COMMUNIQUE OF THE NIGERIA YOUTH INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (NYIGF) 2025

Held at the Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC) Wednesday, 26th November 2025

Introduction

The Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) 2025 convened with the aim of fostering dialogue among young stakeholders on the future of digital rights, AI governance, and the evolving landscape of technology in Nigeria. This year's forum, themed "Code, Consent, and Control: Reimagining Nigeria's Digital Rights in an AI-Driven World," brought together a diverse group of young leaders, digital rights advocates, policymakers, and technology experts. Over the course of the event, participants engaged in discussions on the opportunities and challenges AI presents, emphasizing the need for a responsible, inclusive, and transparent digital ecosystem. This communiqué outlines the key outcomes of the forum and sets forth recommendations for future actions.

Key Outcomes

1. Digital Rights and Governance: The forum highlighted critical issues regarding digital rights in Nigeria, with a focus on the ethical regulation of AI systems and the protection of personal data. Participants emphasized the importance of fostering informed consent among users, particularly youth, in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.

2. Challenges of AI Implementation: A major point of discussion centered on how AI systems can both enhance public service delivery and exacerbate existing inequalities if not properly governed. There was consensus on the need for transparency in AI systems, ensuring that they are free from bias and operate in a way that respects the fundamental rights of individuals, particularly marginalized communities.

3. Youth Leadership in Digital Governance: Participants affirmed that young Nigerians have a crucial role to play in shaping digital governance policies. This includes contributing to AI governance frameworks that prioritize human rights, privacy protection, and data sovereignty. Youth were recognized as key stakeholders in advocating for frameworks that are inclusive, transparent, and respectful of human rights.

4. Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration: The forum called for stronger collaboration between government, civil society, the private sector, and youth organizations to ensure that digital policies are inclusive and uphold democratic principles. The importance of multistakeholder dialogues was emphasized as essential to building a robust governance framework for AI and digital rights.

Recommendations

1. **Strengthening Digital Literacy and AI Awareness:** It was recommended that digital literacy and AI awareness programs be integrated into the educational curriculum at all levels. These programs should focus on the ethical implications of AI, the importance of data protection, and online safety, particularly for youth and vulnerable populations.

2. **Enhanced Data Protection Frameworks:** The forum recommended that the Nigeria Data Protection Act (NDPA) be further enforced and that additional measures be taken to ensure that AI systems comply with international human rights standards. This includes strengthening privacy laws and ensuring that users have full control over their personal data.

3. **Inclusive AI Development:** There was a strong call for inclusive AI development that accounts for the needs of marginalized communities, particularly women, people with disabilities, and rural populations. AI models should be diverse, incorporating local languages, cultures, and the needs of underrepresented groups to ensure equitable access and outcomes.

4. **Public Awareness Campaigns on Informed Consent:** The forum recommended the launch of public awareness campaigns focused on informed consent in the digital age. These campaigns should educate users about the implications of consenting to data collection and ensure that digital platforms adopt clear, user-friendly consent mechanisms.

5. **Collaboration with International Standards Bodies:** Participants urged Nigerian stakeholders to actively participate in global conversations around AI governance and digital rights. They recommended Nigeria's involvement in international initiatives like the Global Dialogue on AI Governance to ensure that national policies are aligned with global standards.

Next Steps

1. **Follow-up Workshops and Trainings:** A series of workshops and training sessions will be organized to further educate young Nigerians on AI literacy, data protection, and digital rights. These sessions will also focus on the importance of ethical AI development and human rights in the digital space.

2. **Policy Advocacy:** The forum participants will engage in advocacy with policymakers to push for the adoption of the recommendations made during the forum. This will include advocating for stronger data protection regulations, the integration of AI ethics into national development strategies, and the establishment of inclusive digital governance frameworks.

3. **Continuous Multi-stakeholder Engagement:** The NYIGF will continue to serve as a platform for ongoing multi-stakeholder dialogue. Regular meetings and events will be organized to ensure that the discussions from the forum translate into actionable policies and frameworks for the digital future of Nigeria.

Conclusion

The Nigeria Youth Internet Governance Forum (NYIGF) 2025 has successfully provided a platform for young stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue about digital rights and AI governance in Nigeria. The discussions reaffirmed the importance of inclusive, responsible, and rights-respecting digital frameworks. As the digital landscape continues to evolve, the forum's recommendations and next steps aim to ensure that Nigeria's digital future is shaped by young voices, ethical practices, and inclusive growth.

We express our sincere gratitude to all the participants, speakers, and partners who contributed to the success of the forum. The commitment demonstrated by all parties to safeguard digital rights and promote inclusive AI governance will play a pivotal role in Nigeria's journey towards a secure, ethical, and equitable digital future.

Appendices
Sectors Represented

Government
1. Ministry of Youth Development (FMYD)
2. Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC)
3. National Information Technology Development Agency (NITDA)
4. Nigeria Data Protection Commission
5. Federal Capital Territory Secondary Education Board
6. National Credit Guarantee Company (NCGC)
7. National Hydroelectric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (N-HYPPADEC)

Private Sector
1. DigiSphere Limited
2. Galaxy Backbone
3. MTN Nigeria
4. Dignity Finance And Investment Limited (DFIL)
5. ECweb Technology
6. Al-ihsan Global

Civil Society Organigation
1. Beyond Development for Africa's Youth Advancement
2. North-East Youth Initiative For Development (NEYIF)
3. National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN)
4. Advocaat Law Practice
5. Alkali Ahmad Center for Development
6. Slum Tech
7. ReadyToLeadAfrica
8. ISOC Nigeria
9. Ndukwe Kalu Foundation (NKF)
10. Budgit Foundation