



10TH WEST AFRICAN INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM

THEME: "DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL ECONOMY AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGY IN WEST AFRICA"

**HOTEL LAICO
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COMMUNIQUE

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We, the participants of the 10th West African Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF), meeting in Ouagadougou, from 26th to 27th July 2018, representing the Internet governance initiatives of the following fifteen (15) countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo;

With the participation and support of the following partners: ECOWAS Commission, WATRA, ICANN, AFRINIC, ISOC, World Wide Web Foundation, Facebook, Google, IGFSa and ARCEP Burkina.

- Recalling the results of the previous editions of the West African Internet Governance Forum which were held respectively in Accra, Dakar, Lagos, Freetown, Abidjan, Abuja, Niamey and Cotonou;
- Considering the critical importance of the Internet to the economy of countries and the need for greater access to affordable Internet
- Recognising the need to ensure user and market confidence to sustainably own the benefits of the Internet at the community level;
- Desirous, on one hand, to build an innovative, dynamic, prosperous, and united sub-regional Internet community and, on the other, a stable and secure Internet ecosystem.

1) Report that:

- a) The 11th Forum shall hold in The Gambia in 2019.
- b) The 12th Forum shall hold in Sierra Leone in 2020.

2) Recommend;

a) On Implementation of the SDGs

- i. Encourage Member States to adopt standards for electronic components for protection of the environment.
- ii. Encourage Member States to promote Internet for all to achieve the SDGs.

b) On Access and Infrastructure

- i. Urge Member States to make broadband Internet affordable, accessible and available to users especially in rural communities. To this end invite Member States to implement the ECOWAS Revised Supplementary Act on Universal Access/Service.
- ii. Call on Member States to ensure International and National Roaming for both voice and data services according to the provisions of the ECOWAS Supplementary Act on Interconnection of Networks and Services as well as the timely implementation of the ECOWAS Roaming Regulation on Public Mobile Networks.
- iii. Encourage redundant international fibre optic network links in Member States to avoid downtime during cuts.
- iv. Encourage Member States to take full ownership of their country code top-level domain (ccTLDs).
- v. Encourage development of local content so as to get full benefits of investments on infrastructures such as Internet Exchange Points (IXP).

c) On Security in the Digital Economy

- i. Adopt a digital security strategy which meets the norms and standards and guarantees the use of root servers and Network Operation Centre (NOC).

- ii. Urge Member States to have working groups on cybersecurity and have a Cybersecurity Day to sensitise stakeholders.
- iii. Urge the ECOWAS Commission to continue its leadership role and identify a champion at a high political level to promote cybersecurity.

d) On Internet of Things and Blockchain Technology

- i. Urge Member States to build capacity on Internet of things for all stakeholders.
- ii. Adapt IT curricular in institutions of learning on emerging technologies.
- iii. Encourage research on vulnerability of systems, security and database.
- iv. Develop a policy framework on blockchain technology that will not deter innovation.

Express our gratitude to the people and the Government of Burkina Faso for hosting this 10th edition.

Ouagadougou. July 27, 2018

WAIGF 2018
