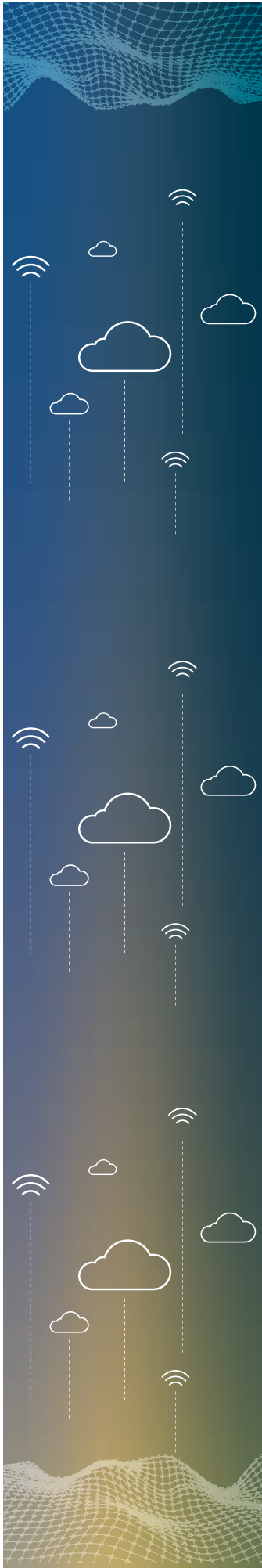




East Africa Internet
Governance Forum - (EAIGF)

**THE EAST
AFRICAN
INTERNET
GOVERNANCE
FORUM
(EAIGF) 2024**

**CONCEPT
NOTE**



BACKGROUND

The East Africa Community in partnership with the Internet Society Uganda Chapter will on September 11 -12, 2024 host the East Africa Internet Governance Forum (EAIGF) at Serena Hotel, Kampala, Uganda under the theme **“Building our Multistakeholder Digital Future for East Africa.”**

First held in 2008, the EAIGF has created a space for continued dialogue on Internet Governance issues and best practices and consequently spurred a momentum for localised integration of global practices on Internet Governance while also instituting a consensus-building process to develop a common understanding of Internet Governance issues as well as building policy capacity to enable meaningful participation in global Internet policy, governance, and development. Discussion from the regional Forums such as the EAIGF go on to feed into the global Internet Governance Forum, which assembles contributions from across the world with the goal of realising the multistakeholder model at a global scale.

The EAIGF 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 EAIGF follows a bottom-up multi-stakeholder approach, which begins at the national IGFs that form the building block for the regional EAIGF. The forum is hosted on the premise of 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. It is in this spirit that the EAIGF brings together multistakeholder representatives from government, media, private sector, civil society, and individuals interested in shaping discussion on how the internet is run.

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was an outcome of the 2005 World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) that sought 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. Now in its 19th year, 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 the 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 Internet Governance concerns and policies are interrogated. This has resulted in reduced avenues to meaningfully contribute to the decisions and developments that emerge at the Internet Governance Forum.



Main Objective of the EAIGF

The EAIGF is a platform for an inclusive multilateral, multi-stakeholder, and multilingual debate and discussion on issues pertinent to enhancing Internet Governance development in East Africa and beyond.

Specific objectives for EAIGF are as follows:

- To increase awareness and build capacity on Information Society and Knowledge Management issues for East African Internet users, to ensure that all stakeholders are well prepared for contribution and interaction.
- To ensure that the concerns of East African citizens are considered in the Regional and global IGF process.
- To put in place a coordinated process in East Africa for dealing with Information Society and Knowledge Management issues in the sub region.
- To strengthen the multi-stakeholder dialogue model for Information Society and Knowledge Management in East Africa through the regional and national fora.
- To ensure a multi-stakeholder representation in National and the Regional Forum in East Africa.
- To ensure that all the countries are part of the sub regional processes and to strengthen their national processes.
- To facilitate national and sub regional exchanges and interactions between countries and in the Sub Region.
- To facilitate follow up of EAIGF decisions and recommendations in appropriate regional and global fora.
- To promote use of local content in East Africa and knowledge in cyberspace.

HOSTING THE EAIGF IN UGANDA.

Last hosted in Uganda in 2016, the EAIGF will this year provide an opportunity to showcase Uganda's vibrant digital ecosystem while learning and sharing experience from other countries on how to make the internet work for all in the region. Uganda's internet landscape in Uganda has seen significant developments in the 10 years. As of early 2024, approximately 19.5% of Uganda's population uses the internet. Social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram have seen notable user growth. Uganda has also successfully deployed 5G technology in Kampala main city and efforts to deploy in other towns are underway. The government through the Ministry of ICT and National Guidance in August 2023 launched the National Digital Transformation Roadmap, a five-year strategy that seeks among others to expand the National Backbone Infrastructure (NBI) to reach 73 districts and 20 major towns with last mile connectivity to service at least 3,000 GoU administration units with appropriate international bandwidth capacity (minimum 20 Gps). The National Data Transmission Backbone Infrastructure and e-Government Infrastructure Project, has improved connectivity for government service centers and lowered the cost of high-bandwidth data connections in all major towns and connected over 1,466 sites to the backbone. Further, the government has reduced the cost of the internet for government entities connected to the National Backbone Infrastructure (NBI) from 70\$ to 35\$ per Mbps per month. Additionally, Uganda's digital innovation landscape is dynamic and growing, driven by supportive policies, increasing infrastructure investments, and a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem. However, addressing challenges such as the digital divide, high costs, and cybersecurity is essential to fully realize the potential of digital innovation in the country.

PRIORITY THEMES/ISSUES OF FOCUS FOR EAIGF 2024

- Harnessing innovation and balancing risks in the digital space.
- Enhancing the digital contribution to peace, development, and sustainability.
- Advancing human rights and inclusion in the digital age.
- Improving digital governance for the Internet We Want.

PARTICIPANTS

Participation is expected from all stakeholder groups in the East African sub-region and international partners. Key participants shall be conveners of the National IGFs of the five East African countries. We will also have representatives from East African Governments, Civil Society, academia, research institutions, libraries, documentation centers and other technical communities, private sector, and regional and international organizations.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

The forum is expected to focus on: -

1. Fostering multi-stakeholder engagement and partnership on IG issues in the countries.
2. Extending capacity development on Knowledge Management.
3. Being able to directly address and influence public policy issues related to Internet Governance at the national and regional level.
4. Developing an advocacy plan to improve accessibility and affordability of the Internet in East Africa
5. Continue to identify topics for research and further shared understanding in ICT policy and Internet governance in the region.
6. Strengthening of East African representation at continental and global level.

EAIGF 2024 TRACKS

Track One: Internet Governance Capacity Building for Parliamentarians:

We shall build and strengthen the capacity of key actors to better understand Internet governance and policy in the region. Building on a successful East Africa School on Internet Governance (EASIG) held in 2019 and 2023, this year focus is placed on parliamentarians. We recognise the parliamentarians play in shaping digital policy discourse in their countries. We shall this year bring together parliamentarians from the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). Key topics will include but not limited to Internet Governance, digital divide, inclusion and transformation, cyber security, data governance, data protection and privacy, digital innovation among others.

Support sought for capacity building.

1. Provide travel support (air tickets, accommodation, and subsistence allowances) for participants.
2. Provide support towards conferencing costs such as venue hire, meals, and refreshments.
3. Contribute to event management and logistics including production of information, education communication materials, photography and



videography, conference giveaways, and Internet connectivity.

Track Two: Hosting the East Africa Internet Governance Forum.

This track involves hosting the annual EAIGF. The forum will be a major highlight of the year and will bring together participants within East Africa and Africa at large to deliberate on how to advocate for stronger Internet access in East Africa. The forum will also see presentation of the research findings from track one and reports from the national IGFs activities. Additionally, the forum will highlight key developments and develop recommendations on how to improve Internet governance in the region.

Support sought for EAIGF

1. Travel support (air tickets, accommodation, and subsistence allowances) for five national representatives per country to participate in the regional meeting.
2. Provide support towards conferencing costs such as venue hire, meals, and refreshments.
3. Travel support (air tickets, accommodation, and subsistence allowances) for 2 select national representatives to participate at the Africa Internet Governance Forum and the global Internet Governance Forum.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

We would be pleased to engage about our different partnership and sponsorship packages as listed below. The following are illustrative of the opportunities that will be offered:

<i>Platinum Sponsor USD 15,000 and above</i>	<i>Gold Sponsor USD 5,000 - 10,000</i>	<i>Silver USD 3,000 – USD 5,000</i>	<i>In-Kind Sponsorship</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Blogpost about the Company/Business on our website for a minimum of three months. ● Prominent logo display and promotional materials at the events ● Logo on promotional materials (Program, Banner) ● Special mention/ acknowledgment at the events. ● Promotional video featuring company and logo played during tea/ coffee and lunch breaks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Banner Display at the events. ● Sponsor ribbons. ● Logo on selected promotional materials (Program, Banner) ● Special mention/ acknowledgment at the events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Banner Display at the event. ● Sponsor ribbons. ● Mention/ acknowledgment at the events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Logo on our sponsor & Partner banner

For more information about this proposal, kindly contact, dmurenzi@eachq.org, engagements@isoc.ug cc' info@isoc.ug.

