



## **Capacity building priorities in the Africa region**

**ITU Annual Regional Human Capacity Building Workshop on “Strengthening Capacities in Internet Governance in Africa” Abuja, 27-29 August 2018**

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# Overview

About APC

Understanding the challenge

The AfriSIG experience

A way forward



# About APC

- Established 1990
- 1st 10 years → internet service provision with the UN SDNP
- Since 2000 → research, policy advocacy, networking and capacity building
- ECOSOC status since 1994
- ITU-D member since 2014
- AfriSIG since 2013



# Understanding the challenge

It is not just about learning opportunities

It is about opportunity to be **actively involved** in internet policy and governance processes – **to learn from doing**.

Fellowships to attend events, e.g. ICANN meeting, help, but they also fail. Why?

Because ultimately **capacity development depends on sustained opportunity, over time, in one's day to day work, to put learning into practice.**



**In other words, the  
problem is systemic**



# Capacity building programmes are important.. but not enough

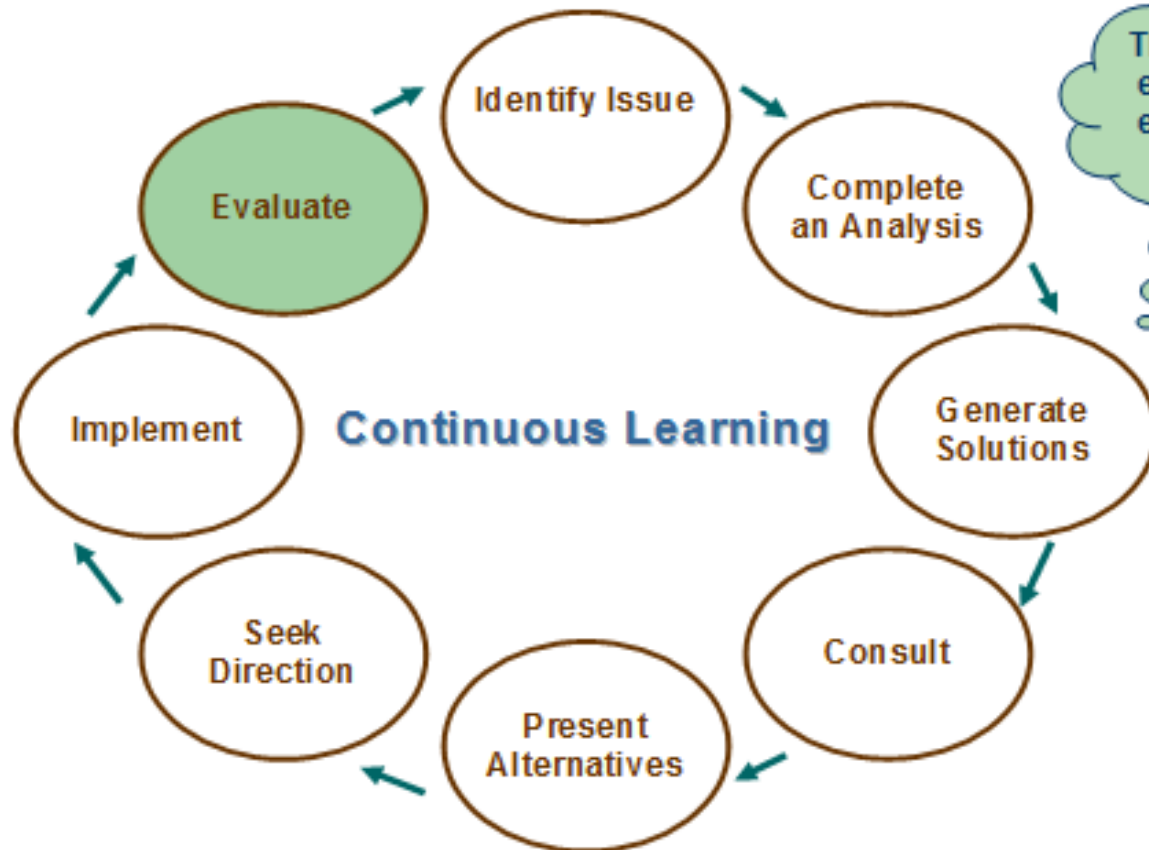
We need institutions (public sector, business, civil society and technical) that are actively engaged in policy-making

Individual capacity and institutional capacity are intertwined – they can reinforce one another, or do the opposite.

For both institutional and individual capacity to thrive, there is a need for an active policy-development eco-system.



# Policy Development Life Cycle



# “Demand and supply” in IG in Africa

**Supply-side:** Learning events such as this one; university programmes; post-graduate research; fellowships; mentoring programmes; Schools of IG like AfriSIG and the WASIG... etc.

**Demand-side:** Institutions (from all stakeholder groups) that “do” policy because it matters to them; that employ and support people who participate in policy/governance.

Government that believes in the value of public participation and multistakeholder processes.





# African School on Internet Governance - AfriSIG

- Convened by APC and the AUC in 2013
- 6<sup>th</sup> AfriSIG will take place in Zanzibar in October 2018
- +- 35 fellows +- 15 faculty and resource people
- To date around just below 170 alumni - 50 % women - 40 countries



# Topics covered

Day 1: Overview of internet governance issues and institutions

Day 2: Internet infrastructure: access, architecture and management of internet names and numbers

Day 3: Internet governance and social issues: human rights, development, gender, and security – includes 'harmful' use

Day 4: Debates in IG and final practicum session

Day 5: Emerging issues



# Key characteristics

Selection is competitive – people really want to be there

Intensive, participative 5 day residential event

**Practicum** – problem solving and role play exercise on a concrete issue (2018 it will be the implications of the GDPR in Africa)

Social media training

Mix of ages, seniority, sectors and faculty

Linked to an IG event – usually African IGF



# AfriSIG impact

Tracer study completed to review impact of the first four years – another will be done in 2020

Very positive impact at level of individuals and institutions – uptake of IG and leadership in initiating IG activities.

Shifts in understanding towards policy-making from a stakeholder driven perspective.

<https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/african-school-internet-governance-tracer-study-four-rounds-afrisig-2013-2016>



# A way forward-African priorities

Invest in both “supply” and “demand” side efforts.

We need capacity building programmes, but we also need institutions that take internet governance seriously, and that commit to supporting their people’s participation in wider policy-making processes.

We need research/evidence. E.g. Research ICT Africa.

This in turn needs predictability at the level of government’s approach to policy, regulation and governance, and to participation.



# A way forward-global dimension

Closer partnerships between African capacity building initiatives and international efforts.

Global efforts (e.g. ICANN and ISOC) to focus less on 'marketing' their programmes or approach, and more on creating opportunity for critical thinking, and learning from African experiences.

International IG processes and institutions to view African stakeholders as having relevant input on ALL IG issues, not just African issues.

African stakeholders to adopt the same approach.



**Thank you!**





**Internet and ICTs for  
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