



ITU Annual Regional Human Capacity Building Workshop
"Strengthening Capacities in Internet Governance in Africa"

Abuja, Nigeria, 27-29 August 2018

FINAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

1. The ITU annual regional human capacity building workshop on “**Strengthening capacities in Internet governance in Africa**” was held in Abuja, Nigeria, from 27-29 August 2018. The workshop was organized by the ITU Telecommunication Development Bureau in partnership with DiploFoundation and hosted by the Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) of Nigeria.
2. The workshop attracted 101 participants from 14 countries and 6 international/regional organizations including ICANN, ISOC and AFRINIC. Among the participants were professionals from governments, regulatory authorities, public and private organizations, universities and research institutions.
3. The objectives of the workshop were to strengthen capacities of the ITU membership in the field of Internet governance, involving different stakeholders in the delivery of the workshop, and to provide a general overview of key aspects related to international Internet governance discussions. This corresponds to the outcomes of the ITU World Telecommunication Development Conference (WTDC) 2017, where ITU Member States agreed that capacity building of the ITU membership in international Internet governance is one of the priority issues to be addressed by ITU’s capacity building programme.
4. Further information, including the agenda, the presentation slides, and photos are available at <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Capacity-Building/Pages/events/2018/Internet%20Governance/AFR/Internetgovernance.aspx>

METHODOLOGY

5. The workshop was designed to combine both presentation-led sessions and group exercises/break-out sessions. The workshop featured 8 topical sessions and three group exercises.
6. The objective of the presentation-led sessions was to provide participants with an overview and knowledge on a set of Internet government relevant topics. Presentation were made by experts in the topics addressed in each session and were followed by Q&A periods with the audience.
7. The objective of the break-out sessions was to engage all participants more actively in the discussions on IG and provide them with an opportunity to approach a particular topic from different angles (through role play). During the break-out sessions/exercises, participants were divided into four groups per exercise. Each group designated a rapporteur who reported the outcomes of the group work back to the plenary sessions. All break-out sessions/groups were moderated/facilitated by experts in the field of IG and were separated into two English and two French-speaking groups.

PRESENTATION-LED SESSIONS

8. The workshop was opened by Professor U.G Danbatta, Executive Vice Chairman and CEO of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC). He emphasized the role of the Internet as the primary anchor of modern technology innovations and as being at the heart of what is today referred to as the ‘fourth Industrial Revolution’, as well as its impact on the human activity in the new digital economy and consequently the critical role of Internet Governance. He further proposed that Africa needs to change the narrative by adopting appropriate policy actions to tap into the enormous opportunities of the fourth industrial revolution to avoid missing it - as happened to the first, second and third industrial revolution.

9. Preceding the guest of honor, Dr. Ike Adinde, Administrator of Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) delivered his welcome remarks, followed by Mr. Marcelino Tayob, representing the ITU Regional Director for Africa, who delivered the ITU Opening Remarks. The full text is available in the event web page.

10. The subsequent sessions addressed the following IG-related topics:

- a. Setting the scene

The session was moderated by Susan Teltscher (ITU) and had 2 presenters: Laurent Ferrali (ICANN) and Verengai Mabika (ISOC Zimbabwe). Dr Teltscher provided an introduction to the workshop and its main objectives. The subsequent speakers gave their perspective of digital policy priorities and challenges in Africa. This was followed by an exchange of views among the audience. The participants debated and commented on the critical role of the infrastructure coverage, cost of accessing the services and innovation needed to overcome the gaps.

- b. Introduction to Internet governance

The session was moderated by Mary Uduma (Nigerian Internet Governance Forum) and had 3 presenters: Vladimir Radunovic (DiploFoundation), Peter Major (Vice-Chair of CSTD) and Dewole Ajao (ISOC Nigeria). The session provided an overview of Internet governance, covering its definition, the principles that guide its evolution, the key topics encompassed in the field, the main actors, the global nature of the Internet and other information that provided a solid background to this workshop. It also addressed the main issues under discussion in international bodies, including those of the UN. The participants actively debated issues on the regional perspectives and priorities and highlighted several gaps that need to be addressed, e.g. access, affordability, protection and digital rights as well the role that the Africa Union Commission could play. It was noted the AUC is beginning to engage the technical community.

- c. Telecommunications infrastructure: traditional and emerging challenges

The session was moderated by Jonathan Mwakijele (AFRALTI) and had 3 presenters: Marcelino Tayob (ITU), Chidi Diugwu, Nigeria Communications Commission (NCC) and Temitope Osunrinde (MainONE, Nigeria). The session discussed the key components of the ICT infrastructure and the landscape of connectivity in Africa region, as well as emerging challenges, such as over-the-top services (OTT) and the efforts to connect the 'Internet of everything'. During the session the participants noted that that despite the extensive availability of international, regional and national fiber optics infrastructure the gaps remain in reaching the most remote areas in the continent, i.e. rural areas where the majority of the African populations lives. The contribution of Universal Service Funds, competition in the market, mobile technologies and applications such as OTT and regulatory landscapes were discussed particularly in the Africa context.

- d. Names, numbers and standards: technical and policy aspects

The session was moderated by Marcelino Tayob (ITU) and had 3 presenters: Laurent Ferrali (ICANN), Alan Barrett (AFRINIC) and Prince Chidi Dikko (Backbone Connectivity,

Nigeria). The session discussed matters related to the basic principles and the governance models of Internet names, numbers and standards. The challenges associated with the growth of the Internet including the transition to IPv6, new gTLD programme and preserving interoperability was also discussed. The debate that followed the presentations focused on the reasons why Africa is lagging behind on the migration to IPv6, the impact of IoT, the availability of test beds and the need of African policy makers and the technical community to be more engaged.

e. Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs

The session was moderated by Temitope Osunrinde (Main ONE Nigeria) and had 4 presenters: Vladimir Radunovic (DiploFoundation), Joseph Nzano (Communications Authority of Kenya), Serge-Valery Zongo (ITU) and Abdul-Hakeem Ajijola (Consultancy Support Services, Nigeria). The session provided an overview of areas of cybersecurity, such as cybercrime, security of the core infrastructure, cyberwarfare and cyberterrorism, Internet safety and economic espionage, discussions on policy challenges, actors, and initiatives being implemented by various stakeholders and frameworks of cooperation on main cyber threats. From the debate the participants concluded that the role of government is not to infringe on people's rights but educate, guide and facilitate the reporting, get legal frameworks to facilitate courts actions, and make infrastructure safer and build trust. The importance of enhancing awareness, the collaboration and partnerships with Governments, research and development, and the importance to find ways of mitigating was also emphasized during the debate.

f. Capacity building priorities in the Africa region

The session was moderated by Uche Mbanaso, Nassarawa State University Keffi (NSUK) and had 2 presenters: Marcelino Tayob (ITU) and Ike Adinde (DBI). The session discussed the priorities in capacity development in the African region, including the thematic gaps that need to be filled and best ways to deliver training as well as the role of the ITU Centers of Excellence network in the region. The discussion during the session focused on the progress of the online training, its challenges and suggestions on the way forward based on experiences so far accumulated in the region.

g. Legal aspects of Internet governance: privacy as an example

The session was moderated by Barr. Rotimi Ogunyemi (ICT Attorney, Nigeria) and had 3 presenters: Peter Major (Vice-Chair of CSTD), Ababacar Diop (Jonction Senegal) and Verengai Mabika (ISOC Zimbabwe). The session provided an overview of the different types of legal instruments and their role in Internet governance with a focus on legal issues concerning online privacy and data protection from a legal standpoint and also from a practical perspective, covering some privacy enhancing technologies. The discussion that followed the presentations highlighted the importance of the issues of data privacy and data protection in the region and that more capacity building and awareness raising (among different stakeholders) was required to ensure the right policies were put in place.

h. Digital economy and regional development

The session was moderated by Susan Teltscher (ITU) and had 2 presenters: Linda Kambale (Malawi Communications Authority-MACRA) and Fola Odufuwa (Consultant, Nigeria). The session presented an overview of recent trends in digital economy and e-commerce developments in the region, focused on the ways to create an enabling environment for the development of the digital economy, highlighted regional experiences, and discussed how legal frameworks could facilitate e-commerce and the development of related services, such as local online marketplaces and e-payment mechanisms, as well as digital financial services. The issues that emanated from the discussion were related to which authority produces the payment regulations, the responsibility for driving digital literacy between banks and/or regulators, challenges with fraud, questions related to e-transactions internationally and even across service providers in the case of mobile money, and the importance of a political will to move the agenda forward.

BREAK-OUT SESSIONS AND ROLE PLAY

11. Break-out groups were an essential component of the workshop. They provided an opportunity for participants to apply the knowledge acquired from the sessions and their own professional experience to real-life situations related to Internet policy issues. During break-out exercises, participants engaged in tasks such as issue-identification, prioritisation, role-playing, negotiation and problem-solving.
12. Each break-out group was facilitated by an expert in the field of Internet governance. The following experts facilitated the break-out sessions:
 - Vladimir Radunovic, Director of e-diplomacy and cybersecurity programmes, DiploFoundation
 - Peter Major, Vice-Chair, CSTD and ITU Expert
 - Laurent Ferrali, Government and IGO Engagement Director, ICANN
 - Serge-Valery Zongo, Programme Officer, ITU Regional Office for Africa
 - Joseph Nzano, Manager/Cybersecurity, Communications Authority of Kenya
 - Ababacar Diop, Jonction Senegal
13. The workshop comprised three break-out exercises, one held on each day:
 - Issue prioritization for the agenda of a regional Internet Governance Forum (IGF)
 - Simulation of national response to cyberattacks and de-escalating tensions with a neighbouring country
 - Fish-bowl: agreeing on the agenda of the national/regional IGF
14. Issue prioritization: Participants were divided into four groups, each representing one set of stakeholders (government, private sector, civil society, technical community). Each group was invited to define their proposal for the agenda of the regional IGF, by agreeing on 5 priority topics (from a previously proposed list of 11 topics).
15. Simulation: Participants were divided into three groups, each being composed of representatives of several key stakeholders (ICT Ministry, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Security services, major telecom operator, prominent NGO, knowledgeable technical community, etc).

Participants were asked to look at different aspects of a crisis emerging after cyber-incidents, and suggest steps to undertake to deescalate situation.

16. Fish bowl: Participants were divided into the same four groups as in break-out exercise 1 (issue prioritization). Through several iterations of internal discussions and discussions with other stakeholders, they were asked to agree on 4 topics that will be on the agenda of the regional IGF (using agreed priorities of each group from Exercise 1).
17. The break-out sessions turned out to be highly successful. They were characterized by lively discussions and strong engagement from participants. In particular, assuming the role of a particular stakeholder group provided participants with the opportunity to discuss the topics from different angles. The fish bowl exercise was for many participants the first time to simulate a policy negotiation and highlighted the challenges related to the process of finding an agreement among different stakeholder groups often faced in real negotiations.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

18. The workshop provided participants with a comprehensive overview of key IG relevant topics globally and in the African region. Some of the main results and conclusions are the following:
 - a. The topic of IG includes many different thematic and policy aspects, ranging from infrastructure deployment and quality, to e-commerce and financial services, cybersecurity and data protection as well as the management of domains, names and numbers. For IG to be effective, it is essential to understand how these different aspects are related and what the role of policy makers is in addressing them.
 - b. The multistakeholder approach in the delivery of the workshop and in the group exercises was a key element of the workshop methodology that was recognized and appreciated by the participants as it reflects the nature of IG policy making. The diversity of views and approaches that exist in the IG community is an essential part of any capacity development programme in this field.
 - c. While it is important to understand global discussions and issues that need to be addressed in global forums, it is equally important to look at regional (and national) issues and in identifying and taking a regional approach to IG.
 - d. Strengthening active participation in global and regional IG forums is important for countries in the African region. In this respect, the breakout sessions and group exercises were useful for participants to practice and prepare for a more pro-active engagement in IG related discussions/forums.
19. A number of participants filled out the evaluation forms provided at the end of the workshop. Some of the key takeaways include:
 - a. While all topics were considered as highly relevant, the issue of capacity building clearly is a priority in the region. This was also reflected in outcomes of the group exercise that had to define regional priorities.
 - b. The topic of cybersecurity (including legal aspect and data protection) is also of high priority in the region and the related group exercise was considered useful in this regard. Future IG capacity building workshops should focus more on this topic.
 - c. Other topics that received high consideration and should be addressed in future IG workshops include telecommunication infrastructure and the digital economy.

- d. The breakout sessions were considered as the most useful element of the workshop by many participants.
- e. More time should be allocated to the discussion period during the presentation-led sessions and less time to presenters. This could also be addressed by increasing the number of days of the workshop.