

ENYA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM 2015

Evolution of Internet Governance: Empowering Sustainable Development

31st July 2015

The Stanley Hotel, Nairobi

Executive Summary

Session one Welcome and Introductions

- Focus was on the keynote address by the Cabinet Secretary of ICT Dr. Fred Matiangi
- The Cabinet Secretary indicated that the Critical Infrastructure bill was being prepared and that there was need for stakeholders to support it.
- Tespok highlighted the fact that service providers were losing as much as 500 million Kenya shillings to vandals and that this was increasing the cost of doing business for Internet and Infrastructure service providers.

Session 2 Inclusiveness and Diversity: Enhancing Multistakeholder Cooperation

- The role of multistakeholder cooperation in the development of the Kenyan ICT ecosystem was appreciated by all panelists.
- It was noted that close to 90 percent of the participants were young people who were attending the Internet Governance Forum for the first time. Participants and panelists lauded this development since it signified a great future for Internet Governance in Kenya.
- Participants observed that the Internet Governance arena in Kenya had been dominated by a few individuals which discouraged new comers from participating in the discussions. It was equally noted that participation in the process was voluntary and involving
- Participants appreciated the diversity in the 2015 Kenya Internet Governance Forum since stakeholders from the Government, Civil Society, Technical Community and Academia were well represented.
- Panelists observed that there was need for stakeholders to understand and appreciate how to engage government to ensure that they were involved in the process. The same applied to other stakeholder groups due to the diverse governance models they used.
- Participants noted that there was a need for a public debate on net neutrality which was an emerging issue.

Session 3 Cyber Security and Trust

- The Telecommunications Service Providers of Kenya highlighted various initiatives it was undertaking to curb the Cyber Security menace in Kenya.
- One such initiative is Cyber Usalama <http://www.cyberusalama.co.ke/>
- TESPOK would soon be inviting stakeholders to a function where it would unveil the latest Cyber Security industry report
- The Communications authority noted that the number of internet subscribers had increased significantly and with the increase Cyber Security challenges had increased.

According to the Communications Authority In Kenya there are:

- 34.8 M mobile subscribers in (85.5% penetration).
- 26.7M mobile money subscribers (65% penetration).
- 29.2 M Internet users (71.7% penetration).

Internet Social Networking tools such as blogs, Facebook and Twitter, Whatsapp, Viber, amongst others, have gained popularity throughout the country.

Fibre optic subscriptions are now at 87,838 growing from 81,243 from the last quarter
The authority also gave highlights on the Cyber Security Governance framework in Kenya as outlined below:

Policy and Strategy

National ICT Sector Policy of 2006 addresses ELECTRONIC SECURITY. (Under review.)
National Cybersecurity Strategy of 2014.

Legislation and Regulations

Kenya Information and Communications Act of 1998 (Part VI A on E-transactions) as amended in 2013.
Kenya Information and Communications (Electronic Certification and Domain Name Administration) Regulations, 2010.(Currently under review.)
Currently developing regulations on Cybersecurity and E-Commerce.

Technical

The National KE-CIRT/CC) under the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA).
National trusted Point of Contact (POC) for cybercrime management in Kenya.
Phased implementation in collaboration with the ITU through the Global Cybersecurity Agenda (GCA).

The Communications Authority also stressed on the following points in conclusion:

- Society to actively participate in the process of putting in place relevant Policies, Strategy, Laws and Regulatory frameworks.
- Collaboration and encourage Implementation sector CIRTs.
- Create awareness and capacity building in Cybersecurity.
- Put in place National, Regional and international partnership for effective cybercrime

management.

- We have to make cyberspace safer. We have to improve cooperation across the board.

Session 4 Internet Economy and Critical Internet Resources

- Participants noted that there was rapid development in the local internet economy with citizens embracing Jumia and OLX among other online portals to buy and sell goods
- Discussions centered on whether it was appropriate to tax online businesses.
- Participants noted that since the industry was at the nascent stage, taxation would hamper further development of the budding industry since most of the goods being sold online are already taxed.
- Participants noted that the current law had provisions for protecting consumers.
- Participants were informed that peering at the local Internet exchange points had increased to over 1 GB of traffic.

Session 5 Emerging issues

- Participants were informed that the country had made significant strides in so far as Internet and Human Rights were concerned citing the current developments by Kenyans on Twitter in addressing Social vices and supporting social causes.
- Participants were advised that there was need for Kenya to participate in the WSIS process that was underway.
- Participants were briefed on the ongoing IANA transition process which sought to transfer oversight of the IANA functions from the US government to a multi stakeholder organization. More than 60 % of participants in the room were aware of the process, they were encouraged to read the input from other stakeholders and contribute in shaping the future of the Internet.
- There was a brief update regarding the declaration on Africa Internet rights. Participants were advised that there were ongoing consultations among various stakeholders.

Closing Session

- Participants were encouraged to embrace dialogue and the spirit of multistakeholder cooperation and to avoid litigation since it was crippling the industry and stifling progress of the ICT industry.