The African Internet Governance Forum - AfIGF

BID to host the 8ᵗʰ African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF-2019)

1. Background

1.1 The Internet Governance Forum (IGF)

The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is a platform for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on prevailing and emerging issues on Internet governance ecosystem. The IGF mandate was extended for ten years by the United Nations General Assembly on 16 December 2015. IGF aims at fostering the sustainability, robustness, security, stability and the development of the Internet, thus facilitating content development and access to information and knowledge. Africa's contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) process has led to the formation of the African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) in September 2011.

1.2 The African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF)

Presently, there are regional Internet Governance Forum initiatives in all the five regions of Africa. In order to bring together the national IGF initiatives together with the regional ones and to promote IG related issues on the continent, there was a strong need for the establishment of an African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF). Accordingly, AfIGF was convened by the regional IGFs in cooperation with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) at the 6ᵗʰ IGF in Nairobi, Kenya. The AfIGF was formally launched on 30 September 2011.

1.3 Previous African IGFs (AfIGFs) Events

Following bidding process administered by the AfIGF secretariat, the various AfIGF sessions were successfully held in:
- Egypt, from 2 - 4 October 2012;
- Kenya, from 24 - 26 September 2013;
- Nigeria, from 10-12 July 2014;
- Ethiopia, from 6-8 September 2015;
- South Africa, from 16 – 18 October 2016;

- Egypt, from 4 – 6 December 2017; and
- Sudan, from 4-6 November 2018.

The 8th AfIGF will be organized roughly between end of June and end of October 2019 in a Member State. The African IGF is usually held at least one month prior to the global Internet Governance Forum.

In this regard, the secretariat would like to facilitate the hosting arrangements for the eighth AfIGF as soon as possible.

2. The African IGF (AfIGF)

The Secretariat of the AfIGF is hosted by the AUC in its Addis Ababa Headquarters, in Ethiopia. The Forum's website is on https://afigf.africa/.

2.1 Main Objectives of the African IGF (AfIGF)

AfIGF aims to be a platform for an inclusive multilateral, multi-stakeholder and multilingual discussion on issues pertinent to the Internet in Africa in general and Internet Governance issues in particular. Specific objectives include:
- To increase awareness and build capacity on Internet Governance for African users to ensure that all stakeholders are well prepared for contribution and interaction;
- To promote access to information and knowledge;
- To promote the digital transformation of Africa;
- To promote content development and use of African languages in the cyberspace;
- To promote the use of ICTs and the Internet in the socio-economic development of the continent;
- To ensure that the concerns of Africa are taken into account in the IGF process;
- To put in place a coordinated African process for dealing with Internet governance issues on the continent;
- To strengthen the multi-stakeholder dialogue model for Internet Governance in Africa through regional and national forums;
- To ensure a multi-stakeholder representation of all parts of the continent;
- To ensure that all the countries are part of the regional process and launch/strengthen their national processes;
- To facilitate national and regional exchanges and interactions between countries and regions in the continent;
- To promote the participation of African stakeholders in AfIGF and other appropriate regional and national Internet Governance Forums.

2.2   The African IGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (AfIGF-MAG)

The African IGF Charter was adopted in 2017 in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The Charter has established an African Multistakeholder Advisory Group composed of ten (10) members to start their activities in 2019.

3.   BID to Host the 8th African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF-2019)

3.1   Eligibility and criteria for submission of expression of interest

a. Must be a country within Africa;
b. The focal point must be a government ministry in charge of Communications and ICTs;
c. Have a National IGF Process in place, where all stakeholders take part;
d. Host Country must offer accommodation in at least a recognized 4 stars hotel (bed and breakfast) for a minimum of seventy five (75) international participants and the AfIGF secretariat;
e. Host Country must offer water, 2 coffee breaks par day and lunch for all participants during the days of pre-events and conference;
f. Host Country must facilitate visa entry for all participants; including visa on arrival for participants who could not secure visas before departure; provide free protocol services and free secure local transportation from and to the airport and from the hotels to the venue of the conference;
g. Host Country must provide, free of charge, conference facilities for pre-events and main conference, including meeting rooms;
h. Host Country must provide, free of charge, interpretation facilities and interpreters from French to English and English to French during the main conference sessions. Host country may provide interpretation to any other language if they wish to do so;
i. Host Country must provide, at its own cost high speed Internet access at the conference venue and at the hotels which are chosen to accommodate the international participants;
j. Host country must provide remote participation to facilitate participation of stakeholders who could not travel to the conference site;
k. Host Country must promote, at its own cost the event through traditional and modern media;
l. Host Country must ensure that access to the conference is free of charge and open to all stakeholders.

3.2   Submission of bid (expression of interest)

Submission of bids should be addressed to the Head of Information Division of the African Union Commission, Mr. Moctar Yedaly and send through the following e-mail address: YedalyM@africa-

union.org. Once a country is pre-selected, an agreement will be signed between the ministry in charge of organizing the event and the African Union Commission.

3.3 Establishing the Dates for the 8th AfIGF-209 Event

The eight AfIGF will take place preferably between end of June and end of October 2019 for a duration of three (3) days, including pre-conference events. The event is usually held at least one month prior to the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF), which will be organized this year in Berlin, Germany from 25-29 November 2019. Exact dates of AfIGF 2019 will be determined jointly between the African Union Commission and the host Government and stakeholders will be notified accordingly in due course.

3.4 Deadline for submission of the bid

Submission of complete hosting proposals should be received by the AfIGF secretariat not later than 31st March 2019.

For further information and for all your inquiries, please contact AfIGF secretariat at the e-mail address africanigf@gmail.com with a copy to suliemana@africa-union.org.

3.5 Announcement of dates and venue of AfIGF-2019

In close consultations with the host country, the secretariat will announce the dates of the African IGF 2019 as soon as an agreement has been signed between the African Union and the host country.