

# KENYA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM REPORT 2023



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# Executive Summary



**The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is an open and inclusive multi-stakeholder forum where public policy issues related to key elements of internet governance, such as the internet's sustainability, robustness, security, stability and development are discussed.**

Modelled on the Global IGF structure and principles, the Kenya IGF is a unique platform for all stakeholders to openly share perspectives and concerns on the key issues that may affect the future of internet users in the country and across the globe in general.

The 16th edition of the Kenya IGF was organised and convened by the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) in partnership with various industry stakeholders.

The event received support from and was implemented in collaboration with the Communications Authority of Kenya, (CA), Meta Platforms, Inc., Safaricom PLC, The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), HUAWEI, Paradigm Initiative, Kenya Network Information Centre (KENIC), UNESCO, Dimension Data, Watoto Watch Network among others - serving as a key indication of willingness and commitment to

the development and growth of the internet in Kenya.

The Kenya IGF was convened as a hybrid event with both physical and online participation, and included a sign interpreter to ensure inclusive engagement by participants who are abled differently under the theme “**The Internet We Want**”.

The meeting was also active on digital platforms including the dedicated [Kenya IGF Website](#), on LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter and TikTok platforms under **#KeIGF2023**. The hashtag **#KeIGF2023** was tracked between 19th May 2023 and 7th July 2023. There were **3,480 #KeIGF2023** tweets, 214,411 Engagements, **1200 Retweets**, **500 Replies**, **3501 likes** and **732** new followers and was featured on both broadcast and digital media. The event website also had more than **11,000** site visits largely from Kenya, the United States of America and South Africa.

Additionally, espousing the values of accessibility and inclusivity for all, the meeting had two sign language interpreters, who enhanced communication of the day's sessions to all.

In the Opening Session, in welcoming all attendees and opening the day's Forum **Ali**

**Hussein, the Chairman**, KICTANet Board of Trustees, shed light on the key thematic discussion areas of the day.

These included cybersecurity, data privacy, online harassment abuse, hate speech, connectivity and infrastructure, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

He pointed to the day's intent to query the role of internet governance, of citizens, government and non-governmental organisations.

In her Welcoming Remarks, **Grace Githaiga, Convenor** and CEO, KICTANet explained the multi-level framework of Internet Governance Forum which happens at a national, regional, and global level, where public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, such as the Internet's sustainability, robustness, security, stability, and development are discussed and highlighted with the key activities undertaken to mark the Internet Governance Forum's week.

At the first session, **'High (C-Level) Panel – The Internet We Want - Empowering All Kenyan People'**, the observations on the internet's unique utility were prominent as all multistakeholder panellists sought to paint a picture of 'the Internet We Want in Kenya'.

It was evident that an ideal internet would be one that is a multistakeholder space that allows for people to engage with one another freely, allows government actors to respond accordingly against bad actors, one that is sustainable and that respects diverse stakeholder perspectives.

The subsequent session on Cyber security, Cybercrime and Online Safety noted that all cyber threats are technically human centric, and highlighted the need to build cyber hygiene capacity in all sectors and the need for more skilled professionals.

In highlighting the fact that cybercrime is a borderless issue and cyber security cannot exist in a silo, a multi-stakeholder approach is required to tackle the challenges posed.

Data Governance & Trust panel session: In appreciating the comprehensive and

progressive nature of Kenya's data protection regulatory framework, panellists noted the need for data governance to bridge the digital divide and ensure equal access to information and opportunities for all.

They also highlighted the need for harmonisation of frameworks to ease compliance of all regulated entities, both in the public and private sector as well as recognizing the power dynamic between data subjects and data processors and controllers duly recognized by law.

The session on Human Rights and Freedoms - Harmful Content Online discussed the challenges faced in ensuring that human rights are upheld on the Internet with a focus on Freedom of Expression online.

The speakers, through highlighting the various initiatives spearheaded by their respective organisations, reminded the audience that each person had a responsibility in the realisation of an Internet where human rights and freedoms thrive.

Further, such rights and freedoms are not absolute and need to be exercised within the provided legal limits.

During this solutions focused styled panel, the moderator applied the use of a problem – solution approach in addressing the issue of the Digital Divide and Inclusion.

The diverse pool of panellists shared the issues experienced and the major barriers to connectivity inclusion in Kenya including access to networks, digital skills and accessibility.

The event also featured an Award ceremony for the Kenya School of Internet Governance (KESIG) 2023 which had a total of 343 applications, from all locations in Kenya, and several countries in Africa such as Nigeria and Malawi.

**79** applicants were selected, with **58%** being male and **52%** female. **73** students completed, with the male completion rate being 79%, and female 98%. Total completion rate was 92%.

Further, the outcome report of the 2023 Youth IGF held on June 21st 2023 was conveyed under the theme “The Internet we want – Empowering all Youth”. The Forum emphasised the importance of youth’s voices in shaping the future of the internet and attracted over 70 participants from diverse stakeholder groups, including the technical community, civil society and academia.

In delivering the Vote of Thanks, Rosemary Kimwatu chair of the Multi Advisory Group (MAG) thanked all the sponsors, partners, speakers, MAG members, KICTANet team and attendees for their engagement.

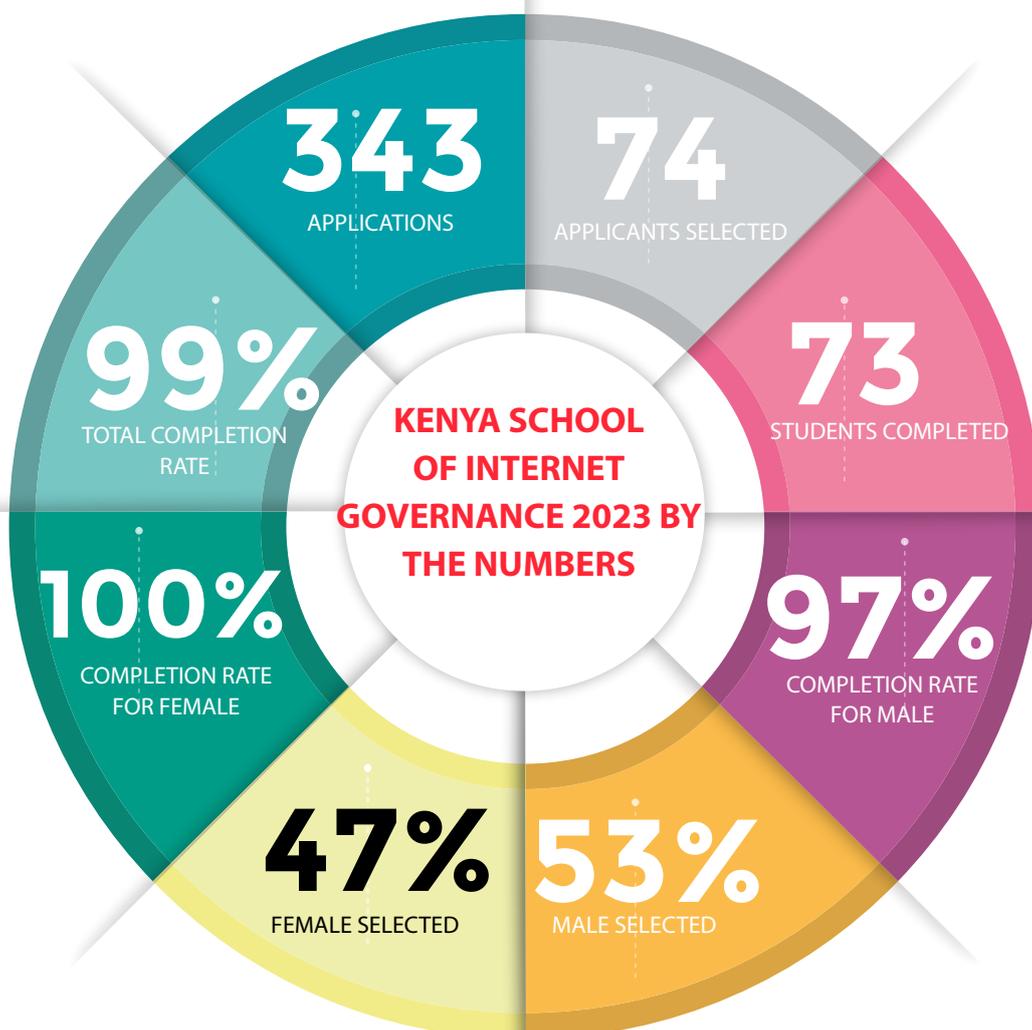
The final session for the day, the Fireside Chat on AI & Emerging Technologies interrogated the history of Artificial Intelligence, development

and progress and its current status.

The panellists discussed the policy and regulatory framework for large scale AI deployment that would need to be inclusive and multistakeholder espousing key Constitutional elements of public participation.

The audience in attendance was encouraged to approach AI as a complimentary tool rather than a competitive alternative to their tasks and work.

Conclusively, the attendees - representing various sectors including government, the private sector, civil society, the technical and academic community, and the general public - shared key session highlights and comments on the active chat box.



# Background & Introduction

## ABOUT THE INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (IGF)

**The Internet Governance Forum (IGF) is an open and inclusive multi-stakeholder forum where public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, such as the Internet's sustainability, robustness, security, stability, and development.**

The United Nations Secretary-General formally announced the establishment of the IGF in July 2006 and the first meeting was convened in October 2006.

The purpose of the IGF is to maximise the opportunity for open and inclusive dialogue and the exchange of ideas on Internet Governance (IG) related issues; create opportunities to share best practices and experiences; identify emerging issues and bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public and contribute to capacity building for Internet governance.

The event brings together stakeholders representing government, the private sector, civil society, the technical and academic community, media, and the public in an informal setting for policy dialogue on Internet governance issues on an equal basis through an open and inclusive process.

This type of cooperative engagement is usually referred to as the multistakeholder model of Internet Governance, which is one of the key

features of the Internet's success.

This model is paramount to ensuring that the Internet remains sustainable for economic and social development.

The fora are localised and their outcomes feed into each other from country to sub-regional then regional level, finally culminating in a report that is presented at the global level.

The outcomes of the country level (Kenya IGF) feed into the regional level (East Africa IGF), continental level (Africa IGF), and ultimately at the global level (IGF).

Previously, Kenya hosted the East Africa IGF in 2009 and thereafter, the global IGF in 2011 in Nairobi.

This year, the Annual Global IGF Meeting convened by the United Nations will be hosted by the Government of Japan from November 8 to 12 October 2023, in Kyoto.

## Kenya IGF Week 2023 Program

Over the years, the KIGF has tremendously and now comprises a KIGF week, where dedicated sessions all aimed at celebrating the Internet Governance growth in the country are celebrated.

The main KIGF event is then a culmination of the week's activities, with key events being the panel sessions, the graduation of the KeSIG fellows, and a fireside event that focuses on key emerging issues.

In 2023, several activities took place with the program of the week below:

KENYA IGF WEEK SCHEDULE OF EVENTS		
TIME	DESCRIPTION	Responsible
5 – 21 June 2023	Kenya School of Internet Governance (KESIG), internet-related events.	KICTANet and Industry Partners
15 June 2023	Children IGF	Watoto Watch Network
19 – 20 June 2023	Training on Access to the Internet and public participation for women	KICTANet/ICNL.
20 June 2023	Special Documentary Screening of ‘Backlash: Misogyny in the Digital Age.’	KICTANet/GIZ
21 June 2023	Data Protection and Privacy Event for the Youth	KICTANet/META.
21 June 2023	Kenya Youth IGF 2023	Youth IGF/KICTANet.
22 June 2023	Kenya Internet Governance Forum 2023	KICTANet and Industry Partners
22 June 2023	KeIGF Fireside event	KICTANet and Industry Partners.

## Kenya Internet Governance Forum (KIGF)

The Kenya Internet Governance Forum (KIGF) is an open and inclusive multistakeholder forum that annually brings together over 250 industry stakeholders representing the government, the

private sector, civil society, the technical and academic community, and the public to discuss Internet Governance.

KICTANet has convened the Kenya IGF every successive year since 2008 in partnership with industry stakeholders, and 2023 marked the 16th Edition.

The outcomes of the Kenya IGF will feed into the African IGF and Global IGF later this year. [See the Kenya IGF Report 2022.](#)

The outcomes of the Kenya IGF will feed into the African IGF and Global IGF later this year. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to affect work all over the World and in the country.

However, with the lifting of sanctions, planned annual activities were all held physically but also offered a virtual option to attendees.

## Expected Outcomes

The main outcome of the Kenya IGF is to maximise opportunities for open and inclusive dialogue and the exchange of ideas on Internet Governance (IG) related issues. Others include:

- a) Creation of opportunities to share best practices and experiences;
- b) Identification of emerging issues and bringing them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public;
- c) Contribution to capacity building for Internet governance.

## Methodology

The format of the Forum was a hybrid event that included:

- a) Thematic moderated online discussion prior to the face-to-face meeting
- b) Thematic moderated panel sessions
- c) Moderated plenary discussions
- d) Remote online participation

## Participants

Desk registration for the KIGF started at 8.00 a.m. on the material day and the discussions ran between 0900 – 1900.

The online registration commenced two weeks earlier. There were 350 physical participants and 306 attending virtually of 842 registrations.

Virtual attendees were on Zoom, Facebook Live, LinkedIn and via Livestream on KICTANet's YouTube channel representing various sectors including government, the private sector, civil society, the technical and academic community, and the general public.

The forum also included two sign language interpreters, to ensure inclusive engagement by participants who are abled differently.

As has been the case in the past, KICTANet partnered with the Communications Authority of Kenya, (CA), Meta Platforms, Inc., Safaricom PLC, The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, The International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), HUAWEI, Paradigm Initiative, Kenya Network Information Centre (KENIC), UNESCO, Dimension Data, Watoto Watch Network among others.

A networking lunch and coffee breaks were provided as well as a fireside event (evening panel session) followed by a networking cocktail. The event was free to attend for registered participants.

## The Kenya Youth IGF Forum

Alongside the national IGF, a youth IGF was convened a day before the event to bring in the voices of young Kenyans to the national discussions.

[The 2023 Kenya Youth Internet Governance Forum \(IGF\)](#) which provided a platform for organised youth participation, was held on June 21st, with the theme "The Internet we want – Empowering all Youth,"

The Forum emphasised the importance of youth's voices in shaping the future of the internet and attracted over 70 participants from diverse stakeholder groups, including the technical community, civil society and academia.

This youth-led initiative facilitated the meaningful inclusion of young people in the discussion of critical Internet governance issues, including panel discussions on social media and

mental health, and capacity development in cybersecurity.

## The Kenya School on Internet Governance

Further, the Kenya IGF featured an award ceremony for the participants of the Kenya School of Internet Governance (KESIG).

The Kenya Internet Governance (KeSIG) is a capacity-building initiative of KICTANet together with its partners with the main objective of empowering a critical mass of people to meaningfully engage, contribute and participate in ICT policy-making discourse in Kenya, regionally and globally.

This year was the 8th edition. [See the previous fellows from the training here.](#)

## Media Report and Coverage

As with other fora, the Kenyan IGF was active on digital platforms adopting the use of Twitter analytics, Facebook Analytics, TikTok Analytics and LinkedIn Analytics to analyse #KeiGF2023 conversations under the following metrics.

The comprehensive media report is accessible [here](#).

### TWITTER

Through Twitter account @KICTANet, the hashtag #KeiGF2023 event attracted an impression of **100.5 million** compared to **80.7 Million** in the hashtag #KeiGF2022 and **63,192 Million** in the #KeiGF2021.

The hashtag #KeiGF2023 was tracked between 19th May 2023 and 7th July 2023. There were **3,480 #KeiGF2023** tweets, **214,411 Engagements**, **1200 Retweets**, **500 Replies**, **3501 likes** and **732 new followers**.

The top performing sponsored post had **471,185 impressions**.

### FACEBOOK

On Facebook under Account name: **Kenya IGF @KenyaIGF**, there were **189 page** visits up **509.7%** and a reach of **1,784** reflecting an increase of **4.4k%**.

In terms of location for the audience, Nairobi was predominant with **47.6%**, **Mombasa** with **3.8%**, **Kisumu** with **3%**, **Nakuru** **2.2%**, **Dar es Salaam in Tanzania** with **1.6%** and **Eldoret with 1.4%**. **Kiambu, Kitale, Ngong and Thika** all new locations from the previous year, each with **1.1%**.

The page's audience location also reflected Kenya, the United Kingdom, the United States, Tanzania, Brazil, Croatia, South Sudan, Switzerland, Uganda and India with **78.5, 2.4, 2.4, 1.9, 0.8, 0.8, 0.8, 0.8, 0.5** respectively, all in percentages.

### LINKEDIN

On LinkedIn, the KICTANet page had **314 new followers**, had **1726 page views**, **467 unique visitors**, an engagement rate of **8.5%**, **2,380 page link clicks**, and **55,341 impressions**.

### TIKTOK

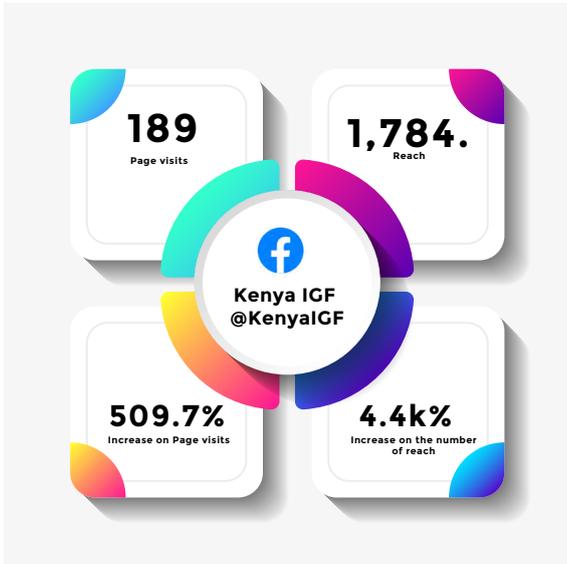
The new TikTok page had **2,938 video views**, **151 profile views**, **134 likes**, **12 shares** and **25 new followers** across **Kenya, Uganda, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria and the United Arab Emirates as top territories**.

### WEBSITE

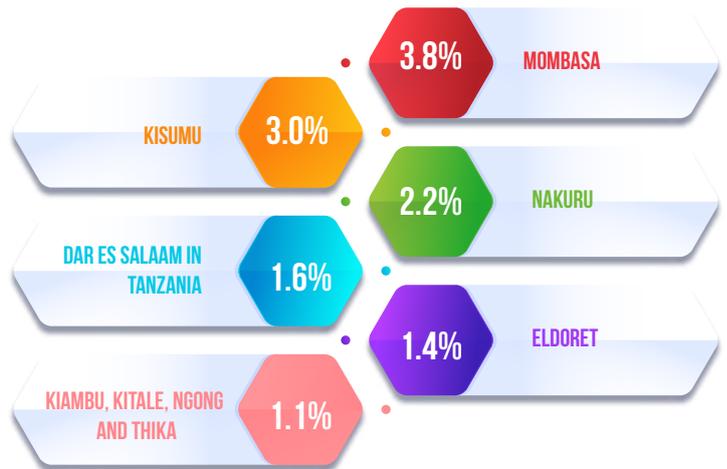
KICTANet set up a dedicated web page [<https://kigf.or.ke/about-kenya-igf/>](https://kigf.or.ke/about-kenya-igf/) for the series of events for Kenya IGF week events with links to their detailed pages, and registration links.

The page had **11,000 website visits** with the majority being from **Kenya, the United States and South Africa**.

## Facebook



## Locations



## Twitter



## TIKTOK



## Linkedin



## KENYA IGF IN THE NEWS

HEADLINE	DATE	OUTLET	LINK
KICTANet Gears Up for Internet Governance Forum 2023	24-May-23	Techweez	<a href="https://techweez.com/2023/05/24/kenya-internet-governance-forum-2023/">https://techweez.com/2023/05/24/kenya-internet-governance-forum-2023/</a>
Tech stakeholders urged to collaborate to tackle challenges	29-Jun-23	The Star	<a href="https://www.the-star.co.ke/sasa/technology/2023-06-29-tech-stakeholders-urged-to-collaborate-to-tackle-challenges/">https://www.the-star.co.ke/sasa/technology/2023-06-29-tech-stakeholders-urged-to-collaborate-to-tackle-challenges/</a>
Tech Industry Stakeholders Urged To Collaborate To Tackle Challenges	26-Jun-23	Sokodirectory	<a href="https://sokodirectory.com/2023/06/tech-industry-stakeholders-urged-to-collaborate-to-tackle-challenges/">https://sokodirectory.com/2023/06/tech-industry-stakeholders-urged-to-collaborate-to-tackle-challenges/</a>
Tech Stakeholders Urged to Collaborate on Challenges	June, 2023	techfolio	<a href="https://www.the-star.co.ke/sasa/technology/2023-06-29-tech-stakeholders-urged-to-collaborate-to-tackle-challenges/">https://www.the-star.co.ke/sasa/technology/2023-06-29-tech-stakeholders-urged-to-collaborate-to-tackle-challenges/</a>
ICT experts root for internet hygiene among youth and children	22-Jun-23	<a href="https://www.kbc.co.ke/">https://www.kbc.co.ke/</a>	<a href="https://www.kbc.co.ke/ict-experts-root-for-internet-hygiene-among-youth-and-children/">https://www.kbc.co.ke/ict-experts-root-for-internet-hygiene-among-youth-and-children/</a>
Need For Government To Step Up Cybersecurity To Combat Online Child Abuse	16-Jun-23	<a href="https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/">https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/</a>	<a href="https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/need-for-government-to-step-up-cybersecurity-to-combat-online-child-abuse/">https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/need-for-government-to-step-up-cybersecurity-to-combat-online-child-abuse/</a>

# The Proceedings

## OPENING AND WELCOME REMARKS

**SPEAKER:**  
**Ali Hussein, the Chairman - KICTANet**



**A**li Hussein, the Chairman KICTANet commenced his address by the KICTANet team, and members of the Multi Advisory Stakeholder Group (MAG), sponsors and all relevant stakeholders responsible for this year's KIGF.

He highlighted the forum as a culmination of a whole week of activities, referred to as Kenya's Internet Governance Week.

He appreciated all parties, and the KICTANet staff that put the forum together.

He indicated that the forum was an opportunity for stakeholders to discuss challenges of internet governance in Kenya and to explore how the citizenry can create a more inclusive and innovative digital future for the country, and Africa in general.

He highlighted key digital economy topics of discussion including cybersecurity and cybercrime – including the extensive sim swap fraud cases, data privacy, online harassment abuse, hate speech, connectivity and infrastructure, digital skills gap, artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.

Further, he pointed the day's intent to query the role of internet governance, of citizens, government and non-governmental organisations

Additionally, he invited attendees to visit the KICTANet Website, which he termed 'a treasure trove of policy documents around ICT and technology, policy and regulatory interventions and an enabler of digital transformation.'

*Conclusively, he called for the prioritisation of enhanced broadband access, improved regulations and policies, increased investment in digital skills programmes and better securing of the digital environment in order to create a future where all Kenyans can enjoy the advantages of a digital user nation.*

## OPENING REMARKS

**SPEAKER:**  
**Grace Githaiga, Convenor & CEO - KICTANet**



**G**race Githaiga, Convenor and CEO KICTANet, welcomed all attendees and celebrated Kenya's place as Africa's pioneer country to hold a national Internet Governance Forum consistently for the past 15 years.

She introduced The Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet), a multistakeholder think tank for ICT policy and regulation.

The network, she observed, acts as a catalyst for reform in the ICT sector and is guided by four pillars: **policy advocacy, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and research.**

KICTANet's guiding philosophy is that of encouraging synergies for ICT policy-related activities and initiatives. The network provides mechanisms and a framework for continuing

cooperation, engagement and collaboration in ICT matters among industry, technical community, academia, media, development partners, civil society and government.

She explained the multi-level framework of Internet Governance Forums which happen at a national, regional, and global level creating an open and inclusive multi-stakeholder forum where public policy issues related to key elements of Internet governance, such as the Internet's sustainability, robustness, security, stability, and development are discussed.

**Ms. Githaiga** stated that the purpose of the IGF was to maximise the opportunity for open and inclusive dialogue and the exchange of ideas on Internet Governance (IG) related issues; create opportunities to share best practices and experiences; identify emerging issues and bring them to the attention of the relevant bodies and the general public, and contribute to capacity building for Internet governance.

She further highlighted that the issues expressed at the national country fora such as the Kenya IGF are localised and their outcomes feed into each other from country to sub region, then to Africa level and finally, culminating into the global Internet Governance Forum which will take place in Japan in October 2023.

She further indicated this year's global IGF theme;

*"The Internet We Want - Empowering All People" is aligned to the Kenya IGF theme but further responds to the local context issues even as Kenyans think of the internet they want.*

She highlighted the following key activities which marked the Internet Governance Forum's week:

KICTANet inducted the eighth Cohort of the Kenya School of Internet Governance (KeSIG), which commenced on June 2, 2023.

KeSIG and Industry partners disseminate a



curriculum tailored to build the capacity of vital and potential actors in the local internet governance space.

The students enrolled are involved in internet governance activities as civil society players, human rights defenders, academia, tech community, government departments, and students.

At the end of their training, KeSIG alumni are equipped to participate in international internet policymaking and contribute to the part of African voices in global debates.

Other events during the IGF week included the 4th Children's IGF convened by Watoto Watch Network on June 15, 2023. During this event, children presented their perspectives and insights on Internet matters affecting them.

Involving Children in policymaking allows legislators and other key decision-makers to understand better and address their specific needs, interests, and concerns.

KICTANet's Gender Program in collaboration with ICNL, conducted a two-day workshop focused on Training on Access to the Internet and public participation for Women from June 19-20 with the International Centre for Non-Profit Law (ICNL).

The two day training brought on use of civic technology for public participation, brought together 31 women drawn from civil society,

human rights organisations, human rights defenders' and political leaders.

On the 20th of June, over fifty (50) participants attended a special screening of two documentaries y "[Backlash: Misogyny in the Digital Age](#)" and , [Overcoming trolls: Kenyan women speak!](#)

The two videos are aimed at raising awareness around online gender - based violence.

The occasion was graced by the Secretary to the Cabinet, Republic of Kenya **Mrs. Mercy Wanjau**.

On June 21, 2023 KICTANet and Meta convened a Data Protection and Privacy Event for the Youth.

Young people are an integral part of social platforms and contribute to significant portions of the content you find on the web.

The event aimed at empowering young people on how to keep their work online safe and ensure that their privacy is protected.

Over seventy (70) young people shared ideas and best practices on how to design technology with the best interests of children and youth.

On the afternoon of June 21, 2023, the Kenya Youth IGF convened a forum for young people who are key stakeholders in the IGF ecosystem as they are the majority in Kenya and Africa.

The Youth Forum brought together more than 130 people in the hybrid event.

The occasion was graced by the youthful **Honourable Senator Allan Chesang**, who is the chairperson of the Senate ICT committee.

And the culmination of the week's events, was the day's Kenya IGF, which was the 16th edition, with the theme 'The Internet We Want.'

In light of this year's theme, she noted that The Internet we Want signifies our collective vision for a digital landscape that empowers every Kenyan regardless of their background, location or socio-economic status.

It is about ensuring that the benefits of the internet and the digital economy are accessible to all. It also means breaking down barriers to digital access, bridging the digital divide, and naturally with digital skills among Kenyans.

It also means protecting human rights and freedoms, safeguarding the right to privacy, assuring online security and ensuring our online spaces are free from disinformation, discrimination and other harmful content.

She called for a digital environment that promotes dialogue, inclusivity and respect for diverse perspectives. This she said, cannot be achieved if the internet is not open, is not secure, is not free from emerging cyber threats and vulnerabilities. **Ms Githaiga** noted that "as we embrace new and emerging technologies,

we must take cognizance of the potential for empowering our people while tackling new challenges.

More importantly, it means we must work collectively and collaboratively to shape the internet. We want to build a digital ecosystem that uplifts every Kenyan and leaves no one behind".

*In closing, she expressed sincere gratitude to all stakeholders, attendees, collaborators, sponsors and partners including the Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), Meta Platforms Inc, GIZ, Safaricom, UNESCO, HUAWEI, Paradigm Initiative, KENIC, and Data Dimensions, and looked forward to stimulating conversations, "conversations that will capture all ideas that will get Kenyans to the internet we want".*



***With everyone's contribution at the KelGF, we can build the digital space every Kenyan can thrive***

– Grace Githaiga - The Convenor and CEO of KICTANet



# HIGH (C-LEVEL) PANEL

## THE INTERNET WE WANT - EMPOWERING ALL KENYAN PEOPLE

### PANELISTS



#### MODERATOR:

**Grace Githaiga**  
Convenor, KICTANet



**Mercy Ndegwa,**  
Public Policy Director,  
East & Horn of Africa,  
Meta Platforms Inc



**Dr. Vincent Ngundi**  
Director of Cyber Security -  
Communications Authority.



**'Gbenga Sesan**  
Paradigm Initiative



**Bernd Lakemeier-**  
Programme Director, Sustainable  
Economic Development - GIZ

**G**race Githaiga, Convenor, Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) invited the panellists to paint a picture of the internet we want in Kenya.

Mercy Ndegwa, Meta's Public Policy Director East Africa and Horn of Africa said that the internet we want is one that allows people to have free access to information that is unrestricted.

It is about collaboration in terms of being able to find a solution, and there being a supportive policy regulatory framework in terms of the role governments play as well as non-state actors, such as the private sector, development partners etc.

In addition, it is one that is able to shape what the internet looks like, an internet that offers a multistakeholder space that allows for people to be able to engage with one another freely and commit to respond to do certain things.

Dr Vincent Ngundi, Director of Cyber Security, CA said that one of the key pillars of the Communication's Authority is partnerships and collaboration.

He appreciated the effort it takes to bring together various stakeholders to speak about a common issue about the future.

He also said CA that CA is among partners working with UNESCO to develop guidelines on content



moderation on digital platforms. He noted that the UN has taken a multi-stakeholder approach, and added that they are currently developing regulations for the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act that will cover the use and abuse of social media platforms.

**Grace Githaiga** introduced the issue of sustainability and how development partners, after giving a grant to organisations, also ask their country partners to present a sustainability plan in year 1.

She observed that the internet we want requires that there be sustainability in terms of resources, and extension of time frames for Internet grants.

1 year or two years for an internet grant is not an effective way of building an internet that we want. More time with adequate resources is necessary.

**Mr. Bernd Lakemeier, Programme Director, Sustainable Economic Development, Employment and Digitalisation, GIZ** in answering the question said that he hopes that everybody who starts an engagement with them does not start thinking about sustainability in year two, as that is already too late.

Rather he hopes that their partners start to think about sustainability from day one. He noted that GIZ started working with the ICT sector in Kenya in 2021 and affirmed its commitment to Kenya in the long term.

In answering the question on what kind of internet

we want, he listed the following three elements: inclusivity and leaving no one behind, accessibility, and affordability.

In his opinion, their main priority is how to contribute to sustainable development in a country by creating jobs and being environmentally friendly.

**'Gbenga Sesan**, Executive Director at Paradigm Initiative added his voice by saying that the internet we want is one where there is multi-stakeholderism, where governments speak less and listen more, and are focused on empowering people.

Multi stakeholder means that all of the stakeholders come to the table with unique perspectives and listen to each other, contribute and nobody comes with predetermined opinions.

This he highlighted as especially important when it comes to policy making across the African continent. He believes the Internet we want is the one that truly represents the interests of every stakeholder.



***The internet we want is one where there is multi-stakeholderism. Where governments speak less and listen more, and are focused on empowering people.***

*'Gbenga Sesan, Executive Director at Paradigm*

# SESSION 1:

## CYBER SECURITY, CYBERCRIME AND ONLINE SAFETY

### PANELISTS



#### MODERATOR:

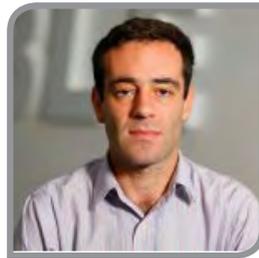
**Mutheu Khimulu,**

*Legal Specialist in Cybersecurity, Counterterrorism, Crisis Management, Data Privacy & Anti Money Laundering (AML) Laws.*



**Sam Kiiru,**

*Cloud Security Business Lead Sub Saharan Africa - Cisco*



**Adam Lane,**

*Deputy CEO, Government Affairs Kenya - Huawei Technologies*



**Leonard Ngeso,**

*National Computer and Cybercrimes Coordination Committee (NC4)*



**Francis Sitati,**

*Communications Authority (CA)*



**Martin Koyabe,**

*Project Manager - Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE)*

**T**his session was moderated by Mutheu Khimulu, who guided the panellists in a conversation addressing the main threats to online safety, how to mitigate such threats, cyber security talent shortage and how to bridge that gap through policy, curriculum and partnerships.

**Sam Kiiru, Cloud Security Business Lead Sub Saharan Africa - Cisco,** highlighted the threat of ransomware to national security and critical sectors such as health and transport due to its potential to disrupt operations in these sectors.

He emphasised on the prevalence of phishing attacks that require continuous attention.

Online impersonation and identity theft was also highlighted as a key cyber security threat enabling further challenges such as deep fakes and fake news.

He suggested a multi-stakeholder approach to develop synergies structured to respond to such cyber threats.

To enhance cloud security posture, he stated that entities must acknowledge that the weakest link in cyber security is the human factor, and the

importance of taking a zero-trust approach to mitigate this challenge which essentially reduces trust given to users by limiting access and issuing alerts whenever there is unauthorised access.

Investing in education and technologies that enhance security and limit damages by bad actors was also recommended.

**Sam** concluded by reminding the audience that the fact that entities invest in cyber security is not a guarantee that they will not be hit.

Cyber resilience measures are therefore important to ensure that entities have mechanisms to monitor what people are doing, to quickly identify incidents and resolve or recover from them.

These cyber resilience measures limit the extent of damages.



*“There is a need to take a zero - trust approach against the challenge of the human as the weakest link in cybersecurity by investing in education and technologies to mitigate the risk.”*

**Sam Kiiru**, *Cloud Security Business Lead Sub Saharan Africa - Cisco*

**Adam Lane**, of Huawei Technologies speaking from his background in the hardware service provider sector, highlighted the risk posed by the deployment of hardware that does not meet international standards that can be independently verified such as the Network Equipment Assurance Scheme (NESAS).

He emphasised on the need for Kenya to put in place policies to ensure hardware is approved before importation.

He also highlighted the lack of skills by individuals as a factor leading to increased cybersecurity incidents.

To address this challenge, he outlined some steps that Huawei has taken together with partners such as Communications Authority (CA) to bridge this knowledge gap.

They include offering advanced level training programs to more than 6,000 students across Kenya, and the promotion of the Child Online Protection (COP) curriculum on CA's website.

He stressed on the need for software developers to embed privacy features into their products from the very beginning in order to limit the amount of data collected, the permissions asked for among other privacy by design and default features.

He urged software developers not to deploy half finished products into the market due to cyber security and privacy risks they could potentially pose to individuals and entities.

In building perspective on the rate of cyber security threats in the country, **Francis Sitati, Communications Authority (CA)**, shared the outcome of the report by CA showing over 107 million cyber threats in the last quarter.

He discussed the recommendations CA had given in the report to mitigate this high number of incidents such as giving its partners insights on early warning and mitigating actions.

He stressed the need for technical advisories, incident response collaboration between private and public sectors, and the role of the media in creating a safe online space.

He further mapped some of the measures individuals can take to safeguard their online identities and financial information, such as avoiding the sharing of personally identifiable information publicly, using multi-factor authentication, and enhancing password policies.

He dissuaded individuals from using public Wi-Fi and suggested hot-spotting as an alternative.

He additionally stressed on the importance of keeping devices and software updated as well as tracking, monitoring and reporting irregularities on financial transaction platforms.

Conclusively, with regard to entities, he recommended the adoption of enhanced password policies to monitor timelines and



expiry dates of passwords, enforce alphanumeric standards and prevent the use of weak passwords.



*There is need for adoption to enhanced password policies to monitor timelines and expiry dates of passwords, enforce alphanumeric standards & prevent the use of weak passwords.*

**Adam Lane**, of Huawei Technologies

Martin Koyabe, Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE), enumerated three cyber security threats including disruption due to fragile infrastructure that lead to ransomware, supply chain attacks and insider attacks that require minimal effort.

Distortion leading to loss of trust and fake news as well as deterioration aided by Artificial Intelligence (AI) were also added on the list of threats to cyber security.

He addressed the talent shortage in cyber security stating that there is a **40,000** to **50,000** cyber security skill gap in Kenya yearly.

He noted that currently, only 30% of curricula in Kenya's institutions of higher learning address cyber security and that only 2 universities - Kabarak University and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology - offer cyber security PhD programs.

In light of this, he underscored the need to put strategies in place to ensure access to essential cyber security resources and education for all Kenyan citizens.

**Koyabe** emphasised the need for partnerships, certifications, curriculum development, and awareness outreach programs to encourage young Kenyans to pursue careers in cyber security.

He also highlighted the challenges in building technical skills and suggested addressing them through coordination of certifications, curriculum improvement, and legislative and executive support.

He mentioned the importance of research and development, innovation, and self-reliance in advancing cyber security skills and sustainability.

Lastly, he referred to lessons that can be learned from other jurisdictions at the global level.

**Leonard Ngeso**, National Computer and Cybercrimes Coordination Committee (NC4), pointed to internet fraud, radicalization, incitement and increased phishing attacks as some of the common cyber security threats that NC4 encounters in their work.

He highlighted the multi-stakeholder approach taken to constitute the National Computer and Cybercrimes Coordination Committee (NC4) in order to benefit from experts from different disciplines to deal with issues of cyber security in Kenya.

He further explored the role of the Kenyan government specifically, the office of the Attorney General in fostering international cooperation and collaboration to combat cybercrimes.

He emphasised that cybercrime is a borderless issue. The government was called upon to support the development and growth of the cyber security industry, including start-ups and local firms, to enhance local resources for cyber security.

**Mutheu Khimulu** wrapped up the session by pointing out some of the highlights of the conversation including that all cyber threats are technically human centric, the need to build cyber hygiene capacity in all sectors, the need for more professionals, and the fact that cyber security cannot exist in a silo.

Therefore, a multi-stakeholder approach is required to tackle the challenges posed.

*She closed off by recommending cyber insurance as an additional cyber resilience measure. Admitting that such insurance might prove too expensive for insurers, she suggested that the government should up the role of insurer.*



## SESSION 2:

# INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT) & THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS

### PANELIST



#### MODERATOR:

**John Walubengo,**  
*ICT Lecturer, Multimedia University of Kenya  
and Trustee at KICTANet.*



**Rose Mosero,**  
*Deputy Data Protection  
Commissioner Kenya.*



**Dr. Ololade Shyllon,**  
*Head of Privacy Policy, Africa, Middle East  
and Turkey - Meta Platforms Inc.*



**Grace Mutung'u,**  
*Open Society Foundation / Data Privacy  
and Governance Society of Kenya*



**Cynthia Chepkemoi,**  
*Data Protection Officer (DPO) - Kenya  
Women Microfinance Bank.*

**T**he session was moderated by **John Walubengo**, who invited panellists to discuss the Kenyan Data Governance landscape issues.

The session addressed the issue of whether Kenya has adequate legal and regulatory safeguards to guarantee trust in the digital ecosystem in Kenya.

The moderator, **John Walubengo**, commenced the session by inviting the Deputy Data Protection Commissioner, **Rose Mosero** to give the opening remarks. She shared the mandate of the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner (ODPC) and that in the month of June, the ODPC had engaged in awareness in 31 out of 47 countries in Kenya.

She stated that one of their tasks is to issue guidance notes which help organisations navigate the complexities of data protection regulations.

She also noted that the Office also participates in international fora such as at the Global Privacy Assembly, the Network of African Data Protection Authorities, the Commonwealth Network, and is hoping to be an observer to Convention 108+.

Convention 108 is a Council of Europe Convention on automated processing of personal data, and personal data protection. This is important, she noted, because data protection authorities do not operate in silos “because data doesn’t operate in a silo”.

She went on to state that as they envisioned the internet we want, the ODPC has several key aspects in mind.

The first is that privacy should be at the forefront with individuals having control over their personal data and the ability to exercise their rights.

The second is, equity is critical. Data governance should bridge the digital divide and ensure equal access to information and opportunities for all.

Thirdly, safety is paramount and robust cybersecurity measures should be in place to protect individuals and organisations.

Lastly, ethical practices should guide the development and deployment of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), ensuring that they do not compromise privacy, perpetuate biases, or violate human rights.

**“Ethical practices should guide the development and deployment of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), ensuring that they do not compromise privacy, perpetuate biases, or violate human rights.**

**Rose Mosero**, Deputy Data Protection Commissioner Kenya.

**Mr. Walubengo** then asked **Cynthia Chepkemoi**, DPO Kenya Women Microfinance, what she sees as the top three challenges to data governance as a data protection officer of a financial institution.

**Ms. Chepkemoi** stated that one of the major challenges is the skills of the people who are in charge of data governance.

The second challenge is the fragmented processes that institutions have when it comes to data processing.

The final challenge is having non streamlined data governance frameworks within institutions that are both data controllers and data processors.

In answering the question on the top three challenges to data governance, **Ms. Grace Mutung’u**, Open Society Foundation / Data Privacy and Governance Society of Kenya stated that the issue is our history.

Historically, she noted, public agencies have been collecting data as they provide services and they never had to be oversights.

Hence there is a need for a paradigm shift within public agencies that feel they have been doing this for so long.

This shift is also needed in private entities that collect data. The other issue she raised is that due to digitisation there is no clear distinction between a private person and a public person offering the same services.

Another challenge she highlighted was the habit of “Let us collect the data, we will make the laws later.” She stated that this is being done by private entities collecting biometric data and which then ask the government to make laws.

In sharing the top three challenges she sees, **Dr. Ololade Shyllon**, Head of Privacy Policy, Africa, Middle East and Turkey, Meta, stated that Meta recognised that data-driven innovation cannot occur without regulation.

**“Data-driven innovation cannot occur without regulation. Such regulation protects people’s data while actually promoting a conducive environment for innovation to actually occur**

**Dr. Ololade Shyllon**, Head of Privacy Policy, Africa, Middle East and Turkey - Meta Platforms Inc.

Such regulation protects people's data while actually promoting a conducive environment for innovation to actually occur.

In her opinion, lack of harmonisation made it difficult for regulated entities to comply operationally.

For instance, if all states across the world had individual data protection laws, then global facing companies would have to comply with over 190 data protection frameworks.

As such, the more harmonised it is, the easier it is to ensure compliance.

The other issue she raised was about the kind of thinking around data, especially the notion that data is the new oil. She found this problematic as data is a scarce resource but one cannot run out of data like one may run out of oil.

Additionally, in countering this perception she noted that data can be used simultaneously by various users without affecting the quality of that data.

The last issue highlighted was the lack of privacy awareness which she noted was a problem not only limited to Kenya.

**Ms Mosero**, in responding to the question of the Commission's challenges in implementing the Data Protection Act mentioned capacity building, instrument harmonisation in addition to the others mentioned by the different panellists.

She added that the Commission will continue doing the cross - county awareness engagements.

In addressing the issue of trust in data, **Cynthia Chepkemoi**, called for the need to prioritise end-user experience to create trust.

The government and private sector were called on to inform the public that they have apt policies in place and to have the P.P.P. approach

in mind; i.e. the People, the Processes and the Technology.

**Grace Mutung'u** added that it was a matter of power and the power lay on the side of the person who is keeping the data.

The people with the power need to show that they are doing the right thing. She also noted the need to support civil society in its advocacy work.

'We should not put the burden on the data subject, but on the people with the data.'

**Dr. Ololade Shyllon**, said that from their perspective, the solution is the responsible use of data.

She briefly went through Meta's privacy principles such as giving the user control, and security, recognising that people own their data and arming them with tools such as how to delete their data.

**Ms. Rose Mosero**, lauded the comprehensive and progressive nature of Kenya's Data Protection Act, highlighting the statutory power of the Commission to investigate on its own initiative and issuing of enforcement notices.

Subsequently, as evidenced by the three (3) issued fines in 2023, regulated entities may be offered guidance to remedy shortcomings with due consequences and penalties accruing in case of non-compliance.

In the closing remarks, **Ms. Rose Mosero**, said that it is important for all organisations to be accountable to themselves, and to educate the people they serve - their customers.

**Dr. Ololade Shyllon**, emphasised on the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach in addressing privacy and data governance issues.

**Ms. Grace Mutung'u** in addition, indicated that this is an unfinished conversation while Ms. Cynthia Chepkemoi, observed that we need to build a data culture.

# SESSION 3:

## HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS-HARMFUL CONTENT ONLINE

### PANELIST



#### MODERATOR:

**Rachael Nakitare,**

*Assistant Television Programs Manager  
- Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC)*



**Megan Kathure,**

*Tech Policy and Data Analyst -GIZ*



**John Okande,**

*National Program Officer - UNESCO*



**David Omwoyo,**

*Chief Executive Officer -  
Media Council of Kenya*



**Angela Minayo,**

*Program Officer, Women,  
Digital Rights - KICTANet*



**Allan Cheboi,**

*Senior Investigations Manager - Code  
For Africa*

**R**achael Nakitare moderated this session on human rights and freedoms, the challenges faced in ensuring that human rights are upheld on the Internet and the interventions by each of the panellist's organisations to counter such challenges.

The panellists also addressed questions from the floor.

According to **Megan Kathure, GIZ**, misuse and unauthorised harvesting of personal data pose a threat to the right to privacy online, and that marginalisation of vulnerable groups due to inaccessibility of the Internet is widening the digital divide.

She added that online hate speech and cyberbullying were great contributors to stifling the right to freedom of expression online.

She brought into focus the multi-stakeholder approach taken by GIZ to intervene against violation of human rights and freedoms online.

She highlighted that GIZ has currently and in the past worked with civil society organisations such as KICTANet and Watoto Watch, the Ministry of ICT and the Digital Economy, the Office of the Data Protection Commissioner among other entities.

This approach guarantees the inclusion of different voices from different sectors hence more inclusive policies.

**John Okande, UNESCO** discussed the challenges of adapting freedom of expression to the evolving digital ecosystem.

He mentioned the need to strike a balance between upholding these rights online and preventing censorship, especially in contexts where governments tend to reactively legislate.

**John** discussed the role of UNESCO in developing global guidelines for regulating technology and training different stakeholders including judges, security forces and journalists.

In Kenya, he noted, UNESCO has trained judges on the right to freedom of expression, set up the Kenya Media Stakeholder Working Group, and its latest project is the Social Media for Peace Project funded by the European Union.

In a bid to mitigate the reactive measures normally taken by the government through legislation, UNESCO also adopted the multi-stakeholder approach and is part of the National Coalition on Freedom of Expression and Content Moderation.

This consortium brings together players from Communications Authority (CA), National Cohesion and Integration Commission (NCIC), the Media Council of Kenya (MCK), Code for Africa (CfA), Peace Builder and Protectors, Academia among other entities.

**Angela Minayo, KICTANet** discussed the harms women face on online platforms including increased online gender-based violence.

She emphasised the importance of addressing inequalities based on gender and sexual orientation that lock women and members of the LGBTQ+ community from participating in important discussions online.

She shared some of the initiatives and interventions KICTANet has adopted to mitigate these challenges. KICTANet has been conducting research on online gender-based violence since 2009, has prepared policy briefs on online gender-based violence trends against women in politics as well as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

To raise awareness on online gender-based violence, KICTANet partnered with GIZ in 2022 to

develop an e-learning module on online gender-based violence as part of its Digital Enquirer Kit.

This kit is open-source and free and can be accessed on the platform Atingi (<https://online.atingi.org/>). The module is translated to six languages for wider accessibility.

Allan Cheboi, Code For Africa stated that as Code For Africa their mandate included investigation of online platforms to detect incidences of information disorder such as misinformation, disinformation and malinformation.

He highlighted the increase in coordinated campaigns to spread disinformation to influence the decisions of individuals and policy makers.

Allan discussed initiatives Code For Africa has taken to counter information disorder. Through its Pesa Check team, Code For Africa fact-checks online content and flags any that contravene policy measures or that deceive members of the public.

Code For Africa also works with partners to come up with evidence-based research that informs policy development on policies to promote early warning detection and response to information disorder.

He stated that at the moment Code For Africa is in 23 countries in Africa and they focus on understanding information disorder from the peculiar circumstances and perspectives of each country.

He also highlighted that they monitor how the media reports on information disorder in each country.

Code For Africa has several capacity building initiatives through which they train the media, civil society organisations, and government agencies on research techniques on information disorder to enable them make more informed decisions during policy development.

**David Omwoyo, Media Council of Kenya** discussed the challenges content regulators face based on the borderless nature of the Internet and the pace at which harmful content spreads. He emphasised on the need for cross border regulations to promote access to information,



freedom of expression and other rights and freedoms enjoyed online.

However, he warned against over regulation as it stood to stifle creativity and innovation.

**Omwoyo** also highlighted the role of content creators online in educating themselves on the limits of their rights.

He stated that some content creators contribute to the problem of information disorder or spread of toxic content online.



***Some content creators contribute to the problem of information disorder or spread of toxic content online.***

**David Omwoyo** Chief Executive Officer -  
Media Council of Kenya

In such instances, platforms have implemented automated ways of detecting toxic content online and the consequence of posting harmful content could include suspension of an account, or take-down of the content.

He urged online platforms to in addition to implementing automated monitoring means to detect harmful content, to adopt the inclusion of human intervention to detect coded content that is harmful based on local context.

In this regard, the Media Council of Kenya is currently working with Meta and TikTok to develop lexicons that list keywords accompanied by context; i.e., standardised vocabularies that facilitate communication across diverse audiences.



*Rachael closed the session by reminding the audience that each and everyone has a responsibility in the realisation of an Internet where human rights and freedoms thrive. Further, such rights and freedoms are not absolute and therefore there is a need to exercise them within the provided limits.*



***Each & everyone has a responsibility in the realisation of an Internet where human rights and freedoms thrive. Further, such rights and freedoms are not absolute and therefore there is a need to exercise them within the provided limits.***

**Rachael Nakitare**, Assistant Television Programs Manager  
- Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC)

# SESSION 4:

## DIGITAL DIVIDES & INCLUSION

### PANELIST



#### MODERATOR:

**Judy Okite,**

Senior Consultant, Accessibility and Equality for Persons with Disability, - KICTANet



**Charles Juma,**

Digital Access Programme Manager and Adviser - British High Commission & UKAID;



**Andrew Lewela,**

Chief Evangelist Officer (CEO) - Kenya Network Information Center (KeNIC);



**Catherine Kyalo,**

Africa Regional Coordinator for Community Networks - KICTANet;



**Rosemary Okello,**

Africa Media Hub - Strathmore University

**T**he issues for consideration in this Panel entailed the digital divide and inclusivity, and the major barriers to inclusion in Kenya.

With regard to the correlation to the phrase, 'digital divide and lack of inclusion', **Andrew Lewela, KENIC** said that what he sees is equitable access, participation and representation, as well as diversity and equal opportunities.

He further added that Africa is closing the gap when he looks at digital inclusion.

**Rosemary Okello, Africa Media Hub** noted capacity building, local languages and local data storage as **Charles Juma, UK Aid Digital Access Program** listed the lack of affordability and lack of online safety, while **Catherine Kyalo, Angaza Networks** stressed the community perspective and the absence of equality.

On the question on the top three major barriers to inclusion in Kenya, **Charles Juma** stated that the current usage of the 4G network was between 21% to 30% with disintegrated approaches in the way stakeholders are delivering service.

**Andrew** observed that policy and governance can be very technical and consequently lock out people.

**Catherine** stated that the three top barriers to inclusion were affordability of internet, data plans and digital devices (the cheapest smartphone is Ksh. 5,000 or 35\$), accessibility issues, and lack of digital skills.

In bringing the session all together, the panellists were asked to share solutions to address the various issues they had highlighted.

**Charles** noted affordability of the internet and



ongoing work on digital literacy. **Andrew Lewela** stated that based on the KICTANet Inclusivity Report, KENIC acknowledged a shortcoming on an inclusive website currently being resolved and due for relaunch.

**Catherine Kyalo** recognized ongoing support of Community Networks through development access networks and the operational National School of Community Networks in Kenya and South Africa, as Rosemary noted that Strathmore Business School hosted and coordinated the Entrepreneurship conference on Persons Living With Disability.

## KENYA SCHOOL OF INTERNET GOVERNANCE AWARD CEREMONY

**O**n behalf of the KICTANet Board of Trustees, Trustee and Coordinator **Barrack Otieno** shared an update on the eighth (8th) edition of the Kenya School of Internet Governance (KeSIG) which was held via KICTANet’s virtual learning platform between from 2nd to 22nd June 2023.

KeSIG is convened by Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet). KeSIG’s mission is to increase the capacity of key actors and potential actors in the local internet governance space.

The attendees include traditional human rights defenders and civil society organisations, students, academia, the tech community, and government departments.

KeSIG 2023 was taught using a combination of the KICTANet e-learning platform and online interaction through online interactive seminars with industry leaders.

Several industry leaders, policy practitioners, and implementers had a chance to interact with the students. KeSIG 2023 received a total of 343 applications, from all locations in Kenya, and several countries in Africa like Nigeria and Malawi.

A total of 79 applicants were selected, with 58% being male and 42% female. 73 students completed with the male completion rate being 79%, and female 98%. Total completion rate was 92%.

## CLOSING SESSION

**Rosemary Koech – Kimwatu**, Chair of the **Multi Advisory Stakeholder Group** thanked both physical and virtual attendees for the constant engagement and attention through the week’s KIGF events.

She also thanked the MAG members, Trustees and the Secretariat for their dedication and service, congratulated the KeSIG graduates and appreciated partners and service providers.

# SESSION 5: FIRESIDE CHAT

## AI & EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

### PANELIST



#### MODERATOR:

**Ali Hussein Kassim,**  
Chairperson of Board of Trustees - KICTANet



**Eng. John Tanui,**  
Permanent Secretary - State Department  
of ICT and Digital Economy (MoICTDE);



**Dr. Angeline Wairegi,**  
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Lead, Center of  
Intellectual Property & Information  
Technology (CIPIT)  
- Strathmore University;



**Mark Irura,**  
Technical Advisor, FAIR Forward,  
Artificial Intelligence for All - GIZ



**Jack Ngare,**  
Technical Director in the  
Office of the Chief Technology Officer  
(CTO), Google



**Cecilia Nyawira,**  
Head of Executive Search - Aga Khan  
University;

**A**li Hussein, KICTANet reflected on the advancement in technology from the time he watched the movie 'Enemy of the State' to date.

At the time of watching the movie which premiered in 1998, everything seemed like science fiction and some people were even convinced that none of the things depicted in it would ever be reality.

Fast forward to date, everything depicted in that movie is happening. He probed the panellists on their payments on AI.

**Angeline Wairegi**, Strathmore University, Center of Intellectual Property and Information Technology (CIPIT) gave her perspective about AI and

emerging technologies and pointed out that we are currently living in the 4th industrial revolution which underpins the concept of utilising more and more technology.



**"We should be wary of giving AI human characteristics such as creativity...It is therefore not creative and will not hinder learning by children".**

**Dr. Angeline Wairegi,**  
Artificial Intelligence (AI) Lead, Center of Intellectual Property &  
Information Technology (CIPIT) Strathmore University



She noted that one of the most interesting things about AI is its ability to imitate human cognitive functions such as the ability to learn and progress.

She however warned that we should be wary of giving AI human characteristics such as creativity, and clarified that AI relies on data it is fed to predict patterns in order to carry out specific tasks.

It is therefore not creative and will not hinder learning by children. She noted that often, conversations about AI are led by fear which could be detrimental to the ability to explore and utilise these tools for good.

**Jack Ngare, Google** took the audience down memory lane in delivering the historical perspective of AI.

He discussed the events of the Dartmouth Conference in 1956 where the fathers of AI settled on the term Artificial Intelligence to describe the technology we now have.

He pointed out that at the time, the founding fathers intended to distinguish between the technologies mimicking human behaviour from neural networks that mimic how the brain works hence the term artificial.

Today however, AI has both of these features. He then went on to highlight other notable events in the history of development of AI including the first

time DeepMind AI beat a professional AlphaGo player and the excitement this elicited with regard to the abilities of AI.

In 2007, after the release of the paper “Attention Is All You Need” it became apparent that transformers now held neural networks. Fast forward to today and we have ChatGPT-4.



***In order for Africa to keep up the pace and not be disenfranchised, we need to figure out how to feed AI models with our data. There are instances where AI has proven biased based on quality or quantity of data that was not representative of all.”-***

**Jack Ngare** Technical Director in the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Google

He highlighted that in order for Africa to keep up the pace and not be disenfranchised, we need to figure out how to feed AI models with our data.

He discussed instances where AI has proven biased based on the quality or quantity of data that was not representative of all.



**Eng. Tanui, MoICTDE** discussed AI and emerging technologies from a government perspective. He emphasised that the government of Kenya is keen on adapting new technologies as can be seen through its policy frameworks such as Vision 2030.



*In order for Africa to keep up the pace and not be disenfranchised, we need to figure out how to feed AI models with our data*

**Eng. John Tanui,**

*Permanent Secretary - State Department of ICT and Digital Economy (MoICTDE);*

He highlighted some of the government's projects aimed at improving Internet access to foster growth and innovation such as the Loon balloon project which was done in conjunction with Google.

While this project was halted, it was proof that the government is not afraid to fail - if through

such instances learning opportunities and progress result.

He also pointed out the need to address issues of biases in AI through policy and regulatory frameworks, and including the views of citizens and various stakeholders in all discussions relating to regulation of AI through public participation.

**Cecilia Nyawira, Aga Khan University** discussed AI from a human resource perspective. She stated that AI has transformed how quickly human resource managers and talent acquisition managers process vast amounts of applications and how they find top talent.

The use of chat boxes to seamlessly interact with candidates is another bonus.

She highlighted that AI has also been used by human resource managers to observe trends in employment and make necessary reforms and adjustments.

She observed that one major question often asked is whether AI shall take up people's jobs, and responded that AI should be viewed as a complementary tool and not as a competitor for jobs.



*AI should be viewed as a complementary tool and not as a competitor for jobs.*

**Cecilia Nyawira,**

*Head of Executive Search - Aga Khan University;*

Instead of focusing on how AI will take away jobs, she said it is imperative for people to focus on how to upskill, maintain relevant skills, sharpen soft skills such as creative thinking, problem solving, and relation building, as these will remain human concepts.

She noted that employees can also use AI for better output, to save resources and to add value to their employers.

**Mark Irura, GIZ** addressed the progress made in the European Union regarding the European Union (EU) Artificial Intelligence (AI) Act (EU AI Act).

He drew parallels with the adoption of the Global Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as a blueprint for other data protection regulatory frameworks across the globe, and recommended that Kenya could adopt some interventions provided for under the EU AI Act.

He outlined the need to classify AI models based on the risk they are likely to cause to human beings with high-risk AI being subjected to stricter regulations such as the need to obtain a certificate or permit from a prescribed agency before deploying such AI.

He also emphasised on the importance of auditing and transparency of AI technologies and developers.

In closing, **Mark** highlighted that most AI developers are powerful and influential and thus regulators must navigate such powers to hold them accountable.

The panellists also addressed questions from the floor.

*The session was closed by the moderator, **Ali Hussein**, who reminded the audience that it is never too late to learn.*

*He shared his experience using AI tools for work and noted that the use of AI tools has made his professional work a lot more productive and cut down the number of hours of or days he would previously spend.*



## Multistakeholder Advisory Group.



# KENYA IGF 2023

KENYA'S PREMIER INTERNET POLICY FORUM

The 2023 IGF was made possible by the hard work of the Multistakeholder Advisory Group.



### About KICTANet

**K**ICTANet is a multistakeholder platform for people and institutions interested in ICT policy. The network acts as a think tank that catalyses policy reforms in the ICT sector, and is guided by four pillars: **policy advocacy, stakeholder engagement, capacity building, and research.**

**KICTANet's** guiding philosophy is that of encouraging synergies for ICT policy-related activities and initiatives.

As such, the network provides mechanisms and a framework for continuing cooperation and collaboration in ICT matters among industry, technical community, academia, media, development partners, and Government.

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