

Report of The Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum 2021 (Virtual)

THEME:

**“Internet for all; rights, responsibilities, and
opportunities for the Nigerian youth”**

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OVERVIEW

The 2021 virtual edition of the Nigerian Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) is convened by the Nigerian youth Internet stakeholders as part of the 2021 Nigerian Internet Governance Forum in line with the principles of the United Nations Secretariat of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF).

OBJECTIVES

1. To provide a platform for Nigerian youth to assess the state of Internet technology in Nigeria and communicate challenges and opportunities to the appropriate stakeholders.
2. To enable Nigerian youth to learn about the principles of Internet governance and how they can contribute to developing infrastructure, policy, and standards for telecommunications in Nigeria.
3. To encourage the integration and inclusion of Nigerian youth in national Internet-related public policy meetings and events.

WHY NYIGF?

The theme for the 2021 NYIGF event “Internet for all; rights, responsibilities, and opportunities for the youth” addresses the need to encourage the integration and inclusion of Nigerian youths in national Internet-related public policy meetings and events and also to maximize Internet opportunities and address risks and challenges that arise. It also addresses the need to learn about the principles of Internet governance and contribute to developing infrastructure, policy, and standards in Nigeria.

WHAT DOES VIRTUAL NYIGF EVENT OFFER?

Due to global disrupts caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, we met online to offer the following;

- ENGAGE with pathways to influence policy making and contribute to priority setting in the public and private sectors.
- CONNECT with youth from across Nigeria working to map solutions to complex ICT and digital economy problems and find partners to help put them into action.
- LEARN through workshops and skill-building seminars with the industry youth experts and take advantage of recorded content to learn at your own pace.

ORGANIZING TEAM

Composition refers as following: Full names with affiliations and stakeholder groups of the committee members of the 2021 Nigeria Youth IGF:

Name	Organization	Stakeholder Group
Ekemini A William	VKs Ng	Private Sector
Morisola Alaba	Kathekon	Civil Society
Uffa Modey	Digital Grassroots	Civil Society
Ajani, Oluwaseun Sanjo	Digital Grassroots	Internet end user
Loveday Onyeonula	ISOC	Technical Community
Ayomide Akinbode	Stable Shield Solutions Limited	Private Sector
Moriam Sulaimon	#DearGovernments Organization (DearGovs)	Civil Society
Precious Adigwe	Soteria Aid and Development	Civil Society
Praise Sunday	ProgitNG	Technical Community
Ayomide Sulieman	Stable Shield Solutions Limited	Private Sector
Igonor Oshoke Samson	Nigeria Internet Governance Forum/ISOC	Civil Society
Bolutife Adisa	ISOC Youth SIG	Civil Society
Gabreal Odunsi	Paradigm Initiative	Civil Society
Aniekan Edet	Nigeria Internet Governance Forum/ISOC	Technical Community
Chibugo Illoh	Nigeria Internet Governance Forum	Civil Society

AGENDA

The Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum programme agenda can be found here; [Final Programme Agenda for NYIGF 2021.docx - Google Docs](#)

MEETING OUTCOMES

SUMMARY OF OPENING CEREMONY

This session started with a welcome address from Boluwatife Adisa, representative of the NIGF MAG chair, who expressively gave a brief overview and expectations of the gathering and further encouraged all participants to keep up with the conversation, even the meeting.

Lastly, we had a keynote address from Mr. Sunday Dare, the minister of youths and sports who was humbly represented by Mrs. Oluwakemi Ann-Melody Areola, SA ICT.

In the words of the Minister, he expressed great pleasure in speaking to matters concerning the most important resources of the 21st century. She stated that National and social development, improved quality of life and reduction of unemployment rates can all be rapidly addressed by leveraging on the Internet possibilities. Noting that it is also pertinent that the all-important Internet is not void of negativity. She underlined the recent progressive growth of Internet penetration to 51.44% in 2021, with a projected plan of 57.4% by 2024. Highlighting the recent increase in Internet fraud, cyberbullying and Internet addiction which calls for great concern and must be addressed, not only by government regulations but by first interception within the Nigerian youths as to how we can employ our online talents towards a collective goal for the nation. Drawing attention that time spent online should be qualified and evaluated by positive achievements to self and community development. Conclusively, she commended the Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum for their works in the space and further appealed to all stakeholders to join forces with them to ensure for better derivation of benefits from the Internet for all Nigerian youths.

SUMMARY OF HIGH-LEVEL PANEL DISCUSSION

Moderator: Uffa Modey

Speakers: Igulu Kingsley Theophilus, Lecturer, Ken Saro Wiwa Polytechnic
Oladele Dada, Co-Founder of Kreateng.

This session focused on the theme of the forum - “Internet for all: rights, responsibilities, and opportunities for the youth” under two categories of questions

1. How to ensure a nationwide Internet access for socio-economic development
2. How does Internet inequality affect the Nigeria Internet future

Key Considerations and Recommendations:

The Internet is a global network of computer networks that connects people all over the world. It's a world and planet itself, which is made up of artifacts that serve as representation of humans. People who are globally connected online are today considered to be more than even a society, which could be referred to as a robotic society.

The internet has several impacts on society; in the electronic media, social media, electronic mail, businesses, career, entertainment and without the Internet we couldn't have been meeting here today.

According to internetworldstats.com, Nigeria contributes about 26 – 27% of the Africa penetration statistics of 40%, which means Nigeria has the highest market shares in the digital economy.

Equality of rights over the Internet is not a government alone affair, it calls for the responsibilities of the Internet users. These rights according to the United Nations position demands for universality and equality rights, which means all humans are born free and equal, in dignity and rights, which must be respected and fulfilled in the online environment. That means everyone has an equal right to access, to use a secured open Internet. The network equality rights states that everyone shall have universal and open access to the Internet content, free from discriminatory prioritization, filtering or traffic control for commercial, political or other-grounds.

These rights enable the citizens of Nigeria access to the internet but also should not invalidate the constitution of the nation.

Our responsibilities demand that we verify any information we share and should always refrain from fake news and misinformation.

These responsibilities are also of the government to set up effective policy frameworks that regulate responsible access and use of the Internet towards rapid growth of penetration to about 70% by 2024. The Internet remains as a platform for all, so the Nigerian government should do more to make the Internet available for all.

In the discussion of inequality in the digital world today, the discrimination on gender should be discouraged by government and private sector, stating that women also perform some jobs better than most males. The internet is for all and not for one gender or another, the Internet of today should be void of gender biasness.

SUMMARY OF BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Session 1: The role of the internet in empowering the Nigerian Youth - challenges and opportunities.

Moderator: Precious Adigwe

Speakers: Hanson Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, Start Innovation Hub

Iniobong Udoh, Founder, Tech Skills Hack

Dunsin Fatuase, Country Director (West & East Africa), Coven Works

Rapporteur: Oluwaseun Ajani

Session Summary

The moderator provided a background and acknowledged that COVID-19 pandemic has exposed people to the opportunities and challenges of the Internet. The internet has evolved to an ecosystem where people interact, do business together and a tool for self expression. Making the internet available for all is important in bringing the opportunities it has to offer to people. Nigerian youths are being empowered by the Internet in terms of education, career, business, social issues, among others. However, there are challenges that make the internet for all to be an herculean task. Hence, the need to identify these challenges and proffer solutions to them while Nigerian youths harness the opportunities that the internet has to offer them.

Key Issues

- The Internet has a lot of profit to offer to the developing nations.
- Nigerian youths need to focus on innovation vis-a-vis emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, Internet of Things etc.
- Nigerian youths need to join community groups, professional networks, technological hubs to take advantage of several opportunities that abound on the Internet .

Internet for all; Challenges

- Overregulation and under-regulation of the Internet causes setbacks to opportunities.
- Lack of Internet access has prevented people from the underserved communities from accessing opportunities on the Internet .
- Inadequate service infrastructure hinders people from accessing opportunities on the Internet
- Data cost is not affordable for most youths, hence they are denied opportunities.
- There are concerns around cyber security for young people online.

Internet for all; Opportunities

- The Internet is an enabler of opportunities for youths that have requisite skills to solve people's problems.

- The Internet being a repository of knowledge is useful in education for all.
- The Internet is a powerful channel for communication for people to access over 4 billion people in the world who use the Internet .
- 80 percent of those that apply for opportunities online get them.

Recommendations

- Government should make policies that promote inclusion, for all to access opportunities on the Internet .
- Stakeholders should work towards making data to be affordable for all.
- Government should provide service infrastructures in order to facilitate Internet access for the underserved communities.
- Youths should consult statistics to recognize high paying skill sets to learn for them to do online business.
- Youths should position themselves online and engage meaningfully on social media such as LinkedIn in order to attract opportunities.
- Nigerian youths should leverage on social media marketing and actively engage in professional communities

Session 2: The Impact of enhancing Internet Rights and Inclusion

Moderator: Moriam Sulaimon

Speakers: Folashade Braimoh, Programme Manager, Women's Technology Empowerment Centre
Lily Edinam Botsyoe, Coordinator, Ghana Youth IGF
Isaac Oloruntimilehin, Community Leader for Internet Advocacy, Digital Grassroots

Rapporteur: Loveday Onyeanula

Session Summary

Access to the Internet is an essential basic human right as declared by the UN General Assembly, which leaves no one behind. Despite the growth of broadband access to 51% , over hundred million Nigerians still have no access to the Internet. This exclusion is the dominant feature of the rural settlement posed with high levels of poverty and digital illiteracy. Language is still a major issue of the Internet platforms, which has left people of local languages excluded. One of the key points of exclusion aside from having a device is digital literacy. We looked at inclusion from holistics of meaningful connectivity, protection and security of our privacy and ability to use the digital tools for common good.

In this session, we identified how critical it is that everyone is carried along and connected to the Internet space for national economic advancement and thereby call for synergy between the government, policy makers, youths and other relevant stakeholders in building the Internet we want.

Key Considerations

- Internet rights in Nigeria is a bit complicated right now, especially as regards to data privacy and freedom of expression.
- According to the definition of Freedom House on Internet rights, Internet rights in Nigeria could be described as on progression. We are still not yet there; we still have issues on violations and restrictions of our rights while using the Internet. Like the twitter ban which delimited our freedom of expression.
- Government has to do more to take us there. The youths need to consistently engage with the government to ensure that our rights are protected. The good way we can achieve this is by showing the economic impacts of our digital rights to national development.
- Internet rights brings about a fine blend of the legal, awareness part and the technology we are building on
- Ensuring that peoples' rights are protected online, there must be proper enforcement of these rights. Users should be able to report any form of infringement acts.
- To ensure that enforcers are actually doing what they're to do; as an advocate, raise awareness. And as a user, we should be aware of what to do when our rights are infringed.
- People should be cybersecurity aware and be sensitive/careful with their personal data while using the Internet platforms.
- Legal parts of our Internet rights can only fight to a certain extent. So, we shouldn't leave ourselves vulnerable to online abuse.
- The growth of the Internet can actually be measured by how we make use of the Internet.
- Advocacy is important towards ensuring that we have responsible use of the Internet

Recommendations

- We have access to the Internet and we have opportunity to use the Internet, whatever we do with the Internet should be for good
- We should use the Internet to explore our careers as students and as professionals for research and advancement
- We should use the social media platforms to add positive values to our careers
- We should do our parts by encouraging Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Public Public-private partnership (PPPs) to reach out to communities or individuals who has no access
- Internet rights and inclusion starts with you and I, now and the future, as well as the government and policy makers.

Session 3: Data (Governance, privacy, data localisation, big data)

Moderator: Victor Idonor

Speakers: Ridwan Oloyede, Co-Founder, Tech Hive Advisory
Simbiat Sadiq, Project Manager, Digital Security Co-creation Hub.
Joshua Josh, Access and content Limited

Rapporteur: Ayomide Akinbode

Session Summary

Data is information; whatever you take in from anyone as an information is data. In defining Data Governance, it was explained that it is the process of managing the availability, feasibility and integrity of data, the control measures in place in terms of policies and regulation of the internet. Then, by the definition of Data localisation as the ideology of having data within a confined system of which it's acquired and for its necessity, explored discussions on the following key concepts;

- Data autonomy
- Regulatory approaches
- Safety and privacy concerns

Key Considerations

- Where data is stored territorially has no effect on its security. Therefore, data localisation shouldn't be of great concern, rather data globalisation
- Data governance covers all aspects around data, how it is acquired and how it is used
- Data privacy basically revolves around the safety and security of data
- Despite the need for data globalisation, data is at great risk when it crosses borders without proper regulatory or control measures.
- Exploring cloud services beyond territorial management and control makes data vulnerable to certain risks.

Recommendations

- Adoption of internet exchange approach in hosting data at certain places without an overhead cost
- Financial regulatory institutions should in synergy with relevant stakeholders protect users' data even beyond territorial borders
- In achieving data governance, establishment and adoptions of regulatory models should be universally accepted
- The government should own and manage data within its territorial space, through transparent regulatory models that assures security and safety

Wrap up Session/Way Forward

The wrap up session was moderated by Ekemini Williams, which addressed the underlisted questions from the participants and responses from speakers:

QnA / Open Discussions

1. What is the state of enforcement of NDPR and its awareness among stakeholders?

Nigeria data protection regulation is in the office of NITDA as an agency. Basically there are kinds of things that have to be done to curtail or maintain what happens there. For organizations, especially the private sectors, there are consequences like if you don't have a compliant document from NITDA you can run certain IT security related projects in any government parastatal, which is also applicable to Multinational operations here. The process of getting the complaints documents required engagement with a data complaints organisation to perform a data protection audit. Which report is filed to NITDA for further evaluation and verification, with a compliance certificate issued to the organisation. Basically NDPR has actually been enforced and mostly applicable to organisations seeking to carry out any IT related projects of the Nigerian government. - **Victor P. Idonor**

2. In as much as data protection is key, how can the government in Africa protect data without necessarily holding needed information by the citizenry?

In an attempt to answer this question, we should put locality in this context, this is because there's a global niche on data protection championed by the West. There should be a local context to this; which obviously only exists within the African scope, but coming to Nigeria, we don't have that strength. Because there's a dichotomy between the government that should enforce and the parastaters that are actually pushing for this; where the power lies, the will does not lie, and where the will lies there's no power. the best approach to address this is that, there has to be an alignment between all the propositions we've made around data privacy, rules and regulations of private data through legislation - **Dunsin Fatuase**

3. Is monetization of the internet a means to control or regulate it ?

Monetization of the internet is general and the intent may vary. But for now it's not clear that monetization of the internet is a means to control the Internet. Because right now, people and organizations will do all that they need to do to profit from this movement.

Lastly anything that has to do with enforcement there has to be a law behind it, you don't address anything into law until it has passed all the steps that needs to have passed. This is because the Internet has come to stay and it is becoming the basic ingredient of our human rights, that it's supposed to be part of our constitution or laws of the country. But in other places, there could be a taskforce that handles implementation of these laws in submission to all transparency. - **Dunsin Fatuase**

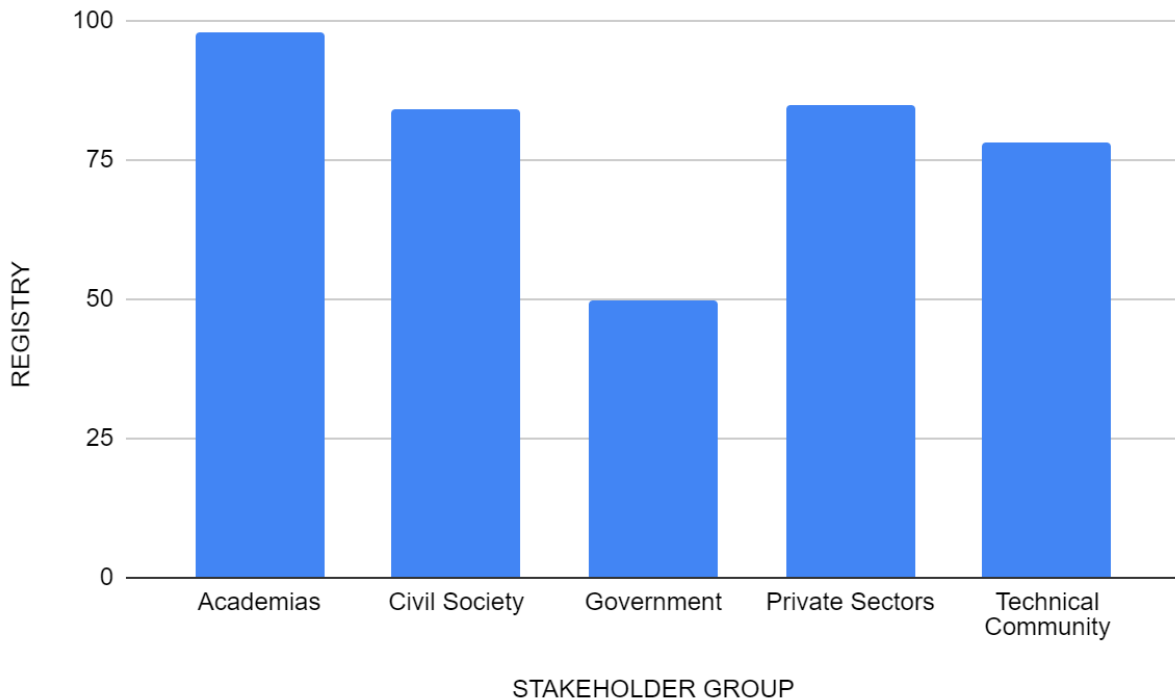
Closing Remarks

The closing remark was delivered by Ekemini Williams (Coordinator, NYIGF 2021), he expressed gratitude over all guest speakers who made it to their various sessions and appreciated all the stakeholders who contributed to the success of the event. He also encouraged participants to keep the conversation going, by participating and lending their voices to internet governance issues both at national, regional and global levels.

REPORT ON THE MEETING RECORDS

Participants

In total, we had 395 registrants and over 120 attendees from and across Nigeria in this year's event. See the chart below for more details regarding the registration per stakeholder group:



CONTACT DETAILS/COMMUNICATION CHANNELS

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