African Internet Governance Forum (AfIGF)

Girma Dessalegn - AfIGF Secretariat

Outline

- About IGF
- IGF in Africa
- Launching of AfIGF
- AfIGF Secretariat
- AfIGF Bureau
- AfIGF Activities
- Upcoming AfIGF events

About IGF

- United Nations led-activity initiated in 2006
- Based on mandate given at the Second Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis (WSIS)
- A global platform for multi-stakeholder policy dialogue on prevailing and emerging issues on Internet governance
- Aiming to foster the sustainability, robustness, security, stability, and development of the Internet.

IGF in Africa

- Africa has been very active during the WSIS process holding regional meetings from 2002 to 2005 in Bamako, Accra, Addis Ababa, Cairo, Johannesburg, Douala and Tunis.

- Within the IGF global initiative, Africa has also hosted IGF in Egypt (2009) and in Kenya (2011).

IGF in Africa

- Five regional initiatives
  - West Africa Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF),
  - East Africa Internet Governance Forum (EAIGF),
  - Forum de Gouvernance de l'Internet en Afrique Centrale (FGI-CA),
  - North Africa Internet Governance Forum (NAIGF)
  - Southern Africa Internet Governance Forum (SAIGF).

Launching of AfIGF

- Formally launched in Nairobi, during the global Internet Governance Forum in 2011

- Approved by the Council of African Ministers of ICT, in Khartoum, Sudan- September 2012

- 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

- Terms of Reference discussed and adopted by the AfIGF participants in Cairo, Egypt – October 2012

AfIGF Secretariat

- Based on the model of the global IGF secretariat - hosted by the United Nations Department of Economic Affairs (UNDESA),

- AfIGF secretariat is hosted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

- Secretariat fully supported by the African Union Commission in its activities to fulfill its mandate.

AfIGF Secretariat

- Its responsibilities are to:
  - Provide administrative, logistical and organisational support to the AfIGF;
  - Promote the AfIGF activities of the members ;
  - Develop strategies on sustaining the AfIGF process and secretariat in consultation with Bureau members;
  - Act as a knowledge management hub of the AfIGF experiences, best practices, knowledge, expertise, needs and resources among sub-regional and national IGFs;
  - Convene AfIGF meetings; and
  - Develop and maintain active e-mail lists and website to provide updated AfIGF related information .

The AfIGF Bureau

- Composed of the 5 current conveners of the regional IGF or their designates.
- Chaired by the host country of the last AfIGF.
- Current chair (2012-2013), Ms. Nermine El Saadany of Egypt.

AfIGF Activities

- First face-to-face meeting
  - Held in Cairo, Egypt, from October 2 to 4, 2012, hosted by the Government of Egypt.
  - Physically attended by 229 participants from31 countries, and remotely attended by 52 individuals from 21 countries.

AfIGF Activities

- Workshops at the 7th Internet Governance Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan
  - Held two (2) AfIGF sessions
    - Session 1 heard reports:
      - on .Africa from AUC, UNIFORUM, and .Africa Steering Committee;
      - on behalf of African ccTLDs by .NG
    - Session 2 heard reports:
      - from AfIGF Secretariat, and from several regional IG Forum conveners.

Up coming AfIGF events

- The 2nd AfIGF
  - To be held in Nairobi, Kenya from 11-13 September 2013.
  - Hosted by the Government of Kenya in cooperation with the Internet Society Kenya Chapter.

Up coming AfIGF events

- **AfIGF at the 8th IGF in Bali, Indonesia**
  - Title of Proposed Workshop: Deepening Stakeholders' activity on Internet Governance
  - Proposal endorsed by IGF/Multi stakeholder Advisory Group (MAG) meeting on 21-23 May in Geneva
  - A 2-session workshop.
    - Session 1 is of individuals representing their regional/national IGFs, while
    - Session 2 features institutional actors.

The 8ᵗʰ IGF in Bali

- Date: 21-25 October 2013
- Main Theme: **Building Bridges**
- Sub-themes, still under discussion:
  - Enhanced Multistakeholder Cooperation
  - Human Rights, Freedom of expression
  - Internet Governance Principles
  - The Internet as an Engine for Growth and Development
  - Legal frameworks: spam, hacking, cyber security and cyber crime
  - Principles of Multi-Stakeholder Cooperation

THANK YOU