



5th National Internet Governance Forum, The Gambia

Communiqué

18th and 19th July 2019

Theme: “Stakeholder responsibilities for a robust internet governance ecosystem in The Gambia”

We, the participants at the 5th National Internet Governance Forum held at the Paradise Suites Hotel, The Gambia on the **18th and 19th of July 2019** organized by the Gambia National Internet Governance Forum Steering Committee, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure, The Gambia (MOICI).

Recalling that this is the 5th session of the National Internet Governance Forum held in The Gambia.

Recalling that this is the second national Internet Governance Forum held in The Gambia after a 6 year hiatus.

Recalling that the 11th West African Internet Governance Forum in 2019 shall take place here in The Gambia from the 25-26th July 2019 and the 7th Pan African Internet Governance forum is scheduled to take place in 2019, prior to the Global Internet Governance forum in Berlin, Germany.

WE AGREE:

On the Internet Ecosystem in The Gambia (Infrastructure, Access, Affordability and Inclusion)

We the stakeholders at the Gambia 5th Internet Governance Forum agree to the following:

1. Government and stakeholders to make access more affordable and consider those differently abled.
2. Urge Government to fast track the establishment of an ICT Agency for the realisation of Digital Gambia.
3. Call on Government to restructure Gamtel for more efficiency and to reposition it to either retail or wholesale for a better level playing field.
4. Call on Government to put in an enabling environment for the roll out of community networks to connect the unconnected and improve access and affordability.
5. Call on PURA to ensure more transparency and clear terms and conditions between service providers and their customers.
6. Call on Government to ensure the availability of additional submarine cables for redundancy.
7. Call on Government to establish cybersecurity legislation to protect National Critical Information Infrastructure.
8. Call on Government to put in measures and strategies to provide internet access to underserved areas and liable institutions like schools, hospitals etc.
9. Implement the Universal and Service Access Fund in the ICT sector.
10. Encourage Government and stakeholders to support and promote the generation of local content.
11. Government to endeavour for more policy consistency, proper implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
12. Government to consider renaming the Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure to the Ministry of Telecommunications and Digital Economy.

On The Role of the Internet in building a Digital Economy in the New Gambia in line with the National Development Plan (NDP)

1. Create the enabling environment for the use of Electronic Payment Systems, inbound and outbound.
2. Implement Spatial Data Infrastructure to facilitate e-commerce.
3. To create the next generation of experts in the areas of ICT by encouraging capacity building initiatives in schools through the use STEAM.
4. Encourage the increased adoption of Electronic payment services like Mobile Money taking into account interoperability.

5. To make a strong emphasis on digital entrepreneurship skills, for example social media marketing, in schools.
6. To increase the adoption of ICT by government in its own business processes and the provision of public services.
7. Changing the culture and mindset for the adoption of a digital economy through mass sensitization and capacity building programs.

We the stakeholders at the Gambia 4th Internet Governance Forum agree to the following

Digital Rights and Freedom of Expression (Based on the revision of the media and communication laws in The Gambia)

1. Calling on Government to endorse, ratify, and domesticate the African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms.
2. Digital or Internet Rights to be entrenched in the constitution to foster individual entitlements to use the internet.
3. All stakeholders to work on building capacity of members of the public on digital rights and freedom of expression.
4. Government to work towards Public School's access to technology.
5. Inclusion of technology in education curriculum by Ministry of Education
6. Calling on all stakeholders to mobilize resources to implement the Education Policy 2016-2030.
7. Government to fast track the enactment of the Draft Media Rights Bill for the next National Assembly session – September 2019.
8. Government to establish an open data policy and access to information law.
9. Call on policy makers to draft laws that recognise women as having equal rights to express themselves online/offline without discrimination.
10. Calling on government to consider violations or abuses of individuals online equal to abuses offline.

We the stake holders at the Gambia 4th Internet Governance Forum agree to the following

Fake News, Hate Speech, Cyber-bullying, Privacy and Data Protection within the New Gambia online space (Progressive or Retrogressive under the present Gambian online digital space?) IOT Security, Community Networks

1. Calling on government and other stakeholders to put in measures and strategies to create awareness on Fake News.
2. Set up strategies and mechanisms to sensitize the public on personal online safety measures, especially in schools.

3. Call on government to ensure the enforcement of the Fake Journalist Publication Bill to protect the rights of its citizens against slander and Fake News.
4. Raising awareness for attitudinal change around cyber-bullying and its impacts.
5. ~~Leveraging existing platforms to develop the capacity of teachers who teach IT and online safety in schools.~~
6. Incorporate online safety in the current ICT curriculum in schools.
7. Call on PURA to enforce the provisions in the IC act in relation to unsolicited messages and improper use of personal data by service providers.
8. Call on government to fast track the adoption of the draft data protection policy and the enactment of data protection laws.
9. Ensure alignment with International Data Protection Standards such as the ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Data Protection, the Malabo Convention (AU), and Convention 108+.
10. Incorporate laws on Internet of Things (IOT) and Artificial Interlligence (AI) in the review of the IC Act.

We the stakeholders at the Gambia 4th Internet Governance Forum agree to the following

Cyber security and Data Governance including Consolidation and Encryption

1. Call on government to establish a foresics lab to facilitate investigations and gathering digital evidence.
2. Fast track the establishment of the Gambia Computer Security and Incidence Response Team (gm CSIRT).
3. Build public-private partnerships to enhance collaboration for an effective fight against cybercrime across all sectors.
4. Ensure the availability of a cybersecurity expert and standards in every institution, public or private.
5. Call on government to support Civil Society Organizations to create syber security awareness,
6. Call on government to conduct regular national vulnerability assessment on National Critical Information Infrastructure and National Critical Infrasrtructure.
7. Every institution should have a data governance policy.
8. Ensure end to end encryption of all personal identifyable data.
9. Tertiary institutions to introduce cyber security degree programs.

10. Law enforcement to have its own fully functioning and well equipped cyber crime unit.

Addendum

We the stakeholders agree to participate more fully in national, regional, pan African and global Internet governance forums to make the Gambia's position clearer and known world wide in regards to issues on Internet Governance.

We the stakeholders agree to maintaining the National Internet Governance Forum Steering Committee for subsequent National Internet Governance Forums and for the hosting of the West African Internet Governance Forum on 25th and 26th July 2019 .

The Committee comprises of the following organizations and institutions:

1. Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure
2. Information Technology Association of the Gambia
3. Gambia Press Union
4. National Youth Council
5. Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
6. The Association of National Non-Governmental Organizations
7. Internet Society Gambia Chapter
8. University of the Gambia
9. GAMCHIX
10. Gambia Cyber Security Alliance
11. Ministry of Justice
12. Serekunda Internet Exchange Point
13. Gambia College
14. Gambia Technical Training Institute
15. Gambia Police Force
16. National Assembly
17. Give1 Project

WE thank the Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure (MOICI) and all stakeholders and participants.