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Internet Governance

Regional Perspectives and Processes



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UN - ITU. Strengthening capacities in Internet governance in Africa.

Outline

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- The Internet Ecosystem
- (Sub)Regional Perspectives and Priorities
- The African IGF - Structure and Objectives
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 - Summary

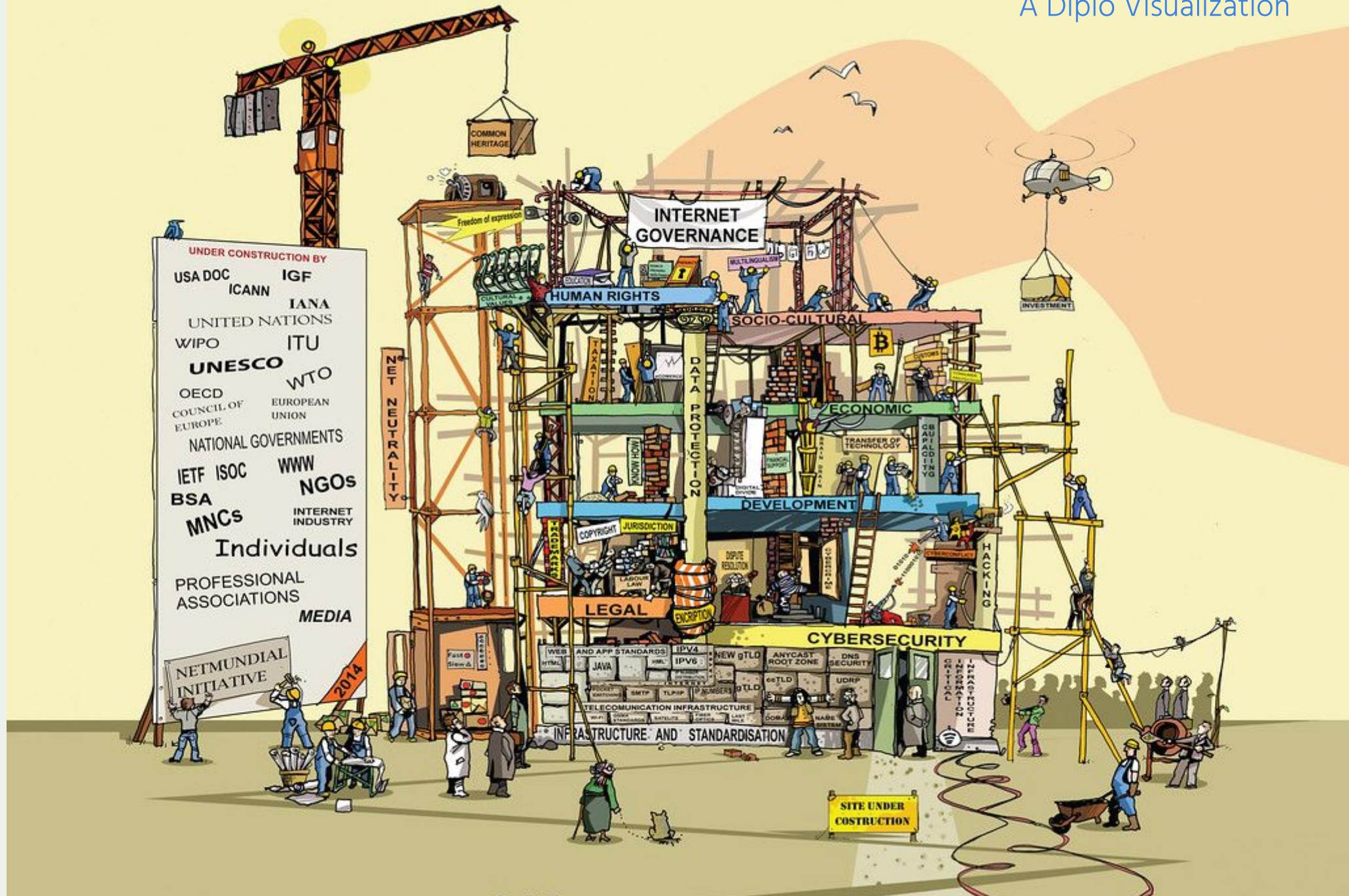
Internet Governance

Since previous speakers have given you such a rich background, we don't really need to spend time on this, d'accord?

In any case,

Internet Governance can be defined as the evolving policies and mechanisms under which the Internet community's many stakeholders make decisions about the development and use of the Internet.



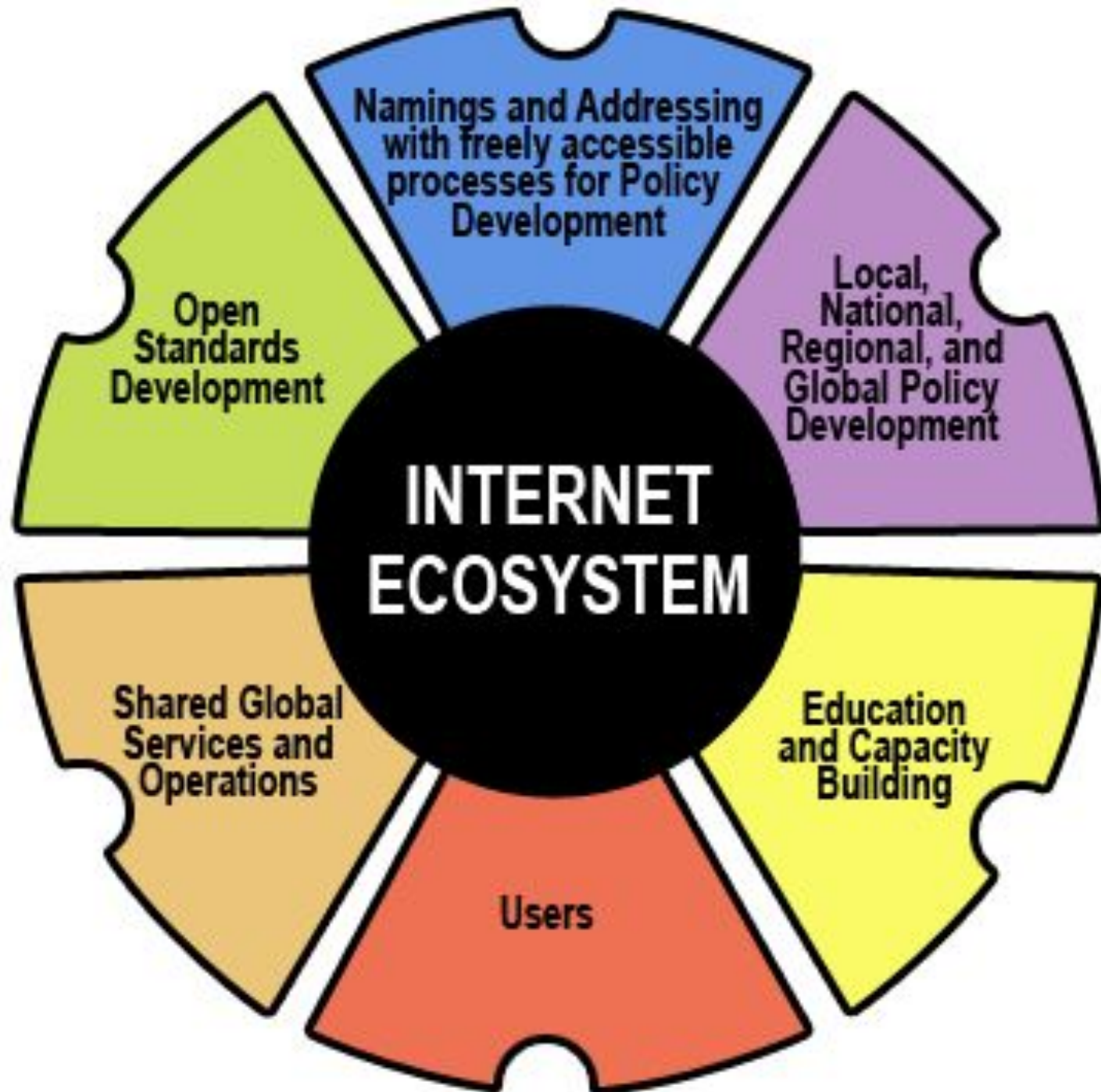


The Internet Ecosystem

The Internet ecosystem is based on the fundamental tenets of the Internet itself, and draws its strength from the involvement of a broad range of players employing open, transparent, and collaborative processes.

Cooperation and collaboration remain essential to the Internet's continued innovation and growth. This is probably why we keep referring to multiple stakeholders





(Sub)Regional Perspectives and Priorities

Perspectives vary significantly from economy to economy. In regions with infrastructure and technology deficits and governments just beginning to grasp the Internet thing, there may be greater focus on access, affordability, protection of digital rights, and similar issues.

Regional processes help ensure that the voices and efforts of the region are carried to the global agenda while ensuring that everyone gets the benefits of a viable information society

The African IGF - Objectives

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 to ensure that African stakeholders are well prepared for contribution and interaction.
- To ensure that the concerns of Africa are taken into account in the IGF process.

The African IGF - Objectives

- To put in place a coordinated African process for dealing with Internet governance issues on the continent.
- To strengthen the multi-stakeholder dialogue model 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 processes and launch/strengthen their national processes.



The African IGF - Objectives

- To facilitate national and regional exchanges and interactions between countries and regions in the continent.
- To facilitate the participation of African stakeholders in AfIGF and other appropriate regional and national Internet Governance Forums.
- To promote use of African languages in the cyberspace.

The African IGF - Structure


According to the African IGF Charter, along other key stakeholders representing different main groups on the continent, the conveners of the five regional Internet Governance Forums are members of the African IGF Multi stakeholders Advisory Group (AFIGF-MAG).

Presently, there are five regional initiatives that are ongoing in Africa; which include the West Africa Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF), the East Africa Internet Governance Forum (EAIGF), Forum de Gouvernance de l'Internet en Afrique Centrale (FGI-CA), and the Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum (SAIGF).



The African IGF - Structure (cont'd)

These regional initiatives, though active in their operation, do not yet cover all the countries in their respective regions. Moreover some of the countries are not actively participating in the regional initiatives

The AfIGF Secretariat is hosted by the African Union Commission (AUC) and supported by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), in accordance with the Joint AUC and UNECA Communiqué on the Secretariat of the African IGF, dated 3 September 2014. It is physically located at the AUC Headquarters in  Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Feeding into the Regional from the National (1)

As mentioned earlier, the regional process gets its inputs from national processes. The Nigeria Internet Governance (NIGF) is

A coordinated multi-stakeholders open forum and network for discussions, interactions, contributions and exchange of ideas on challenging and emerging policy issues concerning the Internet and Nigeria Internet community.

NIGF further facilitates a sustainable platform for gathering input from Nigerian IG Stakeholders into the sub-regional, regional and global dialogue on emerging policy issues.



Feeding into the Regional from the National (2)

NIGF offers a national dialogue mechanism for stakeholders discussions and interactions from Governments, Civil Society, Businesses, Technical Community, Academia, development partners and multinational corporation operating in the Nigerian Internet ecosystem to come together, harness ideas, build consensus and offer collective solutions for Internet governance in Nigeria.

Feeding into the Regional from the National (3)

Among other things, NIGF has been able to
Inform local stakeholders with ideas, solutions and interventions
relevant for addressing good governance in their various
communities.

Stimulate government and stakeholders' commitment to the
adoption and implementation of the outcome document each
year.

Strengthen stakeholders' partnership for the improvement of local
IG process



Feeding into the Regional from the National (4)

The current NIGF process involves several stakeholder groups and is being further refined to make it more inclusive and representative of those stakeholder groups.

The scope of the 2018 Nigeria IGF covered topics such as:
Enabling Citizen Inclusion in Good Governance,
Using Internet to Fight Economic Corruption,
Internet Digital Rights And Privacy,
Fiscal Transparency For Sustainable Development,
And Internet Broadband For Good Governance.



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Resources

Policy Brief on Internet Governance -

<https://www.internetsociety.org/policybriefs/internetgovernance/>

Digital Watch Observatory -

<https://dig.watch/>

Excellent Internet Society tutorial -

<https://www.internetsociety.org/tutorials/shaping-the-internet/>

African IGF - <http://www.afigf.africa>

Nigerian IGF - <http://www.nigf.org.ng>

For more free (multilingual) training with recognized certificates, become a member of the Internet Society at <http://www.isoc.org>



Thank you.

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