agenda and translates concepts of internet governance into developmental issues, commercial interests and human rights implications to grow the interest of the various African stakeholders in internet governance. A broad recognition amongst those interviewees is that universities should play a pivotal role in growing the knowledge and engagement of African stakeholders in internet governance and the development of the African agenda in internet governance. Universities are called on to grow online participation in international IG meetings by taking on roles as hubs for engaging in remote (online) participation.

National, sub-regional and regional *fora* on the continent are pivotal for co-ordination and preparation for international IG *fora* but there were mixed observations on the successes and failures of the existing *fora*. Decisive data from an in-depth review of the effectiveness of such *fora* may be what is needed.

Whilst we have made positive strides in participation, we should be looking toward active meaningful participation demonstrated by influence over the meeting agendas, representation of issues emanating from the African IG agenda, and inclusion in the actual decision making at the meetings. All efforts directed at inclusion should be pointed at active, meaningful inclusion.

The report consists of several recommendations including recommendations for specific roles and responsibilities for named actors, the creation of platforms, the review of existing initiatives and suggestions for new initiatives. The recommendations include recommendations for convenors of international meetings. Ultimately, interviewees emphasise that knowledge, awareness and growing the interest of African stakeholders in internet governance and the role of the internet in Africa's technology led future is where intervention is needed. South-South collaboration has emerged as a significant approach when addressing today's largest development challenges and may be a valuable complementary approach to efforts amongst African nations to grow internet governance skills and influence – the key determinant being the shared interest areas (including digital inclusion interests) of the collaborating nations.

We hope that this report casts light on the insights that have emerged from the survey, establishes a baseline against which we can evaluate future perceptions of inclusion in or constraints to participation of African stakeholders in internet governance; and contributes to the ongoing discussion of the responsibilities of the range of stakeholders impacted by African inclusion in internet governance.

The African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms<sup>6</sup> emphasises that the Internet is particularly relevant to social, economic and human development in Africa and that in order to fully benefit from its development potential, the Internet must be accessible, available and affordable for all persons in Africa. In the context of this report and the findings, there is ultimately a need to grow African internet governance inclusion as means of prioritising and advancing the internet's human development potential and benefits for Africans.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://africaninternetrights.org/articles/>

# ANNEXURE 1

## Identification of Challenges to African Participation in Internet Policy and Governance

### Data Collection Questionnaire

#### Background

Building on the long standing EC/AUC collaboration and drawing on the experiences of African governments, development aid agencies and other national and regional actors including the private sector, academia and civil society, the European Commission and the African Union Commission have launched a Policy and Regulatory Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA) project.

The overall objective of the "Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)" is to foster universally accessible, affordable and effective wireless broadband-across the continent to unlock possible future benefits of Internet based services. The specific objectives are a) to facilitate efficient and harmonised spectrum utilisation, b) to harmonise measurable ICT/Telecommunications policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and c) to strengthen the ability of African decision makers to actively participate in the global internet governance debate.

EndCode has been appointed as a senior consultant on the PRIDA project to conduct research to identify and map out the challenges to African involvement in Internet policy and governance such as IGF and ICANN and other Internet public policy fora. Additionally, we are tasked with the review of the challenges of the technical community in participating in the technically-oriented Internet governance fora, especially those organized by IAB, IETF, IRTF and W3C. This will culminate in an analytical report on the challenges to African active participation in Internet governance

As a representative of civil society, governments, academia, private sector, regional or international organisation or other relevant stakeholder in the Internet Governance space in Africa, you have been invited to contribute to this study by completing the Questionnaire below.

Thank you in advance for your contribution to this project and research. Should

you have any related questions, please do not hesitate to contact: Pria Chetty

Regional Director, EndCode

[pria.chetty@endcode.org](mailto:pria.chetty@endcode.org)

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS:

IGF	Internet Governance Forum
ICANN	Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers
WSIS	World Summit on Information Society
WTO	World Trade Organization
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organization
IETF	Internet Engineering Task Force
IRTF	Internet Research Task Force
W3C	World Wide Web Consortium
IAB	IAB Internet Architecture Board

## About You

1. Would you like feedback on the results of this survey? If so, please provide your e-mail address, name and surname.  
[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
2. Please specify the name of your organisation. If you belong to more than one organisation, please specify each organisation followed by a comma.  
[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
3. Please specify the name of the organisation(s), forum(s) or process(es) you have been involved with on issues pertaining to Internet governance. If you have been involved with more than one organisation, forum or process, please specify each name followed by a comma (including for instance the respective IGFs, ICANN, WSIS, WTO, WIPO, ITU, IETF, IRTF, IAB)  
[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)
4. Which of the following stakeholder group do you work for (or are closely associated with)?  
*Single Response*
  - International/multilateral/intergovernmental organisation;
  - Government organisation/Regulatory agency;
  - Civil society organisation/NGO;
  - Academic organisation/Research institute/Think tank/Technical community;
  - Private sector organisation; or
  - Individual.



5. At which level does your organisation operate?

- Sub-national;
- National;
- Regional;
- Continental;
- International;

6. In which African country(ies) does your organisation operate? (multiple response):

<input type="checkbox"/> Algeria	<input type="checkbox"/> Gabon	<input type="checkbox"/> Nigeria
<input type="checkbox"/> Angola	<input type="checkbox"/> Gambia	<input type="checkbox"/> Reunion
<input type="checkbox"/> Benin	<input type="checkbox"/> Ghana	<input type="checkbox"/> Rwanda
<input type="checkbox"/> Botswana	<input type="checkbox"/> Guinea	<input type="checkbox"/> Sao Tome and Principe
<input type="checkbox"/> Burkina Faso	<input type="checkbox"/> Guinea Bissau	<input type="checkbox"/> Senegal
<input type="checkbox"/> Burundi	<input type="checkbox"/> Kenya	<input type="checkbox"/> Seychelles
<input type="checkbox"/> Cameroon	<input type="checkbox"/> Lesotho	<input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Leone
<input type="checkbox"/> Cape Verde	<input type="checkbox"/> Liberia	<input type="checkbox"/> Somalia
<input type="checkbox"/> Central African Republic	<input type="checkbox"/> Libya	<input type="checkbox"/> South Africa
<input type="checkbox"/> Chad	<input type="checkbox"/> Madagascar	<input type="checkbox"/> South Sudan
<input type="checkbox"/> Democratic Republic of Congo	<input type="checkbox"/> Malawi	<input type="checkbox"/> Sudan
<input type="checkbox"/> Republic of Congo	<input type="checkbox"/> Mali	<input type="checkbox"/> Swaziland
<input type="checkbox"/> Cote d'Ivoire	<input type="checkbox"/> Mauritania	<input type="checkbox"/> Tanzania
<input type="checkbox"/> Djibouti	<input type="checkbox"/> Mauritius	<input type="checkbox"/> Togo
<input type="checkbox"/> Egypt	<input type="checkbox"/> Morocco	<input type="checkbox"/> Tunisia
<input type="checkbox"/> Equatorial Guinea	<input type="checkbox"/> Mozambique	<input type="checkbox"/> Uganda
<input type="checkbox"/> Eritrea	<input type="checkbox"/> Namibia	<input type="checkbox"/> Zambia
<input type="checkbox"/> Ethiopia	<input type="checkbox"/> Niger	<input type="checkbox"/> Zimbabwe

7. Please select your age group:

- 18 - 25
- 26 - 35;
- Above 36

## Questionnaire

For questions, 1 – 9, kindly provide a rating on a scale of 1 -4 (1=Poor, 2 = Fair, 3 = Good, 4 = Excellent). If you are not familiar with the institution or do not wish to answer the question for any other reason please select “Not Applicable”

Poor
Fair
Good
Excellent
Not Applicable

1. Please rate your engagement (in person) with Internet Governance issues in meetings arranged by:

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)	Not Applicable
IGF					
ICANN					
WSIS					
WTO					
WIPO					
IETF					
IRTF					
W3C					
IAB					

2. Please rate your engagement (online) with Internet Governance issues in meetings arranged by:

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)	Not Applicable
IGF					
ICANN					
WSIS					
WTO					
WIPO					
IETF					
IRTF					
W3C					
IAB					

3. Please rate your engagement in online preparation for Internet Governance meetings arranged by:

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)	Not Applicable
IGF					
ICANN					
WSIS					
WTO					
WIPO					
IETF					
IRTF					
W3C					
IAB					

4. Please rate access to information on the Internet governance issues, before and during the meetings arranged by:

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)	Not Applicable
IGF					
ICANN					
WSIS					
WTO					
WIPO					
IETF					
IRTF					
W3C					
IAB					

5. Please rate logistical support for attendance of the internet governance meetings organized by these institutions/ fora:

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)	Not Applicable
IGF					
ICANN					
WSIS					
WTO					
WIPO					
IETF					
IRTF					
W3C					
IAB					

6. Please rate financial support for attendance of the internet governance meetings organized by these institutions/ fora:

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)	Not Applicable
IGF					
ICANN					
WSIS					
WTO					
WIPO					
IETF					
IRTF					
W3C					
IAB					

7. Please rate the effectiveness of the institutions/fora in addressing the internet governance issues that matter to your organisation:

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)	Not Applicable
IGF					
ICANN					
WSIS					
WTO					
WIPO					
IETF					
IRTF					
W3C					
IAB					

8. Please rate the effectiveness of the institutions/fora in addressing the internet governance issues that matter to African countries:

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)	Not Applicable
IGF					
ICANN					
WSIS					
WTO					
WIPO					
IETF					
IRTF					
W3C					
IAB					

9. Please rate the alignment in the agendas of national (such as country level IGFs), sub-regional (e.g. West Africa IGF WAIGF) and continental level (African IGFs) internet governance meetings with the issues raised at the internet governance meetings arranged by the:

	1 (Poor)	2 (Fair)	3 (Good)	4 (Excellent)	Not Applicable
IGF					
ICANN					
WSIS					
WTO					
WIPO					
IETF					
IRTF					
W3C					
IAB					

*For the following questions (10-22), kindly share your views, opinions and personal experiences. Please do not feel restricted by the space provided.*

10. What in your view are the constraints to African participation in the internet governance meetings arranged by these institutions and fora? Please indicate the institution/fora you are referring to in your response, where applicable:

11. What in your view are the constraints to *consistent* African participation in the internet governance meetings arranged by these institutions and fora? Please indicate the institution/fora you are referring to in your response, where applicable:

12. From your experience, what are the barriers to *multi-stakeholder* African participation in the internet governance meetings arranged by these institutions and fora? Please indicate the institution/fora you are referring to in your response, where applicable:

13. From your experience, what aspects of African participation would you consider lacking? Please tick the relevant selection/s below:

- Agenda setting;
- Contribution in meetings;
- Assessment of decisions made in fora;
- Implementation at national, regional and/or continental levels;
- All
- None
- Other

If you selected other, please elaborate:

14. What in your view has been done to improve African participation in the internet governance meetings arranged by these institutions and fora? Please indicate the institution/fora you are referring to in your response, where applicable:

15. What in your view could be done to improve African participation in the internet governance meetings arranged by these institutions and fora? Please indicate the institution/fora you are referring to in your response, where applicable:

16. What in your view could be done by these institutions and fora to improve African participation in the internet governance meetings by these institutions and fora? Please indicate the institution/fora you are referring to in your response, where applicable:

17. What in your view could be done by your organisation to improve African participation in the internet governance meetings arranged by these institutions and fora? Please indicate the institution/fora you are referring to in your response, where applicable:

18. What in your view could be done by national governments, civil society, private sector, academia and other stakeholders to improve African participation in the internet governance meetings arranged by these institutions and fora? Please indicate the institution/fora you are referring to in your response, where applicable:

National Governments:

Civil Society:

Private Sector:

Academia:

Other Stakeholders:

19. What in your view are (current) key internet governance issues impacting Africa?

20. What in your view could be done to provide a platform to discuss data or research on Internet policy and the related agendas of the internet governance meetings arranged by these institutions and fora?

21. What in your view could be done to provide a platform to discuss data or research on Internet- Architecture and Design and the related agendas of the internet governance meetings arranged by these institutions and fora?



## ANNEXURE 2

### **AFRISIG ALUMNI: A GROWING PRESENCE IN INTERNET GOVERNANCE SPACES**

*By Arsène Tungali, 28 June 2017<sup>7</sup>*

The African School on Internet Governance (AfriSIG) is an annual five-day residential course run by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency. The goal of the School is to develop a pipeline of leading Africans from diverse sectors, backgrounds and ages with the skills to participate in local and international internet governance structures, and shape the future of the internet landscape for Africa's development.

Alumni from the four editions of AfriSIG held so far are successfully moving into the internet governance space by participating in major events at both the regional and international levels. They are selected or invited to participate on the basis of their engagement and work in their respective communities. AfriSIG was an opportunity that helped them either to enter the internet governance space or to gain a deeper understanding of the main internet governance issues, with a focus on regional bodies and institutional actors.

At the ICANN59 meeting taking place this week in Johannesburg (26-29 June), many AfriSIG alumni are present and involved in various aspects of the event. Some are representing ICANN constituencies they are active in, while others are just entering into the ICANN space, another global actor developing policies in a multistakeholder way.

There are two main categories of fellowships that ICANN offers. Many of the AfriSIG alumni were selected for these fellowships, either for the first time or as alumni of the programme. Other AfriSIG alumni like Yolanda Mlonzi (Class of 2015) and Thato Mfikwe (Class of 2016), who live in Johannesburg and are members of the ICANN Non-commercial Users Constituency (NCUC), helped organise a two-day NCUC outreach meeting that took place on 23-24 June – and was a big success, based on comments from those who attended. So, kudos to them!

#### **The ICANN59 Fellowship Programme (including the Newcomer Regional Pilot Programme)**

The AfriSIG alumni selected for this fellowship include Evelyn Namara (Class of 2016, Uganda), Emmanuel Agbenonwossi (Class of 2016, Togo), Michael Ilishebo (Class of 2014, Zambia, and also a member of the Internet Governance Forum Multistakeholder Advisory Group, IGF MAG), Silas Ngabirano (Class of 2016, Uganda) and Koliwe Majama (Class of 2016, Zimbabwe). Koliwe Majama stood out

<sup>7</sup>[https://www.apc.org/sites/default/files/AfrisigTracerStudy2013-2016\\_0.pdf](https://www.apc.org/sites/default/files/AfrisigTracerStudy2013-2016_0.pdf)

in particular for her engagement in various sessions, taking the floor to challenge panels and raise some important issues. Arsène Tungali (Class of 2016, Democratic Republic of Congo) served as her Coach for this meeting, and met with her prior to the meeting to discuss various aspects of ICANN and how she could prepare to fully benefit from this opportunity.

There are also some AfriSIG participants who are not part of the fellowship but who happen to be attending this meeting and proudly representing the community. They include Mistura Aruna (Class of 2013, Nigeria, representing his country in the ICANN Government Advisory Group), Anri van der Spuy (Class of 2014, a former ICANN Fellow and NextGen participant and now a mentor), Brian Tshuma (Class of 2014, an NCUC member and funded by Guptas), Dr. Jerome Terpase Dooga (Class of 2013, Nigeria), and Tracy Kganakga (Class of 2016, South Africa).

### **The NextGen Programme**

AfriSIG alumni selected for this programme, who are newcomers at ICANN, include Joash Ntega Moitui (Class of 2016, Kenya) and Mauricia Abdol (Class of 2016, South Africa). Joash and Mauricia gave presentations about the work/research they are involved in, as part of the requirements of the NextGen Programme. Joash spoke about the role of social media in political violence and conflict mitigation in Kenya, discussing the use of social media in the violations that happened right after elections in Kenya, while Mauricia's thought-provoking presentation was entitled "The Ubuntu-centred ICANN multistakeholder model: Challenging the parameters of the multistakeholder model with a strategic injection of the 'youth' population in Africa for Africa".

### **Alumni representing At-Large Structures**

Some AfriSIG alumni have their organisations registered as At-Large Structures (ALS). They have benefited from ICANN support to attend their general meeting as well as ICANN59. Serge Parfait Goma (Class of 2016, Republic of Congo), who is representing an ALS, is very vocal and uses every opportunity to take the floor and raise issues in different meetings.

From the type of interventions or comments most of these fellows are making at the ICANN meeting, one can easily note that AfriSIG was useful in helping them understand the multistakeholder model of ICANN. Pierre Dandjinou, vice president of Global Stakeholder Engagement for Africa, said during a Fellowship session that participants should not only enjoy the meeting or be vocal in various sessions, but they should also make sure they convey the messages and recommendations from this ICANN policy meeting to their constituencies and communities back home. He can count on the "Afrisiggers" present at ICANN to do just that.

If you are attending any other upcoming internet governance-related meetings this year, you will surely come across AfriSIG alumni, who will continue to speak about the valuable work each one of them is doing and about what Africa needs in terms of internet governance.

## ANNEXURE 3

### Examples of Initiatives to Promote African Participation

#### 3.1

#### AFRICAN SCHOOL ON INTERNET GOVERNANCE (ARISIG) FOR 2019-2020.

##### Background:

- The African School on Internet Governance (AfriSIG) is an annual five-day residential knowledge and leadership building event established by the Association for Progressive Communications (APC) and the NEPAD Planning and Coordination Agency
- Since 2015 a partnership with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) was organised.
- Objective of AfriSIG is to give Africans from multiple sectors and stakeholder groups the opportunity to gain knowledge and build the confidence that will enable them to participate effectively in internet governance (IG) processes and debates at all levels: national, regional and global.
- First convened in 2013 and annually since.

##### Membership:

- Calls are made yearly for applications. Candidates are chosen from the pool of applications based on the criteria decided by the school.

##### Curriculum:

- Grounded in local to global internet governance issues, processes and practice, and is kept up-to-speed with major developments in the sector as they happen.
- Teaching and learning happen through a mixed model of lectures and seminars, peer learning, practical exercises, as well as exposure to and mentorship from African and global experts in the field.
- The core curriculum includes an overview of the multidisciplinary dimensions of IG, emphasising a human rights-based and developmental approach towards how we grapple with and shape IG policy and practice, from the global level right down to the country level.
- Participants undergo a rigorous practicum exercise through which they are better equipped to understand the complexity of negotiating and developing a collaborative position statement on a current internet governance topic.
- Through the integration of these current internet governance affairs into the main body of the curriculum, participants are brought into the major country-to-global internet governance debates, and gain the capacity to input directly into these debates at the various IGFs they participate in.

### **Impact:**

- A Tracer Study conducted by the APC, for the periods 2013 to 2016, shows that of the 42 respondents, 39 said that participation in AfriSIG made a difference to them personally, 30 said it made a difference for their organisation or institution, and 31 said it made a difference beyond themselves and their organisation or institution.
- Interviewees generally commended AfriSIG for being an educational platform for people that want to enter the Internet Governance sphere and know more about internet governance.
- However, it was noted that the school is not accessible to majority of the interested individuals. About 200 applicants apply a year and only 50 are accepted. Moreover, the acceptance criteria change each year without notice to applicants, therefore, numerous applicants are left out of the process all together.
- Funding to attend AfriSIG is also still a major issue. There have been calls for the School to be simulcast online to allow for those who cannot afford to attend but have access to the internet.

## **3.2 2020.**

### **AFRICAN INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM'S MULTI ADVISORY GROUP (AFIGF MAG) FOR 2019-**

#### **Background**

The Secretary-General of the United Nations established the Advisory Group (now referred to as the Multistakeholder Advisory Group - MAG). Its purpose is to advise the Secretary-General on the programme and schedule of the Internet Governance Forum meetings. The MAG is comprised of 55 Members from governments, the private sector and civil society, including representatives from the academic and technical communities. In addition, representatives of former IGF host countries, as well as representatives of intergovernmental organisations, are invited to attend and contribute to the meetings and work of the MAG. The MAG holds face-to-face meetings, preceded by open consultations, up to three times a year.

#### **Membership**

- (MAG members are selected to achieve a balance among all stakeholder groups, while retaining regional and gender representation, according to established procedures;
- (All MAG members serve in their personal capacity, but are expected to have extensive linkages with their respective stakeholder groups;
- The main task of the MAG is to provide advice on the programme and main themes of the next annual meeting of the IGF;
- MAG members are expected to attend two to three MAG meetings in Geneva, Switzerland, in addition to the annual IGF meeting. They should participate actively in the preparatory process throughout the year, through engagement in the online multilateral dialogue among MAG members;
- MAG meetings are open to Intergovernmental organizations.

#### **Project initiatives/events:**

The Internet Governance Forum's Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) has been instrumental in planning the programme of the annual IGF meetings.

### 3.3

## INITIATIVE TIC ET CITOYENNETE – ITICC

### Background:

- ICT and Citizenship Initiative is non-profit, apolitical and indefinite group of all those who are interested in ICT for sustainable development and citizen participation in the rooting of democracy and voluntarily adhere to the present statutes that govern.
- ITICC is founded on the following:
  - Considerations of the potential of information and communication technologies in a country with a nascent democracy,
  - Awareness of the fact that no sustainable development is possible without the commitment and support of all levels of society.
  - Considerations the need for exchange and sharing of information and knowledge for all promotional and development action
- Constituted in 2014
- Partners are Burkina Faso's Minister of Development of Digital Economy and Posts, Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Posts (ARCEP), the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), Critical Internet Resource Management (ICANN) and the French Association for Internet Naming in Cooperation (AFNIC).

### Membership:

- Open to any natural or legal person interested in its objectives and who adheres to its statutes, the Internal Regulations and the decisions of the competent bodies.
- Membership fees are payable
- Members are encouraged to actively participate in the activities of the organisation.

### Project initiatives/events:

ITICC was formed to educate and create awareness about internet governance within Francophone countries in Africa organisation, through a variety of events and activities assists in informing and educating stakeholders in A Francophone countries about the various organisations and activities within the internet governance and ICT policy This is done through the initiatives listed below:

- ICANN Youth Workshop
- Formulation des Formateurs de la Gouvernance de l'internet – FFIG (Internet Governance Trainers Training)
  - Held annually in Burkina Faso, under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Burkina Faso Paul Kaba Thieba and co-sponsorship of Mrs. Hadja Ouattara/Sanon Minister of Development of Digital Economy and Posts, along with various partners such as the Regulatory Authority for Electronic Communications and Posts (ARCEP), the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF), Critical Internet Resource Management (ICANN) and the French Association for Internet Naming in Cooperation (AFNIC).
  - This is a real training of trainers in French-speaking Africa bringing together decision-makers involved in the formulation of policies in the development of the digital economy as well as technicians in the field.

- For four days, experts from Tunisia, France, Benin, Togo, Rwanda and Burkina Faso will give them communications on the history and the ecosystem of the Internet, the environment favourable to innovation and integration, ICANN's Africa Strategy, whose Vice President for Africa is Pierre Dandjinou. Trainers will be asked to repeat the training in their home country. The ultimate goal is to create a critical mass of highly knowledgeable experts on Internet governance issues and information systems.
- Call for a refoundation of the training in 2017 – A call for evaluation of the results of the reflection on the future of the IGFF to improve its impact and its contribution to digital development in Africa by Pierre Ouédraogo. In the same vein, the representative of the International Organization of La Francophonie, Emmanuel Adjovi indicated that this 3rd edition should be an opportunity to feed new ambitions and change the dimension of training. He therefore appealed on behalf of the OIF to a reorganization of training in terms of recruitment, content and follow-up to meet the needs and challenges of society.

- Workshop on DNS Entrepreneurship

**Impact:**

- ITICC has had a good impact in educating individuals in Francophone countries to gain an understanding of internet governance.
- It has helped to bridge the language gap by providing training in French.

### 3.4 THE NIGERIAN SCHOOL OF INTERNET GOVERNANCE (NSIG)

**Background**

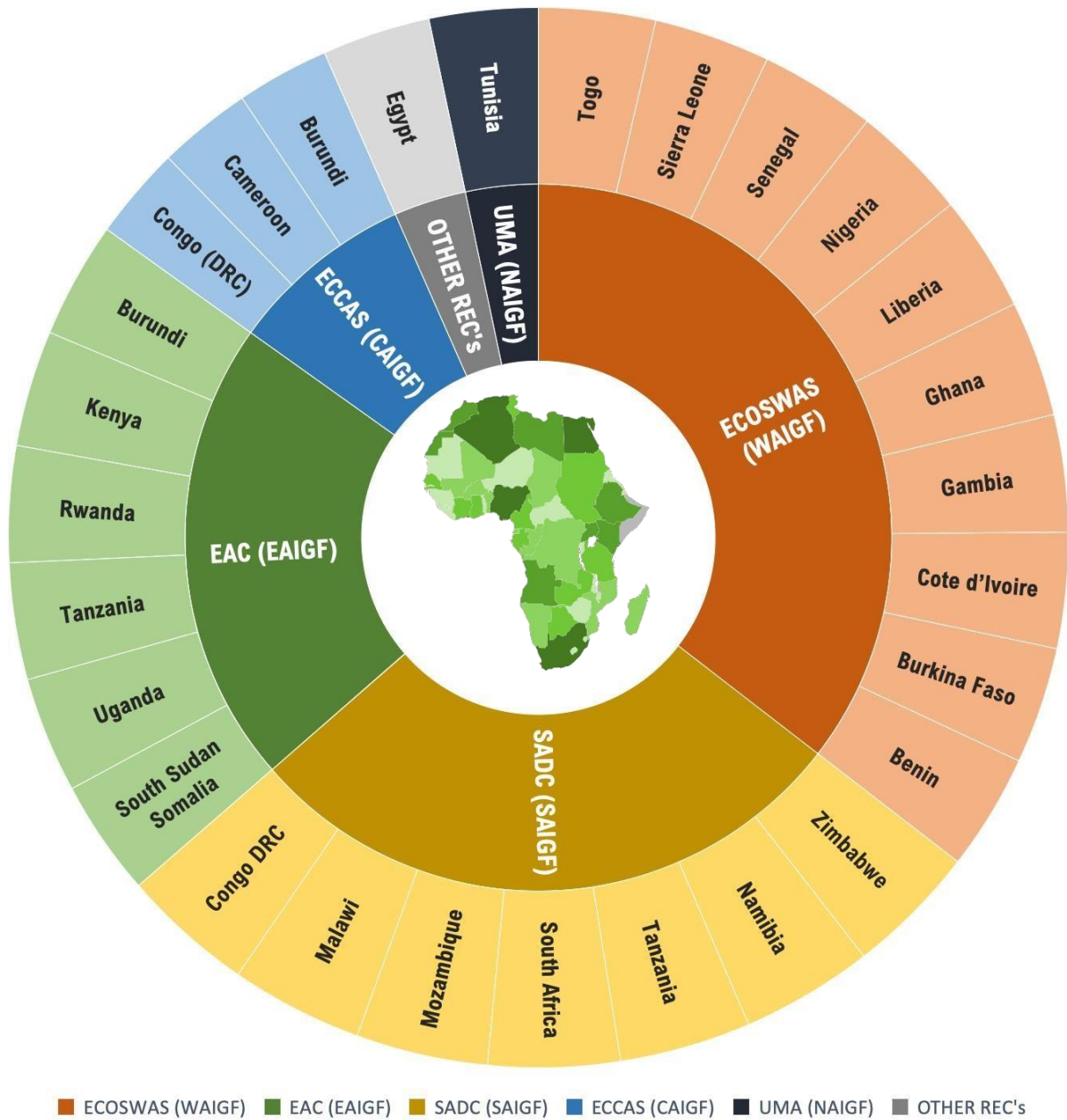
The NSIG convened by the Internet Society Nigeria Chapter in partnership with other Industry Stakeholders is an effort to build additional Internet Governance capacity within Nigeria. Schools on Internet Governance have helped many notable countries groom citizens that have risen to take up key positions and influence the global Internet ecosystem. NSIG's primary goal is to give Nigerian from multiple sectors and stakeholder groups the opportunity to gain knowledge that will enable them to participate confidently and effectively in internet governance processes and debates at the national, regional and global levels.

**Membership**

The 8th Edition of the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum is organised by the NIGF-MAG comprising of stakeholders from Federal Ministry of Communications (FMoC), National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA), Nigeria Communication Commissions (NCC), Nigeria Internet Registration Association (NIRA), Internet Society Nigeria Chapter (ISOC NG), DigitalSENSE Africa Media (DSA), Global Network for Cyber Solutions (GNC), Creative Tech. Development International (CTDI) in partnership with other local Internet Stakeholders. Registration is free for all stakeholders.

## ANNEXURE 4

### Countries with national IGF's established, or in the process of being established



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