
10th Uganda Internet Governance Forum
UIGF
Theme: Internet as a Tool for Peace and Development in Uganda
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Internet Society
Uganda Chapter
SOMBHA
Solutions Store
REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
Ministry of ICT & National Guidance
IGFSA
Internet Governance Forum Support Association
CIPESA

Introduction

The 10th Uganda Internet Governance Forum (UIGF) took place on August 26, 2016 at the Golf Course Hotel, Kampala Uganda. Hosted by the Internet Society Uganda Chapter (ISOC Uganda) under the theme "***Internet as a tool for Peace and Development in Uganda*",** this year's forum aimed at sparking discussion on how to strike a balance between upholding Internet as a tool for peace and development.

Internet access in Uganda continues to grow with an estimated 14.6 million users in the first quarter of 2016 compared to 13.8 million according to the Communications Regulator. This growth can be attributed to increasing investments in the Information Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure and fostering an enabling legal and regulatory framework.

The Internet and its related platforms can foster peace and development by enhancing citizen participation in governance and development related matters, create opportunities for doing business, among others. Despite these opportunities, the Internet is also being used to propagate crimes such as fraud, hate speech, violence against women and children and terroristic tendencies. These setbacks have led to governments to fight back by imposing tough measures such as blanket shutdown of the internet or by adopting repressive legislation.

Since its inauguration in 2006, the UIGF has continued to discuss and address Internet governance and Policy issues pertinent to the country. To date, 9 forums have been held with each addressing different thematic areas. This year, the forum draw 136 participants representing different stakeholder groups - to include, government, civil society, private sector, technical community, academia and general internet users.

Opening session: This session started with welcome remarks from Ms. Lillian Nalwoga - President of the Internet Society Uganda. She gave a brief background to the IGF and the UIGF. She also noted that the forum continues to provide a platform for ICT stakeholders to deliberate on key internet issues affecting the country. She further thanked the support of stakeholders while highlighting key outcomes from the forum since its inception in 2006. Some of those highlighted included - feeding into national ICT policy making process leading to the adoption of legal and regulatory instruments such as the .ug CCTLD policy, 2011 cyber laws, IPv6 Migration strategy and the draft Data Protection and Privacy Bill, 2016. She called for more support towards making the forum more sustainable by seeking government's full support and that of other stakeholders such as the private sector.

With this, a brief recap of 2015 UIGF was given by Ms. Sarah Kiden - Secretary General ISOC Uganda.

The forum was officially opened by the Minister of ICT and National Guidance - Hon. Frank Tumwebaze, who commended the Internet Society Uganda Chapter in taking lead in creating platforms that allow dialogue such as the Uganda IGF.

"We can not make internet cost cheaper without regulating infrastructure investment," Hon. Frank Tumwebaze.

The minister highlighted some of the major initiatives government is undertaking to improve internet connectivity and usage in Uganda.

Some of these include

- Enactment of 3 cyber laws in 2011 - the Computer Misuse Act, E-Signatures Act and E-Transaction Act.
- Establishment of the e-Government strategy
- Efforts to provide free internet in Kampala and surrounding areas
- Draft Data Protection and Privacy Bill, 2016.

He also noted that the government is committed to supporting ICT innovations in Uganda, calling participants to continue feeding into Internet policy discussions in the country.

Internet, Innovation and Big Data in Uganda.

This session explored opportunities and challenges presented by the use of big data in driving innovation. It also discussed relevant legal and regulatory frameworks presently governing innovation and big data use in Uganda. Some frameworks identified was the Access to information, 2005, the National ICT Policy, 2013 among others.

Mr. James Makumbi: Chair ICT Association Uganda, clarified that we do have big data even though open data is yet to be realized and called upon innovators take lead in driving the big data revolution in Uganda.

However, finding local content and reusable data is still a challenge ad note by Albert Muchunguzi and ICTAU member. A possible solution to addressing this challenge would be sourcing data from the cloud. He raised concern over the lack of coordination in maximising the potential of new innovations. As such, many innovations go unknown. However, innovation hubs such as Hive Colab and OutBox Uganda are providing space to technological enthunsiats develop their

In regard to role of enhancing women's role in technology, Birungi Barbara: Director at Hive Colab and Women in Technology Uganda (WITU), highlighted barriers such as high start up costs and lack of funds to market their innovations to potential funders.

From the government side, Mr. Mugabi Emmanuel a representative from the National Information Technology Authority Uganda (NITA -U) noted that although government is the biggest provider of big data and most of it is not in digital format, thus making it inaccessible to majority of Ugandans. However, the 2005 Access to Information Act enables citizens request for . But this is only the first step to spur different sectors so as to open data classified as suitable for public consumption.

Internet, Censorship and Privacy

This session focused on a recap of Internet freedom violation incidents and also feed participants' feedback into the draft Data Protection and Privacy Bill, 2016 that was tabled in Parliament in early 2016. The bill was first presented to the community in 2014 and seeks to protect the privacy of the individual and of personal data by collecting and regulating the collection and processing of personal information; to provide for the rights of the persons whose data is collected and the obligations of data collectors, data processors and data controllers; to regulate the use or disclosure of personal information; and for related matters.

Another bill discussed is the UCC Amendment Bill, 2015 under which Article 93 (1) calls for the removal of parliamentary oversight in making regulations made by the Minister under the UCC Act 2013. The current Act gives the Minister powers to make regulations relating to among others: fees payable upon the grant or renewal of a license; the classification or categories of licenses; the use of any communications station, apparatus or license; and anti-competitive practices. Additionally, the Minister has powers to make regulations on the retention of records relating to programmes or broadcasts; the obligations of proprietors, producers or broadcaster in respect of public broadcasts; and the regulation of community broadcasting.

However, Ms. Nalwoga raised concern over this proposal, arguing that the removal of parliamentary oversight would give the minister excessive power over the communications industry. She also cited the 2016 election period social media and mobile money shutdown as an example of repercussions that could arise from such powers.

Ms. Ashnah Kalemera - Programmes officer at CIPESA defined Internet rights as those rights such as freedom of expression, association, privacy and access to information that the internet enables. She noted that social media shutdown during the 2016 election period led to a culture of mistrust among internet users further cultivating online self-censorship self-censorship by users for fear of repercussions for being deemed anti-government. She called for the respect of human rights both online and offline arguing that internet regulations should only be used to leverage Internet for social development rather than curtail citizen voices online. She further called for a multi-stakeholder approach in advancing internet rights in Uganda.

Mr. Ojok Donas - Programme Manager at KONRAD-ADENAUER-STIFTUNG (KAS) Uganda called for the need to uphold the internet as a democratising tool. He thus called for more awareness creation in use of the Internet and its related platforms as democratic spaces. He further called making internet more accessible and affordable for everyone to benefit from it.

In regard to online and offline rights, Ms. Rosebell Kagumire - Chief Executive, Kweeta Consulting and a blogger **e**mphasized the intersection between Internets and other rights as well as freedom both on and off the Internet. She urged internet users and ISPs to take more proactive action in fighting back on government shutdowns. Drawing questions like:- After the shutdown what kind of offline practical steps have we taken? Whose security are we talking about when the

Internet is shut down? Lastly, Rosebell called for the need to build the capacity of the media in interpreting existing Internet policy laws and how these promote or infringe their practice.

Internet Governance around the Globe

This session explored current Internet Governance trends and developments around the globe and presented opportunity for participation from the Uganda community. Topics varied from net neutrality; IPv6 deployment, IANA transition among others.

The session was kickstarted by Mr. Bob Ochieng - Manager, Stakeholder Engagement - Africa at ICANN, who gave a brief introduction on ICANN. He presented the ICANN Africa strategy that was developed in 2013. The strategy involves transforming the DNS & Internet Industry in Africa by facilitating capacity development while cultivating an environment for the emergence of an Africa grown domain name industry and business; and promoting awareness and meaningful participation in ICANN and the wider IG ecosystem by Africa in partnership with other International and Africa organizations.

The Africa engagement ICANN office was opened in Nairobi, Kenya in May 2016 and among others serves as focal point for the whole of Africa while supporting institutional engagement with Africa and International organisations, governments and IGO organizations in the continent.
He also shared current Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA)[1] transition progress, sharing that the ICANN Board had submitted community proposals on March 10, 2016 to NTIA two years after the announcement of the transition[2].

Updates were also heard from Mr. Douglas Onyango - an Adviser to the ISOC-Uganda Chapter and a private sector representative at the global IGF Multi Advisory Group (MAG)[3]. He shared that the IGF mandate had been renewed for another 10 years following its expiration in 2015[4]. He shared that the preparations of the 2016 IGF taking place in Mexico 6-9th December 2016 began in January 2016 with the appointment of new MAG members. The IGF-MAG's role is to provide advice to the UN-Secretary general on IGF matters. Key initiatives from the 2016 MAG include establishment of Best Practices Forums (BPF) on Internet Exchange Points (IXPs); IPv6; Gender and Access and Anti-Corruption[5]. He also shared a current call for community input into the IGF 2016 Community Intersessional Programme - Policy Options for Connecting and Enabling the Next Billion - Phase II[6].

[1] About IANA - https://www.iana.org/about
[2] Read more about IANA Transisiton - https://www.icann.org/stewardship
[3] Read more about the IGF MAG, http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/magabout
[4]Read more about the IGF Mandate - https://www.intgovforum.org/cmsold/2013/2013%20Press%20Releases%20and%20Articles/Internet%20Governance%20Forum%20Mandate%20-%20Background%20Note%20-%20IGF%202013.pdf
[5] Read more about about BPFs here, http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/best-practice-forums
[6] Read more here - http://www.intgovforum.org/cms/policy-options-for-connection-the-next-billion/cenb-ii

Mr. Ochieng also shared a current study on business feasibility of growing the DNS industry in Africa. The study seeks to - identify and define the strengths and weaknesses of the DNS industry ecosystem in Africa; Develop recommendations on how to advance the industry and bring it closer to the opportunities available; Identify factors holding back the take-up of Domain Names; Investigate the understanding of Premium Domain Names and Provide guidance on how to set up a DNS observatory in Africa. Findings from this study will provide a platform to develop an observatory to develop new indices for DNS industry growth in Africa. He called on participants to take in the study (https://dnsafrica.study).

Lastly, updates were heard from Mr. Ernest Byaruhanga - Policy Liaison Manager at AFRINIC who gave a brief background about IPv4 evolution while calling for more adoption of IPv6.

Recommendations and conclusion: These recommendations will feed into discussions for the 2017 national IGF and will also be presented at the Africa IGF taking place in October in South Africa and the global IGF taking place 6-9 December, 2017 in Mexico.
The following recommendations below were derived from participants' discussions -

- Internet access and innovation: On improving access, participants called for more budget allocations to the ICT sector as this would boost investment in innovations and connecting the last mile.
- Call for infrastructure sharing among telecoms and ISPs
- Call for government involvement in ICANN discussions including a call for Uganda to host an ICANN public meeting
- Respect for internet freedom and government refraining from blacket internet shutdown
- Call for involvement of other stakeholder groups such as children, women, PWDs private sector in the Uganda internet governance dialogue
- Call for more awareness about strategies and ICT regulations in place that infringe internet
- Call for adoption of more more women participation in IG issues for them to fully benefit from the global Internet
- Create awareness on how of gender related issues are addressed by the national ICT policy