4th National Internet Governance Forum, The Gambia

Communiqué

4th and 5th July 2018

Theme: “Internet Governance in the New Gambia”

We, the participants at the 4th National Internet Governance Forum held at the Paradise Suites Hotel, The Gambia on the 4th and 5th of July 2018 organized by the Gambia National Internet Governance Forum Steering Committee, in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communication and Infrastructure, The Gambia (MOICI).

Recalling that this is the 4th session of the National Internet Governance Forum held in The Gambia.

Recalling that this is the first national Internet Governance Forum held in The Gambia after a 6 year hiatus.

Recalling that the 11th West African Internet Governance Forum in 2018 shall take place in Burkina Faso and the 7th Pan African Internet Governance forum is scheduled to take place in Khartoum, prior to the Global Internet Governance forum in Paris, France.

WE AGREE:

On Access and Infrastructure

We the stakeholders at the Gambia 4th Internet Governance Forum agree to the following:

1. Urge the Government to make the broadband Internet affordable to users.
2. Call on the Government to ensure National Local Roaming to solve the issue of disconnectivity within certain parts of the country for both data and voice services.
3. Encourage Government to implement ECOWAS Roaming in line with ECOWAS Roaming Regulation on Public Mobile Networks.
4. Encourage the use of renewable energy sources by service providers especially in areas of low electricity coverage.
5. Users to have a service level agreement with all operators to compensate for down time.
6. Encourage Government and service providers to invest in international traffic backup and additional landing stations.
7. Establish a carrier neutral Data Center to encourage local content development and open access.
8. Review the framework and fast track the delegation of the .gm ccTLD.
9. Encourage increased adoption of the .gm domains by Gambian businesses.
10. Introduce tax incentives for Service Providers who want to roll out into the rural areas.
11. Implement the Universal and Service Access Fund in the ICT sector.
12. Encourage Content Delivery Networks to be hosted locally.
13. Create the enabling environment for the use of Electronic Payment Systems, inbound and outbound.
14. Encourage the increased adoption of Electronic payment services like Mobile Money taking into account interoperability.

On Security in the Digital Economy

1. Increase in cyber security in the public sector taking into account the safety and security of government materials.
2. Increase policing of illegal activities and protecting Intellectual Property content on the Internet.
3. Increase accessibility and affordability of e-commerce in the digital economy.
4. Have the public sector become more involved in e-government and reaching out to the people to encourage the use ICT in the digital economy.
5. Increase protection of Websites and Web Applications using SSL and other encryption mechanisms.
6. Promote the development of e-commerce businesses to help boost GDP.
7. Encourage the creation of a digital currency (e-dalasi).
8. Increase capacity building and improve cyber security awareness.
9. Encourage the incorporation of cyber security and digital literacy in schools as examinable subjects.
10. Encourage Government to invest and allocate specific budgets towards cybersecurity.
11. Encourage the amendment of The National Security Council Act to include the Minister of MOICI inline with increased cyber threats.

12. Fast track the establishment of the Computer Incidence Response Team (CIRT).

13. Ensure compliance to international standards in IT equipment and systems in both the public and private sector.

14. Domesticate the ECOWAS Supplementary Act and AU Convention on Data Protection and accede to the Budapest Convention to help in the fight against Cyber Crime.

15. Encourage government in using local capacity in developing e-government solutions.

16. Putting in place a proper disposal system for ICT equipment in the public and private sector.

17. Fast track the establishment of an ICT Agency to spearhead the implementation of e-government systems for increased security.

**We the stakeholders at the Gambia 4th Internet Governance Forum agree to the following**

**On Internet Governance and the SDGs**

1. Promote an accessible, available, reliable, affordable and open Internet.
2. Promote the allocation of more government scholarships in STEM in line with the National Development Plan.
3. Develop a policy to promote the participation of Women in ICT in line with the SDG #5.
4. Encourage the inclusion of differently abled persons in ICT education, equipment and infrastructure in line with SDG #10.
5. Increase the awareness of Gender based violence through the use of technology in line with SDG #5.

**We the stakeholders at the Gambia 4th Internet Governance Forum agree to the following**

**On Data Protection and Privacy**

1. Ensure that a comprehensive Data Protection and Privacy Law is in place.
2. Establish a Data Protection Authority (DPA) to protect consumer data and privacy.
3. Encourage greater transparency in public and private data usage.
4. Encourage Advocacy and awareness in terms of Data Protection and Privacy across the board.
5. Ensure alignment with International Data Protection Standards such as the GDPR and the Malabo Convention(AU).

**We the stakeholders at the Gambia 4th Internet Governance Forum agree to the following**
On Intellectual Property

1. Ensure the Government will protect and enforce Intellectual Property rights to empower the Gambian people.

2. Encourage better enforcement mechanisms for the infringement of Intellectual Property rights both on and offline.

3. Discourage the reproduction of online content that is not under Creative Commons license.

4. Amendment of the Copyright Act to capture digital resources.

Addendum

We the stakeholders agree to participate more fully in national, regional, pan African and global Internet governance forums to make the Gambia’s position clearer and known world wide in regards to issues on Internet Governance.

We the stakeholders agree to maintaining the National Internet Governance Forum Steering Committee for subsequent National Internet Governance Forums and for the hosting of the West African Internet Governance Forum in June/July 2019.

The Committee comprises of the following organizations and institutions: -

1. Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure
2. Information Technology Association of the Gambia
3. Gambia Press Union
4. National Youth Council
5. Public Utilities Regulatory Authority
6. TANGO
7. Internet Society Gambia Chapter
8. University of the Gambia
9. GAMCHIX
10. Gambia Cyber Security Alliance
11. Gambia Press Union
12. Ministry of Justice
13. Serekunda Internet Exchange Point

WE thank the Ministry of Information and Communication Infrastructure (MOICI) and all stakeholders and participants.