



# The African Internet Governance Forum Governance Forum AfIGF 2022

19-21 July 2022.

Lilongwe, Malawi Report

## 2022 Host Country



## Partners



## President of Malawi: Lazarus Chakwera Remark.



The president welcomes all participants to Malawi, the warm part of Africa. It is an honor to host the African Internet Governance Forum in Lilongwe, a capital city of Malawi. Sectors such as Communication and energy demand Africa to come together to resolve the challenges and leverage opportunities we commonly shared. What was commonly possible in the domain of science and

fiction has become staple of our day lives. Technology that we depend on today will be absolute tomorrow. As a continent, what is most important to us is how to build capacity for building, scaling and exporting the technologies the world will need tomorrow. The vision for a digital Africa can only be realized if only we invest in indigenous solution and work forward to drive this transformation. Africa should and must be a leader in this revolution because of our youthful population and is already strategically positioned to create tailored made indigenous solutions for African problems. Therefore, it is important to implement the Africa Union digital transformation strategy 2020-2030 and the free trade agenda. Malawi is preparing for digital transformation by reviewing the national ICT policy to align it with the AU 2063 vision. We have identified ICT and digitalization as one of the enablers. Promoting and pushing for universal access to affordable broadband, launching universal service strategy plan 2002 to 2007 under the Malawi communication regulation authority to ensure digital infrastructure and services are made available, accessible and affordable to Malawian. Investing in digital infrastructure and connecting the 28 districts. We must accept that a digital future is no longer coming but it is here. It is therefore, important for Africa to contribute to shape digitization agenda that reflect Africa uniqueness.

## Minister of Information and Digitization in Malawi – Hon Gospel Kazako



I would like to thank the President, the government and the people of Malawi for hosting and bringing Africans together in this beautiful City of Longwe, Malawi. I believe digitalization has proved since 2020 to be our means for communication, our lifeline, and survival.

We want to make sure that digitalization is deepened in our country as it has contributed 10 percent in GDP. It has the ability to contribute significantly and to impact our economies positively. Two things matter; resiliency and security. However, it is impossible to have these two elements without energy that is helping to accelerate digitization. Cybersecurity has been on discussion but to be realistic we cannot secure what we don't have. And since only a third of the continent is connected, top priority is connecting the unconnected, hence, the need for investment in infrastructure development. I am happy to see African Union deploying funds for infrastructure development in Africa in pursuit of digitization agenda. Also, in ensuring security of online users, we are to collaborate and work with stakeholders in promoting conventions and update to reflect state of art practices. Africa should leverage technology to feed the 40 to 60% while paving the way for the young and youth in Africa to be a beneficiary of the digital opportunities.

# **African IGF 2022 Summary**



### **About AfIGF**

Africa Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF) is a platform for an inclusive multilateral, multi-stakeholder and multilingual discussion on issues pertinent to the Internet and its governance in Africa. It was formally launched in Nairobi, during the global Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in 2011. The AfIGF Secretariat is hosted by the African Union Commission (AUC) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

### **Objectives of AfIGF**

The African IGF aims and objective is to be a platform for an inclusive multilateral, multistakeholder and multilingual discussion on issues pertinent to the Internet in Africa in general and Internet Governance issues in particular. And to increase awareness and build capacity on internet governance for African users to ensure that all stakeholders are well prepared to contribute meaningfully to the internet governance discussion.

**Secretariat:** Africa Union Commission (AUC) supported by United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

**MAG Chair:** Mary Uduma

### **Partners**

The eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) AfIGF was organized by the African Union Commission in cooperation with the Government of Malawi. AfIGF 2022 was also supported technically and financially by:

- Government of Malawi
- African Union Commission
- The Policy and Regulation Initiative for Digital Africa (PRIDA)
- German cooperation – GIZ
- UK – Foreign, Commonwealth & development office
- European Union
- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- United Nations Department of economic and social affairs (UNDESA)
- Internet Society
- ICANN
- AFRINIC
- Malawi Local private sector partners

## Opening Remarks



**Chengetai Masango – Head of Secretariat for the Internet Governance Forum, United Nations**

Hybrid hosting of the African Internet Governance Forum demonstrate the importance of the internet. Internet is for human solidarity; however, digital divides remain. The youth, women and most especially the rural community need internet access. These parts of the population need our attention. Hence, need for collaboration to bridge digital divide.

Africa input is vital to the global IGF; therefore, the African Internet Governance Forum output will feed into the Global IGF in Ethiopia. I would like to thank the organizer, Government of Malawi and the African Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group for the success of the eleventh African Internet Governance Forum.



**Mama Mary Uduma, Chairperson, AfIGF Multistakeholder Advisory Group (MAG)**

*One minute of silence was observed for Makane Faye who had lot going for the African IGF as a pioneer.*

I am grateful for the funding and support received from the Government of Malawi, MACRA, UNECA, UN DESA, IGF Secretariat, GIZ, UK Government, and META. The eleventh African IGF with a theme – Digital Inclusion and Trust in Africa give all stakeholders opportunity to engage and discuss pertinent issues of digital inclusion in Africa. I recognize the participation of the African youth in Internet Governance and the Parliamentarians. Internet Governance Forum is not an event but a process that need input from government, civil society, private sector, academia etc.

I would say that Digital technologies are a proven accelerator of sustainable development and it is going in the right

direction to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Internet Governance Forum needs everyone's voice. The African IGF has created all the conditions that we need. I am looking forward to seeing outputs of these exchanges feed into the global IGF and the Secretary General's common agenda on digital compact.

**Ms. Aurelie Valtat, EU Delegation.**

I remembered the spark of excitement that I felt when I sent my first e-mail. So, I hope as you deliberate today on internet governance, you will remember the spark and the magic of the Internet.

The EU corporation on digital for development is high on the agenda as you may have seen at the last AU-EU summit in Belgium. An investment of 150 billion euros has been earmarked and is expected to boost digital connectivity through investments in infrastructures, enhance access to digital and data economy and increasing digital skills.

There is obviously a mutual interest between the African Union and the European union to make this a win-win partnership. Internet governance is a global multi-stakeholder structure and we all win by making it successful. e-governance, digital connectivity, entrepreneurship and digital skills are important elements.

Policy and regulation for digital Africa known as PRIDA is another AU EU digital collaboration with an objective to strengthen the African voice in the global debate to contribute to making African issues a priority, which in turn has the potential to make global internet policies and rules more appropriate to the African context.

The European union is working proactively to ensure transparent and inclusive representation mechanisms in Internet governance forum.

I would like to also seize this opportunity to underline the importance of an open and non-fragmented internet environment. This point was also made by an African partner a couple of months ago. With regard to mandate, I would like to say this fragmentation would be really detrimental to the digital transformation of the continent. It would hinder national and regional exchanges and interactions. And it would involve really important costs and would represent the potential threat to Africa's digital sovereignty. The forum today is timely considering that the global 17th edition of the IGF will take place in African soil.

Again, I would like to thank our hosts and the organizers of the event, the African Union commission, the international partners, the government of Malawi and all of PRIDA technical assistance colleagues who have been working hard on making this a success.





**Dr. Mactar Seck, UNECA**

UNECA has been fully involved in IGF since its inception. We believed IGF is relevant for countries to discuss issue related to Internet Governance such as an infrastructure, domain name system, cybersecurity and capacity building etc.

The theme of this year African IGF; digital inclusion interest us because of the role digital technology is playing in Africa. Reason why it is important to include everyone in the process.

We can't use this digital technology without securing our communication. And this forum provides us a window, to discuss several issues of cybersecurity, cybercrime, digital inclusion, digital divide ...

I am calling all member states to ratify the Malabo convention. As a follow up to the cybersecurity summit in Togo we are currently working with AUC and government of Togo to develop strategies and policies as well as develop solutions to fight the cybercrime in the continent. It is important that there is an alignment in policy on cybersecurity and development of skills

across the continent.

UNECA is ready to collaborate to support African countries to implement digital transformation strategy.

I would like to thank the government of Malawi for the hospitality and personnel; and the African Union Commission.



**Her excellency Dr. Aman Abu Zeid - Commissioner, infrastructure and energy, African Union.**

Dr. Aman thanked the President of Malawi, the IGF secretariat, and the African MAG for hosting the African IGF. Digitalization have the potential to contribute to GDP and to impact the economy positively. Across the world, resiliency and security are critical elements. However, we cannot have resilience and security for what we don't have. There is need to connect the unconnected. Need to start working from the top and ensure implementation of projects. In digitalization, we must ensure safety with a focus on energy and agriculture for a food secured future.

## Message from AfIGF 2022.

From 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July, eleventh African Internet Governance Forum was hosted in Lilongwe, Malawi with several high-level sessions and delegates across Africa countries. With over 934 in person and 1,393 virtual, delegates discussed evolving nature of technology in Africa. The high level and parallel sessions included but not limited to digital inclusion, meaningful access, data privacy and protection, community network, online child safety, data governance, cybersecurity, entrepreneurship, digital sovereignty, digital trust etc.

### **The eleventh African Internet Governance Forum, recognized that**

- Internet is a key enabler and tool for human resilience and solidarity, as such it must be secured, accessible, available and affordable.
- The spirit and ethos of multi-stakeholders must continue to be nurtured and upheld in internet governance discourse and trust development.
- The socio-economic landscape of Africa needs to develop and absorb the economic value of emerging technologies through entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation among other strategies.
- Established path for funding to promote innovation and ensuring innovation is not stifling in term of policies and regulation. While Governments to set a road map that encourage businesses to prepare and compete to meet the economic needs of their countries based on long term plans
- Africa and the globe as a whole need to thrive towards sustainable digital development that ensures the present generation enjoys the benefits of technology while protecting the future generations.

### **Based on the recognition, the delegates committed to**

- Uphold and promote multi-stakeholder participation in internet governance discourse.
- Advocate for policies, legislation, and technical and economic measures that promote digital inclusion, affordability, accessibility, availability and security.
- An actively participate in the development and adoption of norms, regulations, policies, standards and protocols within Africa for the development of internet and technologies in Africa.
- And ensure that the African voice is heard within the global internet governance forum discourse, with deliberate inclusion of the youth.

## **Launch of the Parliamentarian Network (APNIG).**

On 19<sup>th</sup> July 2022, the African Parliamentarian Network on Internet Governance (APNIG) was launched in Lilongwe, Malawi. APNIG is dedicated to strengthening the parliamentarian's role on digital development in Africa by building capacity of parliamentarians while engaging in internet discussion on issues related to digital and geopolitics, digital economy, data protection, digital rights, cybersecurity, digital for democracy to name a few.

### **Message from the Parliamentary Track**

- Attaining widespread connectivity on the African continent is key to development and African regulators must not play “catch up” but update outdated licenses, frameworks, policies, and build capacities that accelerate the implementation of strategies for last mile connectivity.
- Digital Transformation cannot happen without high speed connectivity. The traditional way of rolling out connectivity is not enough. Radical innovation and effective policy regulation across sectors is needed for innovation and roll out.
- The future of high-speed mobile connectivity is 5G. Africa still trails behind in this area with an estimated population of only 7% to enjoy 5G by 2026. The real value of the internet cannot be gotten on 2G but we require high speed internet and Wi-Fi 6E.
- Affordable and meaningful access is a big issue in Africa which needs more action than mere paperwork. We have seen some improvement in the past couple years but this does not address the big difference between the connected and the unconnected population. Thus, in the same country there are people surfing with 5G while some people are still struggling with H+ or 2 G. Making good use of the digital access funds, encourage the use of new ways of connectivity
- Meaningful connectivity is yet to be attained fully across the continent. 2G or 3G connectivity is prevalent on the African continent with only 50% of the continent with 4G coverage despite investment to roll out 4G. Compared to other western countries, the digital divide is wide as 2G is rudimentary and trails behind the desired 4G high speed.
- Achieving meaningful connectivity must be multi-sectoral and cannot be developed or discussed in silos.
- Capacity building is an important component as lack of advanced skills and the use of external regulations and policies which are not suited for the particular environment on the African continent stifles deployment plans of connectivity strategies.
- Network as a service is a new business model that is thriving in Africa. In advancing its success, strategies should move from their generic approaches and focus on the readiness and relevance of policies.

## Launch of the Network of African Women in Cybersecurity

The Network of African Women in Cybersecurity (NAWC), a network of experienced women professionals from the African region, who provides expert advice and technical guidance at various levels aimed at addressing the gap in gender-responsive Cybersecurity planning, development and implementation in Africa by focusing on the specific needs of women and girls was launched. Email: [info@nawc.africa](mailto:info@nawc.africa) Website: [www.nawc.africa](http://www.nawc.africa)

## AfriSIG 2022

The 10th edition of the African School on Internet Governance (AfriSIG) took place from 16 to 18 July 2022 and focused on international cybersecurity. It was held as a pre-event to the African Internet Governance Forum held in Lilongwe, Malawi as a pre-event. On 15 June 2022, there was a three-hour virtual consultation prior to the school.

AfriSIG's goal is to develop a pipeline of leading Africans from diverse sectors, backgrounds and ages with the skills to participate in local and international internet governance structures and shape the future of the internet landscape for Africa's development. For more information, visit: <https://afrisig.org/afrisig-2022/>

## African Youth Internet Governance Forum Track

The youth track on internet governance forum which was organized by the African youth on 18<sup>th</sup> of July featured attendees of youth across Africa. The session was outlined to build on

the demands of young people from Poland IGF and opportunities for youth within the IGF context.

## Message from the Youth (AfIGF)

- Youth should be given space and opportunity to contribute in governance in the digital age.
- Create an environment that offer opportunities for all and be free from bias, inequalities, income level disparity. Offer careers opportunity in science and technologies.
- Create reasonable seats at the table for youth. Creating youth envoys, advisors as well as meaningful participatory approaches on all programs related to meaningful participation regardless of age.
- Develop robust frameworks that foster accountability, monitoring and evaluation of our digital processes.
- Create partnerships to delivering educational curricula for youth
- Call to African Union Commission, government, parliamentarian, UNECA, European Union and International organizations to end disparity that Africans face in term of accessing economic opportunities (Job and remote opportunities) because of our location

AFIGF 2022 Statistics

- Prevents days: 3
- Number of days 4
- Number of registrations online 1835
- Number Delegates in-person 934
- Number of virtual Delegates 1392

Communique for the Forum: <https://afigf.africa/afigf-2022-summary/>

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### Partners

