

## **REPORT OF THE 6<sup>th</sup> EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM, 2013 Edition**

**Theme:** “*Harnessing Multi- stakeholders in Contributing towards Internet Growth and Sustainable Development in East African Community*”

**Host Country:** Republic of Burundi

**Dates:** August 13 – 14, 2013

**Venue:** Royal Palace Hotel, Bujumbura, Burundi

**Reports:** - *Mr. Francis Olivier CUBAHIRO, Mr. Coppens NDAYIRAGIJE*

### **FORUM EVENTS**

#### **Official Opening Ceremony**

**Moderator:** Fidèle KANDIKANDI

The started with welcome remarks from Mr. Victor CIZA, The President of ISOC-BURUNDI. He thanked the Mr. Frédéric François SIGEJEJE, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of ICT and in charge of Relations with the Parliament to have graced the opening session of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regional Internet Governance Forum.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of TIC&RP indicated that it was a great honour for Burundi to host the Regional Forum on issues related to Internet Governance in East African Community. He recognised the importance and the timeliness of the theme chosen for the forum that is “*Harnessing Multi- stakeholders in Contributing towards Internet Growth and Sustainable Development in East African Community*”.

#### **Session 1: National IGF Reports**

**Moderator:** Fidèle KANDIKANDI

##### **1. NATIONAL IGF REPORT, 2013 Edition, by Mr. Francis Olivier CUBAHIRO**

The Burundi IGF was held on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013 at the National School of Administration (ENA in acronym) in Bujumbura, Burundi. Organised and coordinated by ISOC-Burundi, under the patronage of the Ministry of Telecommunications, Information, Communication and Relations with Parliament, the forum discussed selected themes that influence the development of internet in Burundi. Some of the issues discussed included;- establishing a national IXP; the status of Burundi Backbone System network as part of national broadband infrastructure and regional connectivity programmes; e-government project; and synergy among Internet development stakeholders.

Key recommendations from the forum were;-

- Urged participants to continuously participate in the forum as well as taking active use of the of the online platform

- develop a new way of thinking and pioneering the development of Internet services and applications
- strengthen and encourage synergy among ICT players
- lobby and bring the government to allocate a certain budget percentage to support the development of the sector
- exchange information on best practices

**Tanzania:** the Tanzania IGF report was presented by Dr. Jim Yonazi. While focusing on ICT and Information society in Tanzania, he pointed to how ICTs are facilitating access to information of various natures, and thus, contributing to building the global information society. He noted the increasing use of mobiles devices in various domains and the fall of fixed lines due mainly to the level of efficiency, portability and ergonomic aspects.

In his presentation, Dr Yonanzi touched the governance, connectivity, local services and human capital issues, access to ICT services in rural areas, amongst other issues. He shared Tanzania's experience in shifting from analogue to digital TV for broadcasting signal. He noted that a combination of good will and strong commitment from government, appeared to be the key elements that facilitated the switch over process.

On promoting local entrepreneurship, he shared that Tanzania building capacity for youth as well as establishing incubators techno centres and research in ICT.

Some of the challenges highlighted included; - limited level of participation from various stakeholders in IG debate, lack of innovation, and convergence of technologies related issues, security and privacy, protection from unwanted content.

Uganda: The Uganda NIGF2013 report was presented by Ms. Lillian Nalwoga. She shared that the forum has been in existence since 2006 and follows a multi-stakeholder engagement. The forum usually starts with online discussions covering topics from the previous forum as well as emerging IG issues for that year. Key IG issues from the online discussions are then discussed at the face-to-face meeting. By the time of the EAIGF 2013, Uganda was still holding online discussions. Focus was on promoting affordable access, mobile internet, utilising existing infrastructure, online safety, protection of internet users against surveillance and censorship, .UG ccTLD management, readiness status for the big data era, review of Open Data initiatives and Internet and human rights.

From the ongoing online discussions, participants raised concerns over inappropriate pricing of internet bundles calling for lobbying for establishing proper pricing models to enable equitable affordability for all.

Discussants also called for the need to rethink strategies for safeguarding children online; prevent or mitigate Internet crimes; and ensure balance of data protection and privacy. Participants also urged countries to develop and implement appropriate and applicable legal and regulatory frameworks that take into account the local context and culture. The latter should safeguard and maintain the freedom of expression and human rights on the internet.

She shared that Uganda has been able to score some milestones as a result of the national IGF. These include passing of Uganda cyber laws, adoption of an IPv6 migration strategy, .UG ccTLD management policy, implementation the National Data Transmission Backbone Infrastructure and e-Government Infrastructure Project (NBI/EGI) by National Information Technology Authority – Uganda (NITA-U) under the Ministry of ICT. The 2013 Uganda IGF will be held on September 18, 2013 and hosted by ISOC – Uganda chapter in partnership with other stakeholders.

**Kenya: Miss Liz Orembo - KENYA IGF REPORT:** The Kenya National IGF was held on 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 at the Strathmore Business School and was convened by the ISOC Kenya Chapter. The forum was attended by 90 participants representing the government, Academia, Civil Society and the private sector.

The purpose of the forum was to bring Internet stakeholders together for a public dialogue on the opportunities that lie with the new system of devolved government, situation of the “.ke” domain name and build capacity on IG.

It was recommended that ISOC chapters should take up the role of convening national IGFs that bring together all ICT stakeholders to work on matters not yet tackled by any of the sector key players in the country.

## **Session 2: Infrastructure and Broadband Access in East Africa**

Moderator: Fidèle KANDIKANDI

### **Burundi: Mr. David Easum, Mr. Blaise NKANIRA & Mr. Coppens NDAYIRAGIJE**

Burundi is implementing the Burundi Backbone System (BBS) Network that is a joint venture of public and private ICT operators. The BBS network operates under a 20 years concession/license as a virtual landing point /international gateway and an Internet Exchange point (IXP).

The country is also deploying the Metropolitan Area Network (MAN) project. It is a fiber-optic based infrastructure consisting of passive part (optical fiber) and assets (routers and Switches) meant to boost connectivity and improve service delivery to clients in the city of Bujumbura.

Another initiative aimed at boosting connectivity is the Burundi Internet Exchange (BIXP) Point project. The BIXP is currently implemented in partnership between the Government of Burundi, the African Union and the ISOC. Some of the perceived benefits from this initiative as indicated by Mr. Coppens NDAYIRAGIJE are:-

- Cost Optimization and cost savings of international capacity
- Incidence Latency Optimization
- Bandwidth Optimization
- Security of the Internet traffic
- Effective establishment of Burundian Information Society and Cost reduction in e-Government Information Exchange via local IXP

All ISPs were urged to join and support the BIXP.

### **Rwanda: Mr. Ghislain NKERAMUGABA: BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE STATUS IN RWANDA 2013, HIGHWAYS TOWARDS A SMARTER RWANDA**

An overview of the national ICT policy objectives and Rwanda's success in achieving the 2020 vision were highlighted. These included; - completion of phase one of the infrastructure development to which Rwanda has been able to witness some benefits like the broadband infrastructure developed during the previous NICI phases. These include; implementation of various government projects such as the electronic inter-bank checks settlement, the district account reports centralized into the ministry of finance through the broadband network, among others.

Rwanda has also successfully implemented some security projects that include; - establishment of a public key infrastructure - PKI and a Computer Security Incident Response Team – CSIRT.

Further, it was reported that Rwanda is building the foundation of a knowledge-based economy through establishing a strong service sector enabled by secure IT infrastructure.

### **Uganda: Mr. Amos MPUNGU: STATUS OF INTERNET INFRASTRUCTURE IN UGANDA**

Uganda's key players in ICT Internet infrastructure development were highlighted. These include the Government currently deploying with the national backbone infrastructure, the private sector, especially ISPs, Mobile technologies deployed to achieve national coverage are GSM, CDMA, LTE, Fiber, WiFi, Wimax, xDSL, among others.

Uganda is also witnessing increased growth in Internet subscriptions, even though there are still some challenges. Those highlighted are; inadequate supportive infrastructure, affordability, low skills, inadequate development of local content. On the positive note, it was noted the increased connectivity, young population, competitive environment and convergence of technologies will boost Uganda's internet growth.

## **Session 3: Accessibility, Diversity and Contents in East African Community**

Moderator: Mr. Kenneth SIMBAYA

**Tanzania: Dr. Jim YONAZI:** Tanzania is implementing ICT led initiatives all geared towards improving governance, connectivity, local services and content development, and human capital.

More on digital migration was discussed noting that the TCRA launched a phased switch-off of analogue broadcasting starting at midnight on December 31, 2012 in Dar-es-Salaam, and progressed to Dodoma and Tanga on 31 January, 2013, Mwanza on 28 February 2013, Arusha and Moshi on 31 March, 2013, and Mbeya on 30 April 2013 (Schumann, 2013). This initiative aims at enhancing the quality, range, while lowering cost of broadcasting in Tanzania.

He also noted the need to continuously and regularly adjust the legal and regulatory framework to address issues arising from new technologies development & applications as well as ICT users' behaviour.

## **Session 4: Naming and Addressing Issues in East African Community**

Moderator: Miss Liz Orembo

### **MIGRATION FROM IPv4 to IPv6 - Mr. Felix NDAYIRUKIYE**

Countries were urged to quickly adapt to IPv6. He further informed participants on the rationale of migrating from IPv4 to IPv6. Mr Felix gave some technical information concerning the interoperability requirements as far as IP addressing is concerned.

As for IPv4 to IPv6 migration, it was suggested to convene a dedicated working session for IP experts.

### **ISSUES RELATED TO THE NEW GTLDS (DOTAFRICA) - Victor CIZA**

The ".Africa" is the proposed name for the African continent's generic Top Level Domain (gTLD). It provides an opportunity to forge an identity that will elevate and enhance the African digital presence.

The ".Africa" gTLD is expected to bring the continent together as an Internet Community under one umbrella allowing e-Commerce, technology and infrastructure to flourish. This is a truly African initiative created for Africa, by Africans. Country members were urged to support this initiative.

## **Session 5: protection of Users Online at the Time of Broadband Internet Access in East African Community: The role of Different Stakeholders**

Moderators: Fidèle KANDIKANDI Miss Liz Orembo

### ***Protection of Internet users, case of Burundi - Pierre BAMBASI: President of CNC (Le Conseil National de la Communication)***

The role of e-content providers in making available information on content filtering to protect media and online information consumers against inappropriate content was stressed. He called for the need for undertaking massive awareness campaign to prevent, handle and solve conflicts related to online content.

### ***PROTECTION OF ONLINE USERS, CIVIL SOCIETY PERSPECTIVE - Ms Lillian Nalwoga***

Key questions that need addressing in regard to online protection raised include but not limited to; what are the major issues surrounding online privacy? What impact do they have on freedom of expression? What convergences and tensions exist between freedom of expression and privacy? What are the implications of approaching the balance between freedom of expression and privacy from a freedom of expression–centric point of view?

What actions can governments, civil society, media stakeholders and the private sector take to balance privacy with freedom of expression online? What is the best way to empower users?

Some of key cases related to internet censorship, surveillance and interference of internet freedoms highlighted in Africa were;-

- Internet filtering in Ethiopia (2009),
- Politically motivated cyberattacks in Zimbabwe,
- Kenya – reportedly setting up a surveillance system to monitor email communications due to cyber security threats
- Planned telecom services surveillance obligations in South Africa ,
- planned social media monitoring center in Uganda,
- suspension of an online media website in Burundi on the ground of violations of legal provisions from through a discussion forum created by the said media,
- Rwanda – reported to be a”country at risk” in 2013 the Freedom House report, owing to its “strict” controls over traditional media.
- Tanzania – case of alleged ‘mirroring’ jamii forums website

Suggested recommendations for the protection of online users highlighted were:

- Adoption of appropriate models for Internet governance and regulation that do not threaten core internet values such as privacy and freedom of expression, disproportionate levels of surveillance in the name of security;
- reliance if not put pressure on intermediaries not to regulate content;
- a reassertion of national sovereignty in a developing jurisdictional turf struggle;
- Avoid moral panic over privacy;
- Create widespread awareness of issues concerning privacy and data protection among most users

## **Conclusions and Recommendations / Wrap up and the Way Forward**

Panellists : Fidèle KANDIKANDI (Burundi), Dr Jim James YONAZI (Tanzania), Liz OREMO (Kenya), Chris MULOLA (Rwanda), Lillian NALWOGA (Uganda) and Victor CIZA (Burundi)

Participants identified the following issues to submit to the Africa IGF to be held in Nairobi 24-26 September, 2013.

- 1) Harmonization of Internet pricing in East African Region
- 2) Capacity building and skills development at all levels in Information Technology
- 3) Detailed report on applied ICT regulations in ICT and telecommunication sector for EAC country members
- 4) Promotion of local content development hosted locally
- 5) Development of an EAC IXP and lobby for the “.eac” TLD
- 6) Promotion of the treatment of Internet/ICT as a cultural component

## **Closing ceremonies**

In his closing remarks, the President of ISOC BURUDI, expressed his sincere appreciation to the contribution of all the participants from EAC Partner States to the success of this 6<sup>th</sup> Regional Internet Governance Forum held in Burundi for the first time. He also thanked the Ministry of Telecommunications, Information, Communication and Relations with the Parliament for accepting to host this event.