



Nigeria Youth Internet
Governance Forum

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NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL SPHERE:

Rights, Risk and Resilience

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Hybrid

REPORT

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ABOUT US

The NYIGF is a youth led initiative to facilitate a platform for increasing awareness of Internet governance issues amongst young people in Nigeria, and to bring them into the relevant discussion on a national, regional and global level. In line with the core IGF principles, it is open and inclusive of all Nigerian young people from all Internet stakeholder groups



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2024 Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF), themed "Navigating the Digital Sphere: Rights, Risks, and Resilience," convened young Nigerian leaders to address the challenges and opportunities in Nigeria's digital landscape. The forum provided a platform for these leaders to engage in critical discussions on internet governance, safety, and the sustainable adoption of technology, focusing on balancing digital rights, mitigating risks, and building resilience in the digital ecosystem.

The forum explored the multifaceted nature of the digital sphere and the factors impacting it. Through interactive sessions, workshops, and policy dialogues, participants identified strategies for enhancing youth involvement in internet governance and advancing an inclusive, secure digital environment. These discussions culminated in actionable recommendations aimed at empowering Nigerian youth to bridge digital divides and foster a resilient digital ecosystem that protects their rights and promotes their development.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of the 2024 Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF), detailing the key themes, discussions, and outcomes that emerged from the event. It highlights the strategies and recommendations developed by participants to address challenges within Nigeria's digital landscape, with a particular focus on rights, risks, and resilience in the digital sphere.



INTRODUCTION

The 2024 Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) was a hybrid event, combining in-person and virtual formats to maximize accessibility and engagement. The physical gathering took place in Port Harcourt, while the virtual component was hosted via Zoom, enabling nationwide participation.

The event's theme, "Navigating the Digital Sphere: Rights, Risks, and Resilience," positioned Nigerian youth at the center of critical discussions on digital rights, internet safety, and technology adoption, reflecting the nation's commitment to an inclusive and secure digital future.

The Forum featured a structured program, divided into distinct sessions that catered to different levels of engagement and expertise. It opened with a high-level panel discussion where policymakers, thought leaders, and digital rights advocates explored the theme's core issues. This was followed by an in-depth plenary session designed to foster open dialogue and collaborative problem-solving among participants.

Additionally, the Forum dedicated a specialized session to secondary school students, offering them a unique platform to learn, share their perspectives, and engage with internet governance topics in an accessible manner. A keynote address further highlighted the importance of youth-led initiatives in shaping Nigeria's digital landscape.

Participants actively engaged in dynamic discussions and expert-led sessions focused on strengthening resilience within Nigeria's digital ecosystem.

These conversations provided an in-depth exploration of challenges and opportunities related to digital security, equitable access, and sustainable technology use.

By delving into pressing issues such as cybersecurity threats, misinformation, and the digital divide, participants were able to collaboratively identify strategies to create a more inclusive, secure, and adaptable digital environment. The expertise shared by industry leaders and digital rights advocates enriched the dialogue, empowering attendees with the insights and tools needed to drive meaningful change in Nigeria's evolving digital landscape.

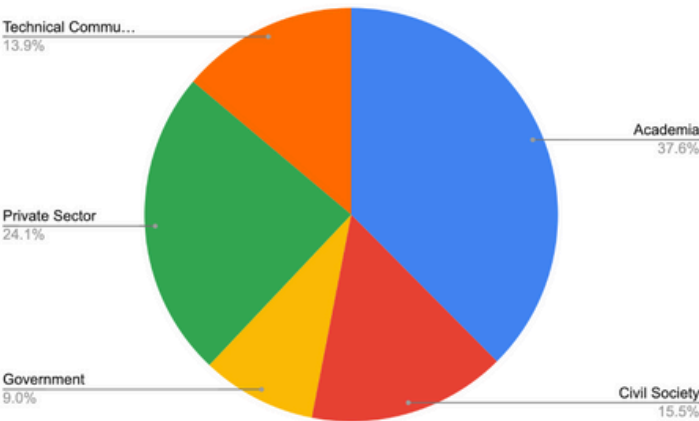
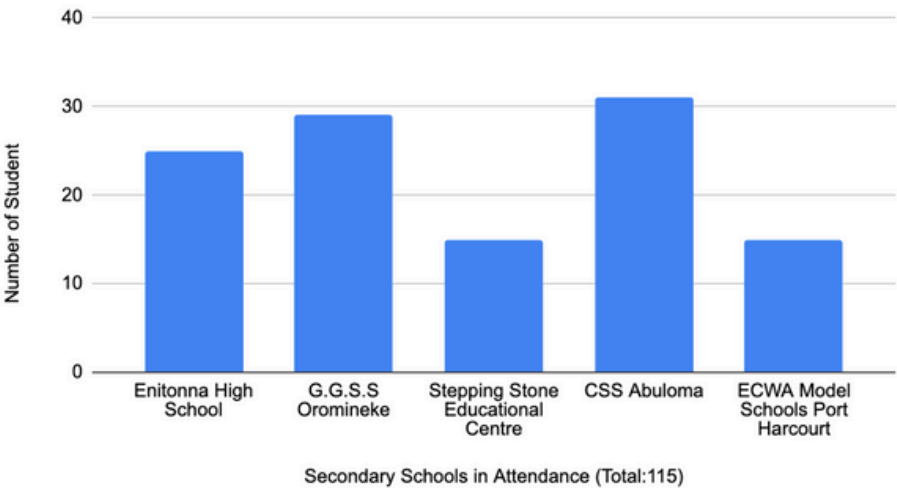
The Forum successfully gathered a diverse array of stakeholders, including representatives from government agencies, academic institutions, industry professionals, and emerging internet governance enthusiasts. This broad participation underscored the multi-stakeholder approach necessary for effective digital policy development. By bringing together these varied perspectives, the 2024 NYIGF fostered a collaborative environment where Nigerian youth were empowered to drive conversations and contribute actively to the future of internet governance in Nigeria.

PARTICIPATION

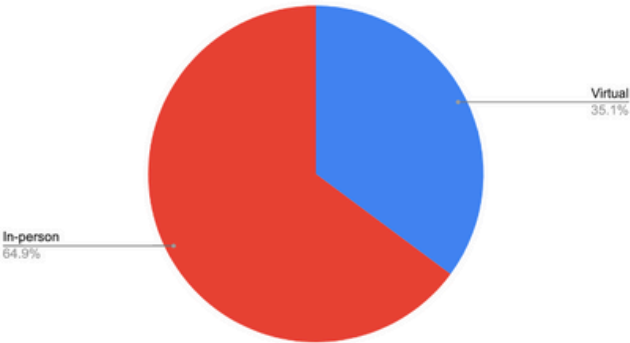
In total, we had 350 registrants and over 200 (in-person and Virtual) attendees from and across Nigeria in this year's event. See the chart below for more details regarding the registration per stakeholder group:

Note: This year, we had a unique group of participants—teenagers from secondary schools. They have been included as part of the "Academia" category in the chart.

Number of Student vs. Name of school



Participants



KEYNOTE SPEECH: NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL SPHERE: RIGHTS, RISKS, AND RESILIENCE

KEYNOTE SPEAKER (VIRTUAL): UFFA MODEY

The keynote address was delivered by Taiwo Sobowale, Business Operations Manager, on behalf of Uffa Modey, Global Lead at Digital Grassroots. The speech centered on the theme “Navigating the Digital Sphere: Rights, Risks, and Resilience,” addressing the role of Nigerian youth in shaping a safe, inclusive, and innovative digital future. Taiwo’s address highlighted the potential of digital transformation while acknowledging the challenges that come with it, particularly for marginalized communities.

Taiwo Sobowale underscored that over 60% of Nigeria’s population is under 30, placing youth in a strategic position as both consumers and creators in the digital space. While the digital age offers boundless opportunities, it also brings risks that Nigerian youth must navigate. She emphasized that youth must take the lead in leveraging the digital revolution to create a future that is both innovative and inclusive.

Quoting, “The future is already here, it’s just not evenly distributed,” Taiwo pointed out that despite Nigeria’s large youth population, access to digital tools and resources remains unequal.

She highlighted the work of Digital Grassroots in addressing these disparities, particularly through programs targeting underrepresented groups such as young women and girls.

Taiwo stressed the importance of digital literacy as a lifelong necessity rather than a luxury. She emphasized that youth must be equipped with the skills to navigate the digital world responsibly. She also mentioned how Digital Grassroots’s digital literacy initiatives, which have impacted over 330 individuals across 67 countries, empower young people to take control of their digital futures.

As technology continues to shape societies, ethical considerations must be at the forefront of digital development. Taiwo mentioned pressing issues such as algorithmic bias, data privacy, and cybersecurity, stressing the need for frameworks prioritizing inclusivity, fairness, and respect for users’ rights. She highlighted Digital Grassroots’ advocacy for ethical digital policies that align with the values of social justice and equality.

The potential for using digital technology to drive social good was a key focus.

Taiwo encouraged participants to explore how digital tools can be harnessed to bridge societal divides, improve public services, and empower communities. She highlighted Digital Grassroots' mission of linking high-level entities with grassroots voices to ensure that digital innovations benefit all members of society, not just the privileged few.

Key Outcomes

- Youth positioned as key players in shaping an innovative and inclusive digital future.
- Unequal access to digital tools and resources highlighted, especially for marginalized groups.
- Digital literacy is emphasized as a lifelong necessity for responsible digital engagement.
- Ethical concerns like algorithmic bias, data privacy, and inclusivity raised for digital development.
- Digital technology urged as a tool to bridge societal divides and empower communities.
- Advocacy for inclusive digital policies that align with social justice and equality principles.



L - R: CHARLES ATAT, ADAMMA ISAMADE, SAHEED ADEDOKUN, MAJIUZU DANIEL MOSES

HIGH-LEVEL PANEL SESSION

NAVIGATING THE DIGITAL SPHERE: RIGHTS, RISKS, AND RESILIENCE

The session began with the definition of key concepts including personal data, data subjects and the roles of relevant government agencies such as the Nigerian Data Protection Commission in regulating data protection and privacy in Nigeria. The Nigerian Data Protection was explained to be the foremost legislation regulating the activities surrounding personal data in Nigeria (Adamma Isamade). Saheed Adedokun advised that a person could be made vulnerable where traces of their digital footprint are left on digital spaces, allowing bad actors to make use of this information maliciously. He went further to state that you must guide around your digital activities and ensure that your personal data is not unintentionally collected from you.

Daniel Moses informed the audience that a person has certain digital rights accorded to them when their data is given for use to a data processor/controller or company. One of such rights is the ability to opt-in or provide permission for use of your personal data (authorization), the right to recall your data when you no longer want your data to be used. Other rights that exist with the use of the internet include the right to digital inclusion, the right to be protected against cyberbullying.

They stressed that we all have personal responsibilities to understand the digital risks that lurk with the use of these technologies and provided a list of certain steps to take to protect against online harms.

Key Outcomes

- Digital literacy on the risks involved in engaging these devices e.g. cyber fraud, cyberbullying
- Be careful and consider the kind of data you want to put out. This can help you deal with the repercussions of having your data online
- In case of a data breach or privacy invasion, you can report to a branch of the Nigerian data Protection Commission (NDPC)
- Where you suspect that hackers have gained access to your private information, first take down your database. The essence of this is to prevent further manipulation of personal data
- Afterwards, you report to the nearest authority of the data breach even before you present it to the Commission. This can help prevent attackers or malicious actors from using your personal data to deceive others
- File a report to the Commission detailing all the evidence you have of the data breach as well as what you're doing to handle the situation.

PLENARY SESSION

EMPOWERING THE DIGITAL GENERATION: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES AND HARNESSING OPPORTUNITIES; ETHICS IN DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION; AND INNOVATION FOR SOCIAL GOOD AND DIGITAL PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

L - R CHIOMA EZENWAFOR, OWEN SHEDRACK, GLORIA OJUKWU, KINGSLEY OWADARA



Empowering the Digital Generation: Addressing Challenges and Harnessing Opportunities

Q: What are the challenges young people face in accessing DPI?

Many young people struggle with understanding how Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) functions. A significant barrier is the lack of awareness about its purpose and benefits, coupled with the tendency to skip reading terms and conditions. This lack of understanding can lead to misuse or missed opportunities, putting them at risk of privacy violations or other challenges when engaging with DPI.

Q: How can DPI be leveraged in an ethical way?

To leverage DPI ethically, young people should align its use with their career aspirations and long-term goals. Understanding the opportunities within DPI, such as access to digital services, financial inclusion, and public resources, allows individuals to harness its benefits responsibly. Digitalization should be seamlessly integrated into daily activities, but it's crucial to do so while respecting data privacy, promoting inclusivity, and ensuring transparency in interactions with digital platforms.

Ethics in Digital Transformation: AI | IoT | Blockchain

Nothing truly comes for free; we often pay for what we receive by unknowingly sharing our personal data. As we continue to innovate,

it's essential to focus on long-term, sustainable benefits rather than just short-term gains. When using AI and other emerging technologies, strive to do so without exposing your personal information, prioritize your privacy at every turn.

Take the time to thoroughly research new platforms and tools before engaging with them. Be cautious and deliberate about sharing your data, especially when the trustworthiness of a platform is uncertain. Building diversity in the digital space is key to mitigating bias and ensuring that technology serves everyone fairly.

When it comes to ethics, taking full responsibility for your data is crucial. Protecting your privacy is not just a personal choice; it's an ethical obligation.

Q: Is there a balance between content creation and privacy?

In the digital landscape, the loudest voices often capture the most attention, which can lead content creators to feel pressured to share personal details to engage their audience.

However, it's important to establish clear boundaries between your personal life and your professional persona. Focus on sharing content that enhances your career and aligns with your professional goals. Instead of mindlessly engaging with every post or trend, be intentional about your online interactions. Minimize your data footprint by selectively engaging with content that directly supports your personal brand and career, particularly if maintaining privacy is important to you. Finding this balance is key, strategically share what serves your goals while keeping sensitive aspects of your life private.

Innovation for Social Good and Digital Public Infrastructure

Q: What do you have to say about Innovation for Social Good and Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)?

To begin, it's essential to understand what Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) entails. DPI consists of digital systems and platforms provided by the government to facilitate social welfare initiatives and enhance public services. These infrastructures aim to improve access, efficiency, and transparency in service delivery. Key examples include:

- **National Identification Number (NIN):** This unique identifier for Nigerian citizens simplifies access to various government services, including healthcare, education, and social welfare programs.
- **Bank Verification Number (BVN):** This system links individuals to their financial accounts, enhancing security by reducing fraud and ensuring accurate identification in financial transactions.
- **Nigeria Inter-Bank Settlement System (NIBSS):** This platform facilitates seamless interbank transactions, thereby promoting financial inclusion and efficiency in the banking sector.

The impact of the internet on our daily lives cannot be overstated. These digital infrastructures have created significant opportunities for content creators, enabling them to monetize their work and contribute to the digital economy. Furthermore, by leveraging these systems, we can address many societal challenges, from improving healthcare access to enhancing financial literacy.

Q: Do we really have Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)?

Yes, we currently have these infrastructures in place, but their adoption and implementation are still evolving. For example, the NIN allows citizens to access government services more efficiently and improves identity verification processes across various sectors. The BVN plays a crucial role in enhancing security within the banking system by connecting individuals to their financial transactions, thereby reducing incidents of fraud and identity theft. Both the NIN and BVN contribute to a more efficient service delivery framework, but the challenge remains that these infrastructures are still developing and being adopted slowly across the country.

Q: How can we leverage DPI in an ethical way?

The goal of digital transformation is to address pressing human issues and enhance societal welfare. For instance, while drones can effectively deliver essential medicines to remote areas, the potential misuse of this technology raises ethical concerns, as the same drones could be repurposed for harmful activities. Therefore, it is crucial to advocate for the development of DPI that prioritizes social good and ethical considerations.

One significant challenge is that many social media platforms and government services are hosted outside Nigeria, which can pose risks to data privacy and security. To mitigate these risks, we must advocate for the establishment and support of indigenous platforms and services that meet our local needs while ensuring that user data is protected. By fostering local solutions, we can empower communities and enhance the effectiveness of our Digital Public Infrastructure.

Key Outcomes

- Lack of awareness and understanding of DPI leads to challenges for young people, including missed opportunities and privacy risks.
- Ethical use of DPI requires aligning it with your career goals, promoting inclusivity, transparency, and respecting data privacy.
- Personal data protection is a critical responsibility in the age of AI and other emerging technologies, where privacy is often compromised unintentionally.
- Lack of awareness and understanding of DPI leads to challenges for young people, including missed opportunities
- A balance between content creation and privacy is important, so focus on attaining your professional goals while minimizing data exposure.
- Digital Public Infrastructure like NIN, BVN, and NIBSS enhance access to government services, security, and financial inclusion but face slow adoption.
- Ethical digital transformation should prioritize social good, advocating for local platforms to mitigate risks from external hosting.

FIRESIDE CHAT

TEEN SESSION - "EMPOWERING TEENS: SAFETY, RIGHTS AND STRENGTH"



The session opened with the moderator engaging the children in thoughtful discussions about the advantages and disadvantages of the internet. She highlighted that while the internet can serve as a powerful tool for personal growth, it should be used mindfully to avoid negative consequences. Following this, she handed over the session to a representative from the children, who skillfully led the panel discussion.

A student representative then delivered a brief speech on the theme, “Empowering Teens: Safety, Rights, and Strength.” Below is a summary of her key points:

The internet has become a crucial source of knowledge for many teenagers, often serving as their primary go-to hub for information. With the rise of artificial intelligence (AI), accessing information has become even easier, helping young people navigate today’s digital landscape. However, digital literacy – the skills and knowledge needed to use online tools like gadgets and search engines effectively – is essential. While digitalisation offers numerous benefits, it can also pose significant risks, particularly when misused, such as in cases where explicit photos or videos are shared maliciously without consent.

Digital technologies, including AI, social media, online learning platforms, and coding tools, are shaping a new generation of youth. However, adopting an irresponsible digital lifestyle can hinder their overall development. Examples of such behaviours include:

- Excessive screen time
- Engaging in cyberbullying
- Falling victim to online fraud.

Excessive internet use can severely impact teenagers’ mental health, leading to poor academic performance and reduced social skills. As responsible digital citizens, teenagers must recognise their duty to respect the privacy and rights of others online. It was recommended that governments and technology companies create opportunities for young people to learn safe and responsible internet practices.

To navigate the digital space safely, teenagers need to be equipped with essential tools and knowledge. Cyberbullying, for example, can lead to low self-esteem, depression, and even suicidal thoughts. Therefore, students should be encouraged to confide in a trusted adult if they face such challenges. The constant presence of the internet can also intrude on a teenager’s personal space, potentially leading to self-sabotage and intentional isolation.

Preventing cyberbullying can be achieved through:

- Comprehensive digital education
- Avoiding irresponsible use of digital platforms
- Sharing content responsibly and not engaging with online bullies
- Reporting incidents of cyberbullying to a trusted adult.

The session also touched on the rise of internet fraud in Nigeria, where scams often target teenagers. Common tactics used by fraudsters include phishing, identity theft, and fake online shopping deals, like offering phones at suspiciously low prices.

Key strategies to protect teenagers from online fraud include:

- Educating them on how to recognise malicious links and encouraging them to verify before responding.
- Training them on the importance of secure passwords and multi-factor authentication, and how to implement these security measures.

Maintaining a healthy balance between digital exposure and offline activities is crucial for teenagers' holistic development. Suggested strategies include:

- Setting time limits on screen time and gaming
- Prioritizing educational online resources
- Implementing tech-free study periods
- Creating tech-free family time.

In conclusion, empowering teenagers through digital literacy is vital for helping them understand their responsibilities in the digital world.

Key Policy Questions

Q: How can parents help teenagers use the internet safely?

Parents should actively monitor their children's online activities and regulate their use of digital devices through applications or by setting strict time limits.

Q: What role can teachers play in promoting responsible internet use among teenagers?

Teachers can foster responsible internet habits by stressing the value of integrity. They should consistently highlight the benefits and drawbacks of the internet and equip students with essential digital literacy skills.

Q: How can teenagers balance their academic pursuits with their online activities?

Teenagers should prioritise their activities by creating and adhering to a structured schedule. Additionally, it's important to take breaks during intense study sessions. However, online usage should be purposeful; setting a specific timeframe for non-academic internet activities is advised.

Q: What are some common online risks teenagers face?

Cyberbullying remains a significant risk, often targeting teenagers who are still building their self-esteem. This vulnerability is frequently exploited by malicious individuals aiming to harass young users.

Key Outcome

- **Mindful Internet Usage for Teenagers:** An irresponsible digital lifestyle can hinder the development of young people, affecting their mental health, academic performance, and social skills. There is a need for teenagers to be mindful of their online activities to ensure balanced growth.
- **Empowering Teens Through Digital Literacy:** Teenagers should be equipped with the skills and knowledge to navigate the digital space responsibly. This includes understanding digital tools, recognising malicious links, creating secure passwords, and using multi factor authentication.
- **Promoting Ethical Digital Behaviour:** As responsible digital citizens, teenagers must respect the privacy and rights of others online. Both governments and technology companies have a role to play in creating avenues for educating youths on safe and ethical internet use.

- **Balancing Digital Consumption and Offline Activities:** Establishing a healthy balance between online and offline activities is crucial for teenagers' overall development. Strategies include setting screen time limits, prioritizing educational content, tech-free study periods, and encouraging tech-free family time.
- **Addressing Online Fraud Targeting Teens:** Internet fraud is increasingly targeting teenagers, with tactics like phishing, identity theft, and online shopping scams. Educating teenagers on how to spot malicious links and the importance of verifying online information can help reduce their vulnerability to scams.
- **Support Systems for Navigating Cyberbullying:** Cyberbullying can severely impact teenagers' self-esteem, leading to depression and suicidal thoughts. Schools and families should foster supportive environments where teens feel safe discussing online issues, encouraging them to report incidents to trusted adults.

EXPERT SESSION

"EMPOWERING TEENS: SAFETY, RIGHTS AND STRENGTH"

L - R: NWAJIE SUCCESS, AMINA RAMALLAN



Key Policy Question

What measures can be taken to ensure children/teens safety online?

With the increasing number of young people accessing the internet, it's essential to build awareness and put protective systems in place. We need a multi-layered approach involving parents, schools, policymakers, and the students themselves. The internet, while a great tool for education and socializing, can also expose young people to risks like cyberbullying, privacy breaches, and harmful content. Proactive steps must be taken to build a safe and supportive digital environment.

- **Education and Awareness:** One of the most important measures is teaching both children and teens about the risks they may face online. Parents and teachers need to work together to educate young people on how to recognize and handle dangerous situations, such as cyberbullying or unsolicited messages. Schools can regularly host workshops or seminars that focus on online safety, where experts in cybersecurity and digital rights can speak to students. The Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), in partnership with schools, can support campaigns that raise awareness about online safety.
- **Stronger Parental Involvement:** Parents also play a crucial role in ensuring their children's safety online. Setting up parental controls and monitoring online activities is one way to protect young people from encountering harmful content.

- But beyond technical measures, parents should foster open communication, making it easy for children to report uncomfortable online experiences. Nigerian parents must be aware of the apps, platforms, and websites their children use, and talk to them about the importance of maintaining their privacy.
- **Collaboration with Tech Platforms:** Tech companies and platforms popular with young people, such as social media and gaming sites, need to be held accountable for ensuring their spaces are safe for children and teens. In Nigeria, schools and advocacy groups can work with these companies to ensure they have the right tools in place, such as reporting systems for inappropriate content and privacy settings tailored for young users.
- **Legal Protections and Enforcement:** The Nigerian government can also play a major role by enforcing laws like the Cybercrime Act, which protects individuals from online harassment, identity theft, and cyberbullying. More regulations are needed to specifically address the safety of children and teens online, ensuring that online platforms operating in Nigeria are compliant with these protections.

Parents, schools, and government bodies must collaborate to protect children from online threats like cyberbullying, privacy violations, and harmful content. For example, parental controls can be introduced at home, while in schools, there can be regular discussions around digital behavior and how to stay safe.

Authorities like the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and the Ministry of Education could work on nationwide awareness campaigns, focusing on online safety for teens.

By creating awareness, fostering communication between stakeholders, and building protective measures around technology use, we can safeguard the online experiences of Nigerian children and teens while empowering them to use the internet confidently and responsibly.

What strategies should schools (in collaboration with other stakeholder groups) implement to educate children/teens about the legal implications of their online behavior while promoting a culture of online safety and responsibility?

Schools play a key role in educating students about the legal implications of their online activities. This can be done through collaborations with relevant stakeholders such as law enforcement agencies, non-governmental organizations, and digital rights advocates. Programs that introduce the basics of Nigeria's Cybercrime Act and explain how certain behaviors like cyberbullying or hacking can have legal consequences will help build awareness among students. These programs should also encourage responsible behavior, teaching students that online actions have real-world implications.

- **Integrating Digital Literacy into the Curriculum:** Schools should incorporate digital literacy and online safety lessons into their regular curriculum. These lessons can cover topics like the legal consequences of online misconduct, including cyberbullying, hacking, and privacy violations.

- By teaching students about laws like Nigeria's Cybercrime Act, they will understand that their actions online have real-world legal implications. Workshops and interactive sessions on internet safety can also help students recognize the potential risks they face.
- **Collaborating with Law Enforcement and Legal Experts:** Schools can partner with law enforcement agencies or legal experts to educate students on the legal boundaries of online behavior. Police or cybercrime experts can conduct talks and interactive sessions to help students understand the consequences of illegal activities online, such as identity theft, online scams, and spreading false information.

Such partnerships can provide practical insights, making the information relatable to the students' everyday experiences.

- **Engaging Parents and Guardians:** Schools should not work in isolation; involving parents is essential. Parent-teacher associations (PTAs) can be platforms for educating parents on how to monitor their children's online activities and help them understand the legal risks involved. This ensures that parents can reinforce the same safety and responsibility messages at home, promoting a consistent approach.
- **Involving Tech Companies and Digital Platforms:** Given that teens often interact with popular social media platforms and online gaming environments, schools should collaborate with tech companies to promote a culture of safety and responsibility.

These companies can provide resources, tools, and training materials that inform students about safe online practices and how to report inappropriate behavior. Initiatives like safety tutorials or digital badges for completing online safety courses could motivate students to engage more responsibly.

- **Organizing Peer-Led Programs and Advocacy Groups:** Students often listen to and learn from their peers. Schools can empower students to become "digital safety ambassadors" who advocate for responsible online behavior among their classmates. These peer-led groups can work with digital rights organizations and tech experts to spread awareness of legal risks and online safety through debates, school clubs, and events. By giving teens a voice, they can actively participate in creating a safe online community.
- **Creating Policies on Responsible Internet Use:** In collaboration with government bodies and digital rights organizations, schools can develop clear policies on responsible internet use and make these part of the school's code of conduct. These policies should outline acceptable behavior online, the legal implications of misuse, and the steps the school will take in cases of online misconduct. Clear consequences and guidelines can serve as a preventive measure.

By employing these strategies, Nigerian schools can foster a culture of online responsibility and legal awareness among teens, helping them navigate the internet safely and respectfully while understanding the implications of their actions in the digital world.

What role should schools play in promoting digital literacy and critical thinking skills to prepare students for navigating online challenges? How can they ensure that students have the necessary skills to use technology responsibly and critically?

Schools should be at the forefront of promoting digital literacy and critical thinking skills to help students navigate online challenges responsibly. By integrating digital literacy into the curriculum, teachers can help students learn how to fact-check information, recognize fake news, and assess the credibility of online sources. Critical thinking skills are crucial in teaching students not just to consume content, but to analyze and understand the impact of what they see and share online. Nigeria's schools can also partner with technology experts to hold workshops that focus on digital safety, privacy protection, and media literacy.

How can children/teens voices be included in the development of policies that affect their digital rights and online safety?

Including the voices of children and teens in the development of policies that affect their digital rights and online safety is essential to creating an environment that truly reflects their needs and concerns. In Nigeria, this can be achieved through several practical and engaging approaches that actively involve young people in policy discussions.

- **Establish Youth Digital Advocacy Groups:** One of the most effective ways to include young voices is by creating youth-led advocacy groups focused on online safety and digital rights.

Schools, in collaboration with digital rights organizations like the Youth Coalition for Internet Governance, can facilitate the creation of such groups. These platforms give young people the space to express their concerns, share experiences, and suggest practical solutions. These advocacy groups can then be involved in consultations when new policies are being drafted.

- **National and Regional Youth Consultations:** Government bodies like the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and the Ministry of Education can organize nationwide consultations or town hall meetings specifically aimed at gathering input from young people. By hosting these sessions, either virtually or in person, they can create safe spaces where children and teens can discuss online safety, cyberbullying, and digital privacy. Including this demographic in policy conversations ensures that the policies developed truly reflect the reality of young Nigerians' online experiences.
- **Engaging Students through School Workshops:** Schools play a critical role in policy engagement. Workshops can be organized where secondary school students can work with educators and policymakers to explore topics related to online safety and digital rights. These workshops can be structured to allow students to present their concerns and propose solutions, which can then be fed into broader policy discussions at the local, state, or national level.
- **Collaborating with Online Platforms:** Many children and teens in Nigeria are active on social media platforms and other digital spaces.

These platforms should collaborate with schools, parents, and advocacy groups to create initiatives where young users can provide feedback on how to improve online safety measures. For example, social media companies could introduce surveys or focus groups aimed at their younger audience to gather insights on their experiences with privacy, bullying, or inappropriate content. This input can then inform both platform policies and national digital rights discussions.

- **Leveraging Technology for Youth Participation:** Technology itself can be a tool for gathering youth input. Schools and government agencies can use online surveys, discussion forums, and apps specifically designed to collect feedback from young people on digital rights and safety. These digital tools ensure that the consultation process is more accessible and reaches a larger number of students, even those in remote areas of Nigeria.
- **Empowering Youth Ambassadors in Policy Development:** Select students could be appointed as "digital youth ambassadors" to represent their peers in policy discussions. These ambassadors can participate in meetings with policymakers, present the ideas of their fellow students, and advocate for changes that better protect young people online. Such ambassadors can be drawn from various schools across Nigeria, ensuring a diverse range of voices are included.

Children and teens should have a voice in the development of policies that affect their digital rights and safety. This can be done by creating forums where students can engage with policymakers, tech experts, and educators to share their views on issues like privacy, online bullying, and content regulation.

In Nigeria, organizations like the Youth Coalition for Internet Governance can be platforms where young people are encouraged to share their experiences and contribute to shaping online safety policies. Their input is invaluable as they are the ones experiencing the digital world first-hand.

By actively involving children and teens in these processes, Nigeria can create policies that are not only more effective but also reflective of the real challenges and opportunities young people face in the digital world. Their involvement will foster a sense of ownership and responsibility, empowering them to advocate for their own digital rights and the creation of safer online spaces.



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Promoting Digital Literacy and Responsible Online Behavior

- Integrate digital literacy and online safety lessons into school curriculums.
- Educate youth on legal implications of online behavior, such as cyberbullying and data breaches.
- Develop awareness campaigns in collaboration with organizations like the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC).

2. Enhancing Digital Infrastructure and Accessibility

- Expand access to Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) like the National Identification Number (NIN) and Bank Verification Number (BVN) to marginalized communities.
- Advocate for local platforms to host digital services to address privacy concerns with foreign hosting.

3. Strengthening Data Privacy and Protection

- Enforce existing laws such as the Cybercrime Act to protect against online harassment, fraud, and identity theft.
- Promote awareness about the rights to data privacy, including the ability to opt-in, withdraw, and control personal data.
- Collaborate with the Nigerian Data Protection Commission (NDPC) for rapid response mechanisms in case of data breaches.

4. Empowering Youth Voices in Policy Development

- Establish youth-led advocacy groups to contribute to online safety and digital rights discussions.

- Involve children and teens in consultations for policy-making through surveys, workshops, and digital platforms.
- Create "digital youth ambassadors" to represent young people in national discussions.

5. Fostering Ethical Use of Technology

- Advocate for ethical frameworks in AI, IoT, and blockchain to address algorithmic bias, inclusivity, and data privacy.
- Promote sustainable and socially responsible use of digital tools in public services and social innovation.
- Encourage ethical content creation practices, balancing professional goals with privacy.

6. Building Partnerships for Online Safety

- Strengthen collaboration between schools, parents, and tech companies to provide resources and tools for online safety.
- Develop policies and reporting systems for inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and data misuse on popular platforms.
- Advocate for indigenous solutions to digital challenges to align with local contexts and values.

PARTNERSHIP

The Nigerian Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) received significant financial sponsorship from the Nigeria Internet Governance Forum Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group (NIGF - MAG), a vital supporter of initiatives aimed at fostering responsible internet usage and governance within the country. Additionally, the event was strengthened by the collaborative support of prominent tech communities and organizations in Nigeria, which played a crucial role in expanding NYIGF's reach and influence across the nation's tech ecosystem.

Among these supporting organizations were the Internet Society(ISOC), Nigeria Chapter, a global charity empowering people to keep the Internet a force for good: open, globally connected, secure, and trustworthy, Startup South, a community dedicated to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship across the southern regions of Nigeria; the Africa Tech for Development Initiative, focused on leveraging technology to drive sustainable development across Africa; the Pan-Africa Center for AI Ethics, a hub advocating for ethical considerations in artificial intelligence throughout the continent; and Outsauce PEP LTD, a full-service marketing and communications agency. Outsauce PEP LTD brought its expertise in strategic communication to broaden the forum's visibility and engagement, helping to reach a wider audience across Nigeria.

The involvement of these communities and organizations not only provided valuable resources and expertise but also actively promoted the forum within their networks. This attracted a diverse audience of young tech enthusiasts, innovators, and leaders, creating a dynamic platform where young Nigerians could engage in discussions on internet governance, digital rights, and responsible technology use. Through these partnerships, NYIGF successfully reached a broader demographic within Nigeria's tech landscape, advancing a more inclusive dialogue on the future of internet governance in Nigeria and beyond.



FUTURE PLANS

As we look ahead to the Nigerian Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) 2025, certain details—such as the official theme and physical location—are still to be confirmed. However, our commitment to delivering an unforgettable and impactful conference experience for our community is unwavering. We are dedicated to making the 2025 forum a landmark event, fostering insightful conversations and driving meaningful action within Nigeria’s internet governance space.

In anticipation of this, we have organized a series of post-conference activities scheduled for 2024. These events are designed to build momentum, engage our community, and set the stage for the 2025 Forum. Through workshops, seminars, and virtual discussions, we aim to spark early engagement and inspire dialogue among Nigeria’s vibrant youth on crucial topics related to digital governance, internet rights, and responsible online practices.

We are excited to welcome thought leaders and industry experts in internet governance from across Nigeria to join us in this journey. Their insights and expertise will be invaluable in shaping the discussions and outcomes of NYIGF 2025, as we strive to foster an inclusive, informed, and forward-looking digital landscape.

To bring our vision to life, we are actively seeking financial support from generous individuals and organizations who share our commitment to advancing internet governance and digital development. With your contributions, we can provide a platform that not only informs but empowers young Nigerians to make a difference in shaping the future of the internet in Nigeria and beyond. Together, let’s make NYIGF 2025 a remarkable and transformative event.

APPENDICES

Core Team	Institution
Loveday Onyeonula	Human Corridor Consult Ltd.
Chibugo Illoh	Independent
Kingsley Owadara	Pan-Africa Center for AI Ethics
Emediong Ebong	Independent
Praise Sunday	ProgitNG
Peace Ewor	Independent
Aniekan Edet	Independent
UGOCHUKWU, Chiamaka Lily	IT Service Desk Africa
Raheemah Olawuyi	Independent
Rotimi Owolabi	Independent
Morisola Alaba	Legal Practitioner
Ekemini William	Tigerlogic Africa
Amina Ramallan	Nigerian Communications commission (NCC)
Abubakar Zubairu Lawan	Spotlight NG
Olamiposi Fasina	Cybaware Hub
Oluwaseun Ajani	Independent
Oluwabamise Joseph ADENIYI	Independent
Speakers/Panelist	Institution
Uffa Modey	Digital Grassroot
Adamma Isamade	Head, Legal Unit, Nigeria Data Protection Commission
Saheed Adedokun	Chapter Financial Secretary, ISOC Ng.
Majjuzu Daniel Moses	Executive Director, Africa Tech for Development Initiative
Kingsley Owadara	Pan-Africa Center for AI Ethics
Gloria Ojukwu: Founder	Her TechTrail Foundation
Owen Shedrack	Outsource PEP LTD
Amina Ramallan	Nigerian Communications commission (NCC)
Moderators	Institution
Atat Charles	VAWUU Limited
Chioma Ezenwafor	Media Agency (Nigeria Info, Cool FM and Wazobia FM PH.)
Nwajie Success Jackson	Young and Skilled Initiatives
Volunteers	Institution
Lois Moses	Pan-Africa Center for AI Ethics
Shorefunmi Bola-Saliu	Hacktales Limited.
Christiana C.A John	Independent
Omoniyi Lawson	Digital Shield Social Impact Initiative
Enakeno Ogwah	Independent
Owo Isaac Tugwell	Independent
Ikeehika Divine	Independent
Ennere Emmanuel	Independent
Nnamdi Jonathan	Independent
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