REPORT OF THE 8TH EAST AFRICAN INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

HELD ON

SEPTEMBER 24 ˉ 25 2015

AT

IMPERIAL ROYALE HOTEL, KAMPALA UGANDA

Table of Contents

1.0 Background of EAIGF

Enabling the meaningful participation of developing nation partners in global Internet policy development has long been identified as an important priority in achieving an equitable and accessible Information Society. The East African Internet Governance Forum (EA-IGF) is part of the global Internet Governance Forum. As it will be recalled, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was created at the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) to provide an environment to continue dialogue on Internet public policy issues with the goal of ensuring the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development of the Internet.

The IGF has continued to be an important global arena for international multi-stakeholder dialogue about policy issues affecting the Internet's management, development and deployment. The IGF process to date has addressed development and capacity building as cross cutting topics and overarching priorities; however issues surrounding Internet Governance have not fully caught the attention of policy makers and other stakeholders in developing countries especially Africa. Further, enabling participation of stakeholders from developing countries in the IGF process has been challenging. With limited knowledge of the issues and discussion, developing countries are often underrepresented in the global arenas where these Internet policies are developed, and also unable to meaningfully contribute to the dialogue at the Internet Governance Forum.

The East African-Internet Governance Forum (EA-IGF) was first convened in 2008 with participation from five East African countries (Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda). The forum aims at creating a Community of Practice that will build a sustaining foundation for meaningful participation of East African stakeholders in Internet public policy debates at the national, regional and international level.

The EA-IGF model allows for the informed participation, contribution and engagement of community members through the sharing of experiences and skills, solving common problems and challenges, the creation of new knowledge and increasing local capacity and talent in Internet Governance issues. The EA-IGF follows a bottom up multi-stakeholder approach, which begins at the national level with mailing list discussions in the five East African countries moderated by national animators, followed by national face-to-face IGFs; to continue discussions and debate, which go further to validate the issues identified and begin to explore recommendations and solutions. The national IGFs then form the building block for the regional East African IGF.

The East African Internet Governance Forum is organized by Internet stakeholders in the East African countries and rotates among the East African countries.

The Forum's website is www.eaigf.org. It currently runs social media outlets on Twitter and Facebook.

2.0 Objectives of EAIGF 2015

The 2015 EAIGF aims to be a platform for an inclusive multi-stakeholder and multilingual discussion on issues pertinent to the Internet in East Africa in general Specific objectives include:

- Establish which Internet Governance issues are relevant to the countries of the region by mapping out lessons learnt from the region

- Build consensus and national and regional positions around relevant Internet Governance issues

- Raise awareness of Internet Governance (IG) among policy makers and stakeholders in the East African Region

- Share the outcomes of the regional forum with other regions

3.0 Organisation

The 8th EAIGF was hosted by the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology Uganda in partnership with the Internet Society Uganda Chapter (ISOC).

4.0 Partners
The following provided support to the success of the Forum
- Internet Society
- Africell Uganda
- Liquid Telecom
- Burundi Backbone System Company (BBS)
- Union of Tanzania Press Club (UTPC)
- Kenya Network Information Centre (KENIC)
- Bandwidth and cloud Services Group (BCS)
- National Information Technology Authority of Uganda (NITA –U) -
- Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANET)
- Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA)
- Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA)
- Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)

5.0 Participation
Over 100 participants representing 6 countries in the region drawn from the government, private sector, academia, research institutions, technical community , civil society organizations, media, and among others other stakeholders from 6 countries attended the 8th East African Internet Governance Forum (EAIGF) held between 24th and 25th September 2015 in Kampala.

5.1 Remote Participation
The forum enabled remote participation through two concurrent channels:

1. Livestream platform, with the support of Internet Society African Bureau

2. Facebook and Twitter platform – using #EAIGF and # EAIGF15 with support from ISOC Uganda volunteers.

Remote participation was facilitated in English. There were 30 remote participants.

6.0 Presentations at the EAIGF

6.1 Opening remarks:

Welcome remarks were received from Ms. Lillian Nalwoga, President, Internet Society Uganda Chapter; Mr. Bob Ochieng, Manager Stakeholder Engagement ICANN Africa and Mr. Patrick Mwesigwa, Director, Technology Services Uganda Communications Commission on behalf of the Executive Director.

The 8th EAIGF was officially opened by Dr. Jimmy Samanya, the Permanent Secretary Ministry of ICT on behalf of the ICT Minister of the Republic of Uganda.

6.2 Presentations on National IGFs

The Forum received reports and feedback related to on-going Internet Governance processes from

Kenya IGF: Held on 31ˢᵗ July 2015, the forum was preceded by online discussions from July 20- 27 2015. The face to face meeting also facilitated remote participation allowing first time participants to take part in the discussions. Organisers termed it as a revival because it was possible to get input from different stakeholders. A key resolution from the Kenya IGF was more meaningful participation by all stakeholders in policy making processes not only in Kenya but also in the region.

Tanzania IGF: Tanzania IGF was held on September 11, 2015 and organized by the national IGF committee which is multistakeholder in nature with The Union of Tanzania Press Clubs taking lead role in resource mobilization. A key recommendation was to have stakeholders participate more in policy making for emerging issues.

Uganda IGF: The Uganda IGF was held on 11 August 2015 under the theme "Internet as an engine for development in Uganda." Main issues discussed included: - internet infrastructure, internet rights as well as strengthening critical Internet infrastructure in Uganda. A key recommendation was the call for legislations that support online freedoms.

Rwanda IGF: The Rwanda IGF had been held by the time of this year's EAIGF. However, deliberations from the 2014 Rwanda IGF were shared. The forum with support from the Rwanda government had three objectives namely: to bring together various stakeholder groups for policy discussions; to enhance inclusiveness and participation and to explore ways of increasing Internet access in Rwanda. Key recommendations included use of Kinyarwanda (local language) in IGF discussions. The 2015 Rwanda IGF will be held in October 2015.

Burundi IGF: It was not possible to hold an IGF before the 2014 EAIGF in Burundi because of the political situation in the country. The Burundi delegation presented on key activities in the ICT sector that were shaping developments in the country including the Burundi IXP that has been in operation since March 2014.

See: ***2015 National IGF reports***

6.3 Other Presentations - The EAIGF received expert presentations on:
- Internet as a tool for development – sharing Experiences from East Africa Among others, ISOC made a presentation on its activities in Africa, especially those in capacity building for techies.
- Digital Safety in East Africa - Net Neutrality in East Africa - This was an interesting debate where participants heard the pros and cons of the now popular "free" services offered by telecoms. There was general agreement that the debate on net neutrality must continue.
- Emerging issues in East Africa - Participants heard about the WSIS 10+ debate and were asked to endorse continuation of WSIS with modifications of the mandate as appropriate for the benefit of the region. Participants also welcomed the developments in ICANN including the IANA transition as well as the stewardship. AfriNIC in their presentation highlighted the importance of East Africa stakeholders in the governance of AfriNIC. Other presenters questioned the usefulness of big data where there was no access to Internet in the first place. Participants were also taken through a demo of a site developed in Uganda that gives prospective students simulations to help them make choices for their university education.
- Democracy, Big Data and Internet - The Executive Director of the Union of Tanzania Press Clubs took participants through the foundation of democracy and data online by posing important questions on the nexus between the Internet and democracy.
- Connecting the next billion - Participants heard of an interesting case where a village in northern Uganda had been connected to the Internet through the social entrepreneurship model.
- Strengthening coordination and implementation of the East African IGF
  Participants expressed desire to see a stronger and even more vibrant EAIGF even during the year (before the face to face IGF). ***See: 2015 EAIGF Presentations:***

Discussions that followed after the presentations allowed participants to arrive at a number of key recommendations.

7.0 Recommendations:

7.1 Internet as a tool for development – sharing Experiences from East Africa

a) Promote public private partnerships to ensure the harnessing benefits of the Internet as a tool for development.

b) East African countries should engage in research to come up with solutions that meet the needs of her citizens.

c) Capacity building efforts should be enhanced to build a critical mass of users who can leverage technology for social and economic development through provision of Fellowship opportunities.

d) Harmonization of regional broadband strategy required to ensure all parts of the East African region are connected.

e) Deployment of last mile solutions that will reduce the cost of accessing the Internet.

f) Promotion and development of local content and local hosting to build a thriving Internet Industry.

g) Address gender imbalances in access and use of Internet technologies by exploring innovative mechanisms to accelerate access to the Internet for both women and youth

h) Implement measures to enable affordable and relevant ICTs for all citizens so as to harness the enormous potential of ICT for development

i) Encourage all stakeholders to put in place measures to achieve universal access by 2020

j) Enhance efforts in capacity building and technology transfer so as to address the digital divide

k) Simplify and consumerise Internet technology to encourage East African citizens to embrace it.

7.2 Digital Safety in East Africa

a) Develop regional policies on electronic waste management.

b) Promote greater collaboration among the regions Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT)/Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT); to mitigate the growing cyber security threats in the region.

c) Facilitate, support and promote the resolutions outlined in the Africa declaration on Internet rights.

d) Build local capacity to tackle cyber security challenges in the East African region.

e) Need for the ratification of the Africa Union Convention on Cyber security by member states as well as the adoption of data protection and privacy laws

f) Explore opportunity afforded by clean energy and reuse, recycling and safe disposal of ICT waste to mitigate environmental impact of ICT use

7.3 Emerging issues in East Africa

a) East African businesses should embrace IPv6 and put in place measures that will facilitate transition from IPv4 to IPv6.

b) The need for the regional internet community to participate and engage in global internet policy development initiatives such as the IANA transition.

c) East Africa supports Enhanced Cooperation that gives all stakeholders equal opportunity to exercise their legitimate roles in Internet Governance and the existing mechanism for cooperation should be sustained. If there is suggestion for another mechanism, it should evolve through national, sub-regional, regional and international consensus in that order.

d) Call for continued support for the continuation of Working Group on Enhanced Cooperation and WSIS 2.0.

e) Strengthen governance of the Internet through an open, inclusive and transparent process

f) Strengthen internationalization of the Internet governance as set forth in the Tunis Agenda

g) Increase efforts in ICT data collection and analysis

h) Recommend to extend IGF mandate for [5] years and continue annual review of WSIS outcomes and overall review of implementation of WSIS outcomes in [5] years

7.4 Democracy Big Data and Internet
a) Governments need to avail data to citizens in order to facilitate planning and decision making among citizens and businesses.
b) Call to embrace the internet as critical tool for enabling democratic engagements by ensuing that freedom of expression and privacy are respected by all actors

7.5 Connecting the next billion

a) Need to strengthen operations of national backbones as they are critical in ensuring last mile connectivity.
b) Need to address high costs charged by Internet Service Providers as tundersea cables have significantly lowered the cost of accessing the internet.
c) Low cost infrastructure deployment options need to be considered for last mile connectivity solutions.
d) Educating the communities through radio in local languages informing them about the benefits of the Internet.

7.6 Net Neutrality in East Africa – sharing stakeholder perspectives
a) Debate and engagement on Net Neutrality should be encouraged in the East African Region
b) Transparency and honesty is required from regional Internet and content service providers.
c) East African governments should have a strong position on Net Neutrality

7.7 Strengthening Coordination and Implementation of the East African IGF

a) The East African IGFs Mandate should be renewed.
b) The East African IGF should be institutionalized and strengthened.
c) There should be strong linkages between the East African IGF and the East Africa Community Secretariat in Arusha as well as the East Africa Communications Organisation (EACO) Secretariat.

8.0 Gratitude

Participants at the eighth East Africa IGF expressed their gratitude to the Government and people of the Republic of Uganda and the Internet Society, our sponsors and the volunteers who, each in their various roles contributed to a successful 2015 East Africa Internet Governance Forum.

Kampala, Friday, September 25th, 2015.
The East Africa Internet Governance Forum

The Rapporteuring Team

Grace Bomu - KICTANET
Barrack Otieno –KICTANET