KICTAnet
KENYA ICT ACTION NETWORK



Kenya ICT Action Network
Annual Report 2016

www.kictanet.or.ke

2016

Welcome to the first annual report of the network.

The report outlines the work undertaken in 2016 which is underpinned by crowd sourcing and community engagement.

All information can be found at: https://lists.kictanet.or.ke/mailman/listinfo/kictanet

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Karibu: A word from the steering team 1
- Shukrani: Acknowledgement 2
- Utangulizi: Introduction 3
- Miundo Msingi: Institution Building for KICTANet 5
- Majadiliano: Policy Impact Assessment of 10 Years of ICT Policy Advocacy 6
- Mipango: KICTANet Organisational Strategy 2017-2019..... 7
- Miongozo: Finance and HR Manuals 9
- Tulikokuwa: Highlight of Activities 11
    - Mtandaoni- Engagement Platform 13
    - ICT Policy Review 14
    - Festival of Internet Freedom in Africa (FIFA) 2016 14
    - RightsCon 2016 15
    - African Summit on Women and Girls in Tech 15
    - FOE and Privacy Principles 15
    - ICT Perspectives: community's 365 days review 15
    - Inter Planetary Database Trustees 16
- Miradi yetu: Our Projects 17
    - Kenya IGF 2016 17
    - Kenya School of Internet Governance –KeSIG 17
    - Digital Security Training 17
    - Blockchain Working Group 17
- Usoni: Envisioning the future 22
    - Sustaining Multistakeholderism 22
    - Proactiveness- Relevance to Emerging Issues.....24
    - Resource Mobilisation 24
- Chapisho: Select Publications 25
- Washirika: Partners 26



Karibu: A word from the steering team

On behalf of the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet), I am happy to share the first annual report of the network. The report outlines the work undertaken in 2016 which is underpinned by crowd sourcing and community engagement.

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

The network has largely operated as a listserv and for example in the last 10 years, over 30,500 messages have been exchanged. There have been over 8,000 different discussion threads. Most discussions happened between 2011 to 2013, and again in 2016. Top threads included the Vision 2030 and misplaced priorities, Hate text messages/KICA section 29, Digital migration and mass ignorance. Notably, the ICT policy discussions have had the most engagement, with over 27,000 exchanges. This confirms that KICTANet is indeed an ICT policy platform and I dare say a reservoir of critical dialogue on matters ICT policy.

At KICTANet we strive to ensure that policy making in the ICT sector adopts an open, accessible, human rights based approach that is characterized by multi-stakeholder participation. In order for policy and law making to be inclusive, the processes must be open and accessible to all stakeholders, include a diverse representation of stakeholders, be collaborative, consensus driven, evidence-based and lastly transparent and accountable. This is buttressed by Article 10 of the Constitution which requires public participation in policy and decision-making processes.

We have witnessed the multi-stakeholder model evolve in this country, and more so in the ICT sector which represents the best collaboration between stakeholders. This involvement of stakeholders in key policies and laws such as the ICT Policy 2006, Draft ICT Policy 2016, National Broadband Strategy, Kenya Information and Communications Act among others, are some notable examples that exemplify the multistakeholder model.

KICTANet will continue to work with all willing stakeholders to provide a multi-stakeholder platform for engagement on the pressing challenges within the ICT sector, with a view to developing best practice and recommendations to advance our existing policy, legal and regulatory framework.

As a network, we appreciate the tremendous support and trust from different partners, who have continued to back our work. Further, we want to applaud all members of KICTANet for sustaining the network through sharing your valuable ICT knowledge, which has contributed into shaping ICT policy in Kenya.

KICTANet is open to collaboration, and partnerships. And we invite all willing collaborators to engage with the community through KICTANet.

Grace Githaiga | Co-convenor
For the KICTANet Steering Team

Shukrani: Acknowledgement

KICTANet is grateful to the hundreds of subscribers on kictanet.or.ke who contribute their views on ICT policy in the quest for building a better Kenya as can be found here:

https://lists.kictanet.or.ke/mailman/listinfo/kictanet

We wish to thank Grace Githaiga, co-convenor, for providing leadership to the network. Appreciation also goes to the following associates who provided their professional time in the activities undertaken in 2016: Ali Hussein, John Walubengo, Barrack Otieno, Grace Mutung'u, Mwendwa Kivuva, Liz Orembo, Victor Kapiyo, Rosemary Koech-Kimwatu, Francis Monyango, Kevin Kariuki, Riva Jalipa, Ephraim Kenyanito, Harry Hare, June Okal, Washington Odhiambo who maintains the KICTANet server, and many others not mentioned here.

We are greatly indebted to all funders and other partners who supported the activities of the network. To AccessNow, Global Partners Digital, Ford Foundation, Facebook, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, KENIC, TESPOK, ICANN Nairobi Office, ISOC Africa Bureau, Google Kenya, Safaricom, HIVOS East Africa, IGF Support Association, CIPIT at Strathmore University, Article 19 Eastern Africa, BAKE, AMWIK, IAWRT Kenya Chapter, DRAKE and other partners. We thank you for providing funds, answers to queries by members, resources, and other opportunities for the network.

We also appreciate the public agencies before whom we presented views in policy and law-making processes. These include: Communications Authority, Ministry of Information and Communications, the National Communications Secretariat, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, the Senate and the National Assembly Energy and ICT Committee.

Utangulizi: Introduction



KICTANet is a multi-stakeholder platform for people and institutions interested and involved in ICT policy and regulation. The network aims to act as a catalyst for reform in the ICT sector in support of the national aim of ICT enabled growth and development.

In 2010, Kenyans secured a new Constitution which redefines the relationship between the state and the people. Among its major gains is that public participation is now among the national values and principles. Accordingly, public organs, public officers and state officers are required to consult the people when making decisions that affect them. The Constitution gives meaning to the work of the KICTANet as a network, and enhances its role as a space for multistakeholder discussions. Nevertheless, with so many



About KICTANet

KICTANet is a multi-stakeholder platform for people and institutions interested and involved in ICT policy and regulation.

processes requiring public input, it is necessary that platforms for public participation be better organised in order to give meaningful input.
For this reason, KICTANet embarked on reorganising itself in 2016. This involves creating building blocks for an institution for ICT policy, research, advocacy, capacity building and networking. It will however maintain the loose membership that enables anyone whether new or old to contribute to issues of interest at any given time.

This report gives a snapshot of the year that was and the areas that KICTANet is focusing on to position itself at the heart of people centred development in the ICT sector. It also contains what is envisioned in our country and region in the coming years and how we see KICTANet contributing to more human centric policy making. Come join us!

Miundo Msingi: Institution Building for KICTANet

KICTANet was born 14 years ago as a loose network of professionals from different stakeholder groups who were interested in contributing to Kenya's first ICT policy. After the policy was passed in 2006, the network remained as a focal point for discussion of topical issues in the sector as they emerged. Over the years, KICTANet has become a space for input for ICT policy and related issues.

The Constitution of Kenya, promulgated in 2010, requires that public participation be undertaken when making decision in matters affecting the people. While this has exponentially advanced the space for people centred governance, it has also increased the work of networks such as KICTANet as there are more public bodies seeking input from them. The new dispensation is still nascent and it is imperative for KICTANet to translate the thoughts and opinions given by listers into meaningful proposals for resolution of challenges facing the ICT sector.

In 2016 KICTANet embarked on the process of building the institution guided by the following principles:

a) To maintain the character of the network where anyone from any stakeholder group can easily join and contribute to debate on public policy issues.

b) To maintain its vision of catalysing ICT policy reforms by not only contributing to ongoing debates, but also by rallying the sector to navigate emerging issues through providing information on the subject matter.

Institution building for KICTANet begun by looking through discussions that had taken place on the network in the past ten years. This was followed by drafting of an organisational strategy as well as defining mechanisms for funding and engagement of human resource.



Majadiliano: Policy Impact Assessment of 10 Years of ICT Policy Advocacy

In 2007, KICTANet conducted an institutional assessment to gauge its strengths, weaknesses, opportunities for growth as well as threats. The assessment assisted KICTANet to strategically position itself as an authoritative ICT policy discussion listserv that continues to attract participation from individuals across stakeholder groups in the country. The platform also has a following within East Africa region and globally.

Close to ten years later, KICTANet sought to analyse the discussions that had taken place on the platform since the first analysis. The study provides a historical view of the activities of the forum, and was key in informing the organisational strategy.

Some of the key findings of the report are as follows:

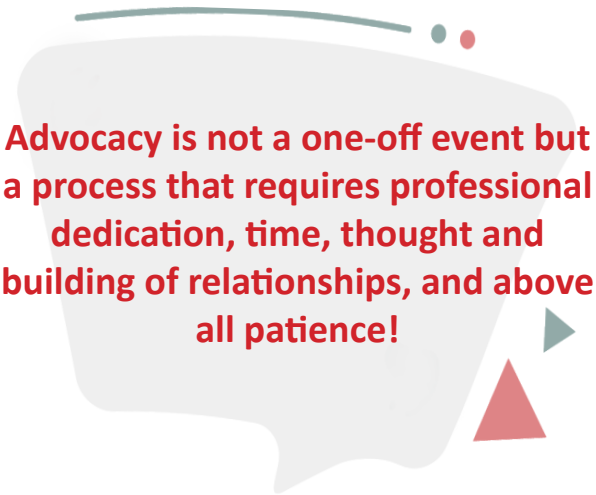
a) There has been a major shift in discussions as earlier ones heavily focussed on setting up ICT infrastructure in particular optic fibre. Mid discussions featured consumer protection, and thereafter moved to quality of the Internet experience where issues such as freedom online, content control, use of the Internet for delivery of government services and emerging technologies continue to raise debate.

b) The value of the network exists in having different stakeholders who hold different points of view. When there is flow of information among the stakeholder groups, listers have candid discussions that result in resolution of issues.

c) There is overlap of discussions of issues that are always topical. For example, the issue of net neutrality has mutated over the years from conversations on technology neutrality in the early years to preferential treatment of some traffic to walled gardens in the later years. While listers did not reach consensus on the issue, the discussions provide a resource for anyone interested in knowing more about the issue as well as local perspectives on net neutrality.

d) The network is quite receptive with listers having a space for honest exchanges between various stakeholder groups. In the earlier years, some heated exchanges turned toxic and consequently, rules of engagement were developed. Presently, the group has normed and engagements are issue based.

e) Of the over 900 hundred listers, only close to a hundred are very active in writing on the list. It has however been noticed that when there is a controversial debate or a very important issue under discussion, normally silent listers join debates to provide a voice of reason or pertinent information. This has led to the conclusion that participation is in both reading the list and writing.



f) The quality of discussions has improved progressively over the years. This may be attributed to the learning process where at the beginning, many of the listers may have been new to the issues but have now acquired substantive knowledge. While this is a positive state of affairs, it could also be a threat to the sustainability of the network as newcomers may be intimidated by the high level of debate which is sometimes technical.

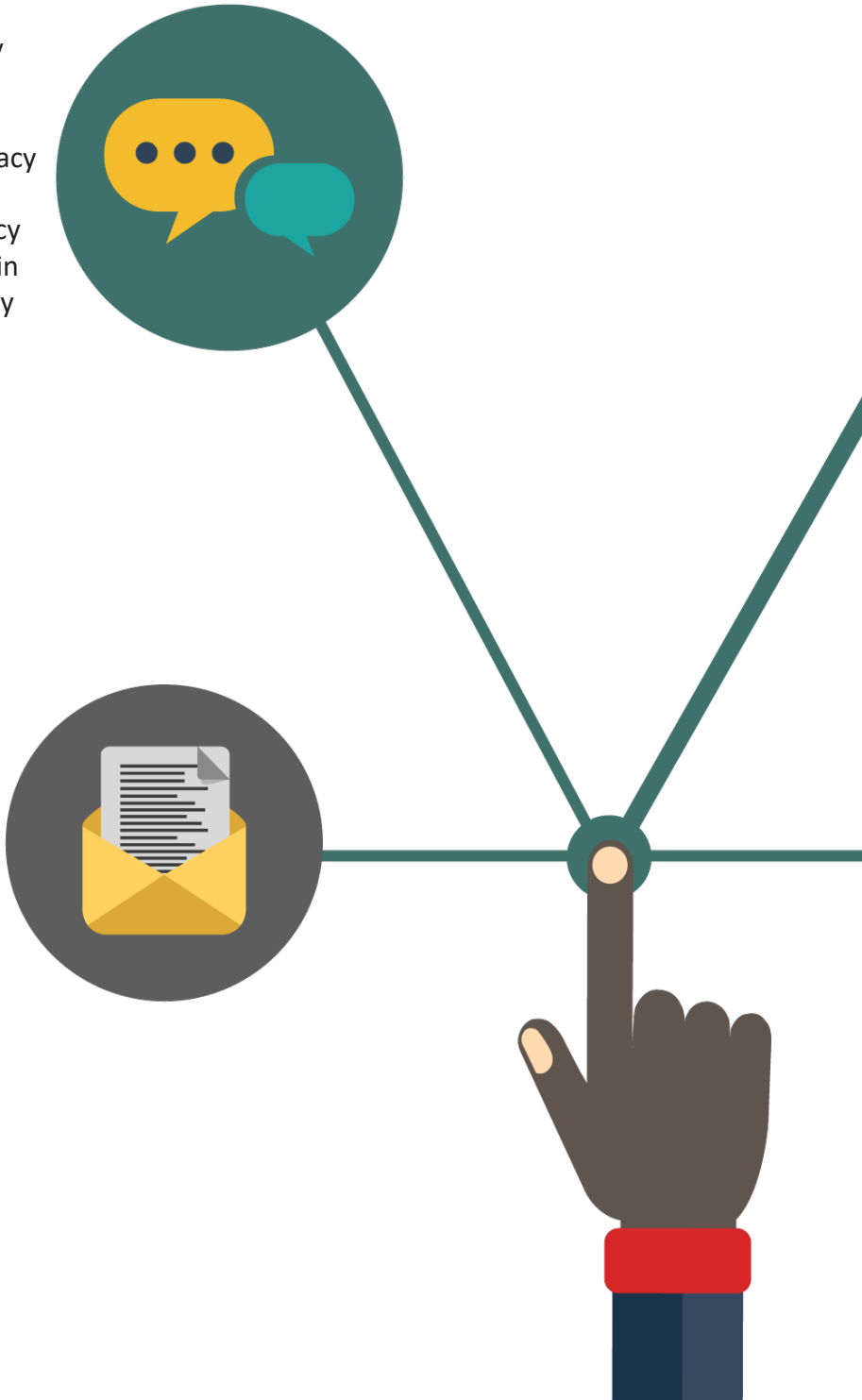
g) Some of the discussions on the list have resulted in policy action while some have not been acted upon by the intended actor(s). The high and lows of policy advocacy point to the fact that advocacy is not a one-off event but a process that requires professional dedication, time, thought and building of relationships, and above all patience!

Mipango: KICTANet Organisational Strategy 2017-2019

In 2016 KICTANet developed an organisational strategy to guide its operations in the coming three years. The plan has four pillars – the engagement platform, capacity building, policy advocacy and research. KICTANet registers its appreciation to Mr. Charles Bradley of Global Partners Digital who supported development of the organisational strategy by assessing the organisation, advising in development of the plan and training the steering team and partners through the strategy.

1. Policy advocacy

Selected activities identified under the policy advocacy arm include an alert mechanism for new policy proposals, advocacy towards enactment of the Data Protection Bill, advocacy on the ICT Practitioners Bill, advocacy for passing of the 2016 ICT policy, quarterly policy briefs and their dissemination, participation in regional IGFs and engagement in global policy making processes such as the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCC and the Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCCS).



2. The engagement platform

The engagement platform at https://lists.kictanet.or.ke/mailman/listinfo/ is KICTANet's interactive mailing list where multiple stakeholders engage regularly on ICT policy issues. This is core to the character of the network where engagement is through crowd sourced ideas and inclusive discussions. In the coming three years, KICTANet will continue to maintain the platform as an open space of interaction for people interested in ICT policy in Kenya.



3. Capacity building

Capacity building was found to be an important part of the organisation as it shall enable the network to grow. It is also through capacity building that KICTANet will increase its competency for advocacy and research. KICTANet will therefore continue to carry out the annual Kenya School of Internet Governance (KeSIG). It will also establish mechanisms for following up the participants once they have completed the school with the aim of connecting those who have an interest in ICTs to relevant networks and opportunities.

Other activities identified under this fork include: Kenya Internet Governance Forum, an ICTs in governance programme to be implemented across counties, digital security training and a cybersecurity capacity building programme. KICTANet will continue to engage interns drawn from a pool of students and young professionals in implementing its programmes.



4. Research

Under research, KICTANet intends to establish a research arm that will carry out objective research on subjects of interest to the community. There shall also be working groups on various topics similar to the blockchain and the Internet and elections working groups. Some of the topics identified are access as a right, digital literacy, cybersecurity and Internet and elections. KICTANet shall also give an annual state of ICT report.

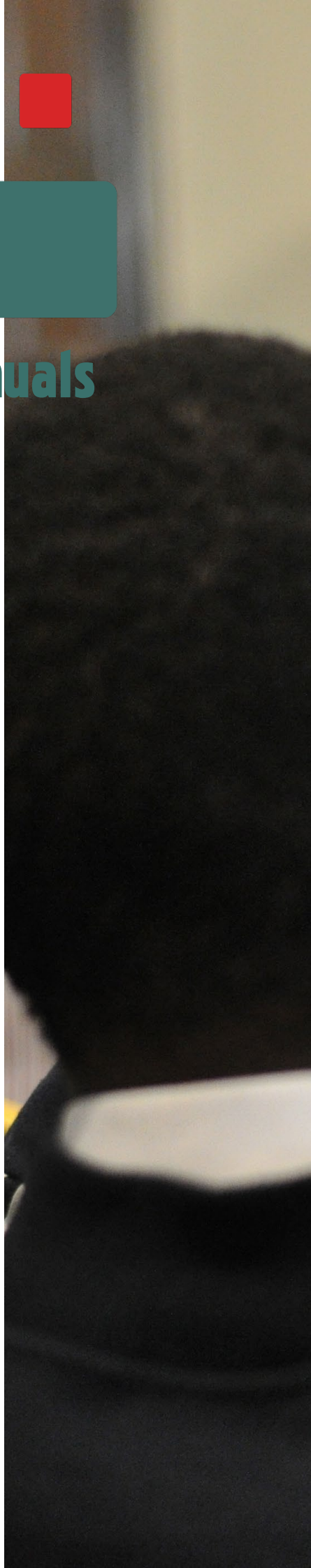
Miongozo: Finance and HR Manuals

Two key tools of governance were developed to guide operations. The first is a finance manual to direct financial management and planning in a prudent and transparent manner. The document covers sustainability, making use of the community through short term contracts, guidelines for use of donor funds within objectives, procurement procedures, financial reporting and audit, signatories, anti-corruption, request generation and processing procedures, reporting procedures, guidelines for remuneration and reimbursement, accounting systems, finance regulations, compliance with statutory policy and legal frameworks including audit and statutory deductions, and standard forms that may be used to make finance related requests.

The second one is a human resource development manual. Currently, the network operates through the goodwill of volunteers who give their time and expertise to oversee each of the projects that have been undertaken by the network. The manual is therefore not live as the network has no staff. It is however anticipated that in the future, it shall be possible to commit resources for people to manage the network and carry out work on subject matter projects.

The human resource manual covers recruitment procedures, personal development paths of staff, detailed roles for all functions, job descriptions and job profiles for each position. It also establishes essential and desirable competencies and skills for each position, comprehensive human resource policies and procedures for KICTANet including line management, disciplinary procedures, and contribution of staff to organisational goals. Further, it provides guidelines for reimbursement, staff regulations and disciplinary measures, compliance with statutory policy and legal frameworks including labour laws and statutory deductions, as well as standard forms that may be used to make human resource related requests.

KICTANet is indebted to AccessNow who provided a grant for institution building.





Tulikokuwa: Highlight of Activities



i) Mtandaoni: Engagement Platform

In 2016, KICTANet was most present at kictanet.or.ke where over 2500 discussion threads on different topics took place. Among the discussions were:

a) Debate on the Draft Kenya ICT Policy 2016 where a moderated discussion analysed the various chapters of the document. This was followed by a face to face validation meeting where stakeholders gave further input to the report that was presented to the Ministry of ICT.

b) Input into the Elections ICT Regulations where listers gave their views on the use of technology in the upcoming August 2017 elections. Some of the issues raised included the over representation of government officials in the decision-making committees. Listers suggested inclusion of other stakeholders such as IT experts.

c) Pursuant to a call for views on the Election Laws Amendment Bill, listers discussed technology aspects of elections in Kenya. The gist of the discussions was that technology should assist Kenya to secure the integrity of the vote as well as improve the efficiency of the electoral processes. Listers appreciated the history of Kenya's elections, and in particular the 2007 General Elections that resulted in violence, and supported use of technology, use of the Universal Service Funds to increase access to unconnected areas before the election, and inclusive decision making in elections related decisions. A memorandum was drafted from these discussions and forwarded to the Senate. Senate acknowledged the memorandum which was also covered by mainstream media and blogs.



d) The network analysed the Cyber Security and Data Protection (Senate) Bill and the Computer and Cyber Crimes Draft Bill (Ministry of Information and Communications). While both arms the Executive and Parliament have mandate to propose laws, listers were concerned that policy processes in government were being undertaken in silos. They called for harmonisation of the two laws, since both would be enacted for the benefit of mwananchi. Later in the year, the Senate's Bill was withdrawn to allow for public consultation.

e) Deliberations on the ICT Practitioners Bill where most listers expressed opposition to the premise, concept, and proposed methods of regulating ICT professionals. A memorandum was delivered to the National Assembly and the network is still following the matter.

f) A review of the various decisions in the ICT sector in 2016 where listers examined their impact in policy making as well the strength of the multistakeholder relationships in the sector. This was also a celebration of gains made by the sector.

g) Other debates on topical issues such as technology and elections, Internet shutdowns, use of ICTs in delivery of government services, consumer complaints and net neutrality, to mention but a few were also discussed.

2500

In 2016, KICTANet was most present at kictanet.or.ke where over 2500 discussion threads on different topics took place.



Some of the lessons learnt from online discussions include:

a) That the discussions on the mailing list are an important facet of Kenya's ICT policy history. Such discussions should therefore be upheld and preserved not just for posterity but also for studies on the effectiveness of collective decision making and the impact of such methods on development.

b) Policy advocacy is a journey, not an event. It therefore requires patience and follow up through the various processes to keep momentum on different areas of concern.

c) Input into policy processes requires commitment such as professional time as it is not enough to give general views about a policy document where policy makers have requested for specific amendments and text or language proposals.

d) There is also need for capacity building in emerging subjects such as human rights on the Internet, balancing rights and obligations of governments, cybersecurity, privacy, net neutrality, blockchain technology, Internet of things and Internet and elections. A significant need identified is enhancement of capacity in text negotiation.

KICTANet appreciates the listers who freely share their knowledge and thoughts on the network, therefore enriching the list.

(ii) ICT Policy Review

The network participated in review of the 2016 Draft Kenya ICT Policy. In developing the draft, the Ministry organised various working groups and KICTANet chaired the group on devices, applications, and content. Thereafter, KICTANet moderated chapter by chapter discussions on the draft policy and produced a report of the debate. Listers were then invited to participate in a face to face validation meeting, and later to the main validation meeting with all other working groups.

Among the issues noted by KICTANet included:

a) That the ICT Policy should provide a framework that supports innovation and new technologies such as blockchain.

b) That the policy should acknowledge and define the role of county governments in ICT development as well as the role of ICT in spurring innovation even at county level. The role of county governments was noted as being key in infrastructure development.

KICTANet has been following the process but the final ICT policy 2016 document is yet to be released to the public. It has not been possible to ascertain whether the draft was adopted by the Executive. The greatest challenge that has been noted with public participation is the feedback loop- that is, the mechanism for ensuring that those who give feedback can trace the remainder of the process. In addition, there is no framework that articulates the public participation process. For example, while the policy making bodies receive public input, the public is not aware of the rationale behind uptake or rejection of the input.

KICTANet appreciates the Ministry of Information and Communications, Google Kenya and Strathmore University for collaboration in this process.

(iii) Festival of Internet Freedom in Africa (FIFA) 2016

KICTANet partnered with Collaboration on International ICT Policy in East and Southern Africa (CIPESA) in developing the State of Internet Freedom in Africa 2016 Report. This was presented during the Festival of Internet Freedom in Africa in September 2016 in Kampala.

Some of the highlights of the Kenya report were a celebration of the nullification of section 29 of Kenya Information and Communications Act (KICA). The provision had been used to prosecute bloggers and users for content posted online or on social media, creating a chilling effect on freedom of expression.

Another theme was critique of Kenya's public participation system where government sought input of stakeholders in policy and legislative processes.

There was still concern about state surveillance in the absence of a privacy and data protection framework. Other areas of concern were attempts to control content by the Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB), talk about a social media Bill, activism, and propaganda to shape views in ways that could contribute to incitement against others, and the undefined role of intermediaries.

KICTANet is grateful for the support received from CIPESA and the Ford Foundation towards development of the report and attendance of FIFA 2016.

(iv) RightsCon 2016

KICTANet was represented at RightsCon 2016 in San Francisco by several members. Two associates spoke in panels on freedom online in Africa and resource mobilisation for digital rights.

They discussed the challenges faced by the digital rights movement in Africa including the lack of resources for rapid response, the challenge of obtaining funding for core activities and the general culture of information controls by African States. They proposed that donors be more flexible and creative in designing their programmes according to each region's needs. They also recommended that donors carry out trainings about the available funding and regulations for each fund.

KICTANet is indebted to Article 19 Global and AccessNow for facilitating this participation.

(vi) FOE and Privacy Principles

KICTANet participated in developing principles for freedom of expression and privacy. This was a project coordinated by Article 19 Global that brought about several organisations to propose how to balance FOE and privacy. The themes explored include surveillance, data disclosure, encryption, public figures, data protection, right to information as well as the remedies and sanctions that should be available in case of abrogation of the rights. The principles are timely in the current environment in Kenya where stakeholders are grappling to find a balance between the right to privacy and that of security.

The principles were launched in 2017.

(v) African Summit on Women and Girls in Tech

Africa is among places with the largest digital divides across the globe and this divide has gender perspectives. Together with local partners working on women rights online, KICTANet participated in the *Women and Girls in Tech Summit in September* in a panel which focused on gender responsive ICT policies. KICTANet narrated the case of the revision of Kenya's ICT Policy.

Donors need to be more flexible and creative in designing their programmes according to each region's needs.

(vii) ICT Perspectives: community's 365 days review

In November 2016, listers reflected on the year that had been in the ICT sector. The conversation was arranged along the following themes: policy and legal issues, regulatory issues, human capital, ICT infrastructure and ICT information infrastructure.

Some of the topics that elicited a lot of discussion were the Universal Service Fund (USF), ICT access in rural areas, quality of service and affordability of services.

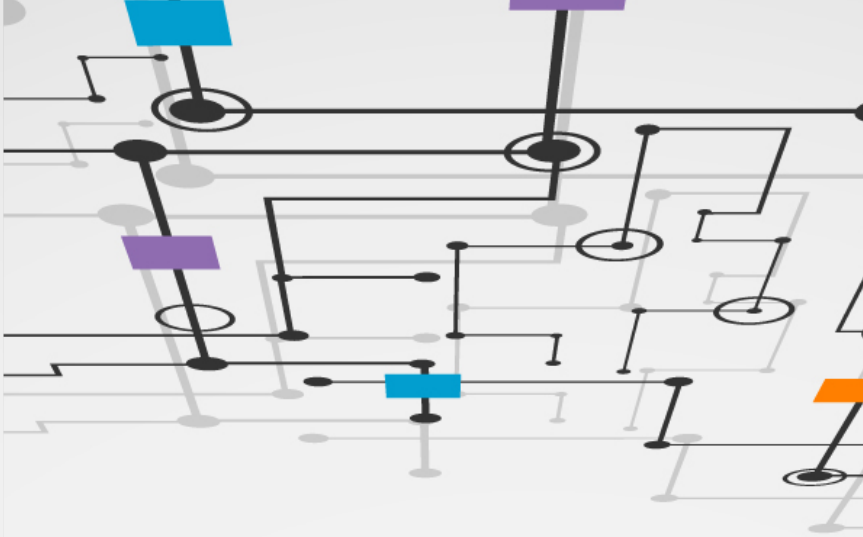
KICTANet is grateful to listers for their candid input as well as Facebook and KENIC who supported a face to face meeting to validate the report.

(viii) Inter Planetary Database Trustees

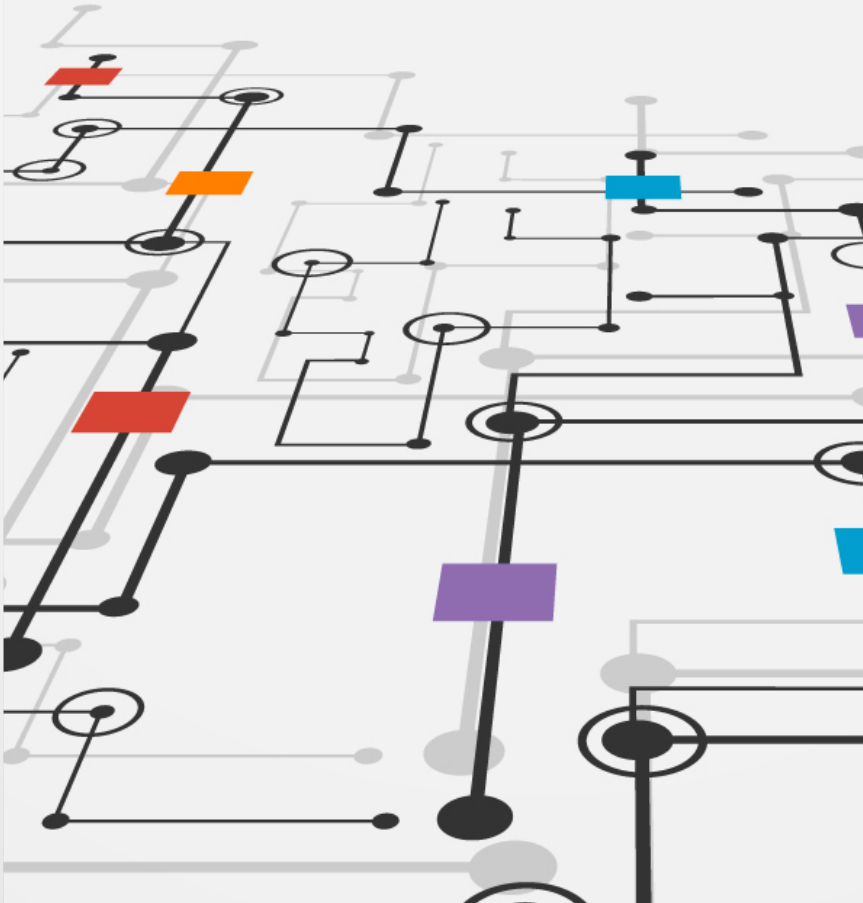
In December 2016, KICTANet participated in the Africa Blockchain Workshop at Strathmore University, Nairobi. This workshop explored the impending challenges and prospects for blockchain technologies and their implications on the contemporary economic, political and social order. Members of KICTANet interacted with global experts on blockchain and shared their experiences in trying to navigate the regulation challenges with the new technology.

Subsequently, KICTANet became among the founding trustees of the Inter Planetary Database (IPDB), a decentralised blockchain database.

KICTANet is grateful to COALA for facilitating participation of participants from KeSIG and the blockchain working group.



KICTANet became among the founding trustees of the Inter Planetary Database (IPDB), a decentralised blockchain database.



Miradi yetu: Our Projects

This section gives a brief of our experiences and lessons from undertaking various projects in 2016.

The local IGF remains an important avenue for dialogue



Kenya IGF 2016

KICTANet convened the ninth edition of the Kenya Internet Governance Forum (KIGF) on 12th August 2016 at Laico Hotel in Nairobi. It was themed: *"Enabling Inclusive and Sustainable Growth"*

Unlike in the previous years when the KIGF is preceded by online discussions on topics selected by the community, 2016 was different. Prior to the IGF, listers had engaged through a moderated debate on the Draft ICT Policy 2016 which has provisions deemed essential for the ICT sector. It was therefore decided that the online debate that precedes the face to face meeting would be a repetition of the ICT policy discussions. One topic that generated robust debate was blockchain technology where views on potential uses of the technology for the country were articulated. This was against the backdrop of the finance regulator, the Central Bank of Kenya, rejecting use of bitcoins in the country.

There is need for Africa to contribute more actively in development of the Internet through production rather than consumption!

KIGF therefore dedicated time to discussing blockchain technology and innovation at large. Other topics were: Internet governance in Kenya a look at the past and the future; Over the Top Services (OTTs): perceptions and regulation; access gaps in Kenya - local content and its impact on the Internet ecosystem in Kenya; cybersecurity in Kenya; and status of child online protection in Kenya.

The topic of Internet and Elections was close to the heart of many as Kenya goes to elections in August 2017. There was therefore a discussion on information controls and political processes where participants garnered from diverse panellists on use of Internet for elections as well as views on why Internet shutdowns were on the rise.

In the evening, the network hosted a television style fireside chat on innovation where the youth challenged the establishment, in particular tertiary education institutions about gaps existing between education and market skills.

Key takeaways from this event were:
a) The local IGF remains an important avenue for dialogue. Many participants came with ears open to glean other stakeholder views, especially on positions taken by the government on various issues.

b) The Internet has brought about more interconnectedness among different sectors. Participants were challenged to expand ICT policy advocacy beyond the ICT sector as it was becoming more and more relevant for fields such as elections, agriculture, and the economy. The government was also urged to enhance capacity of its services to support increased use of ICT for service delivery.

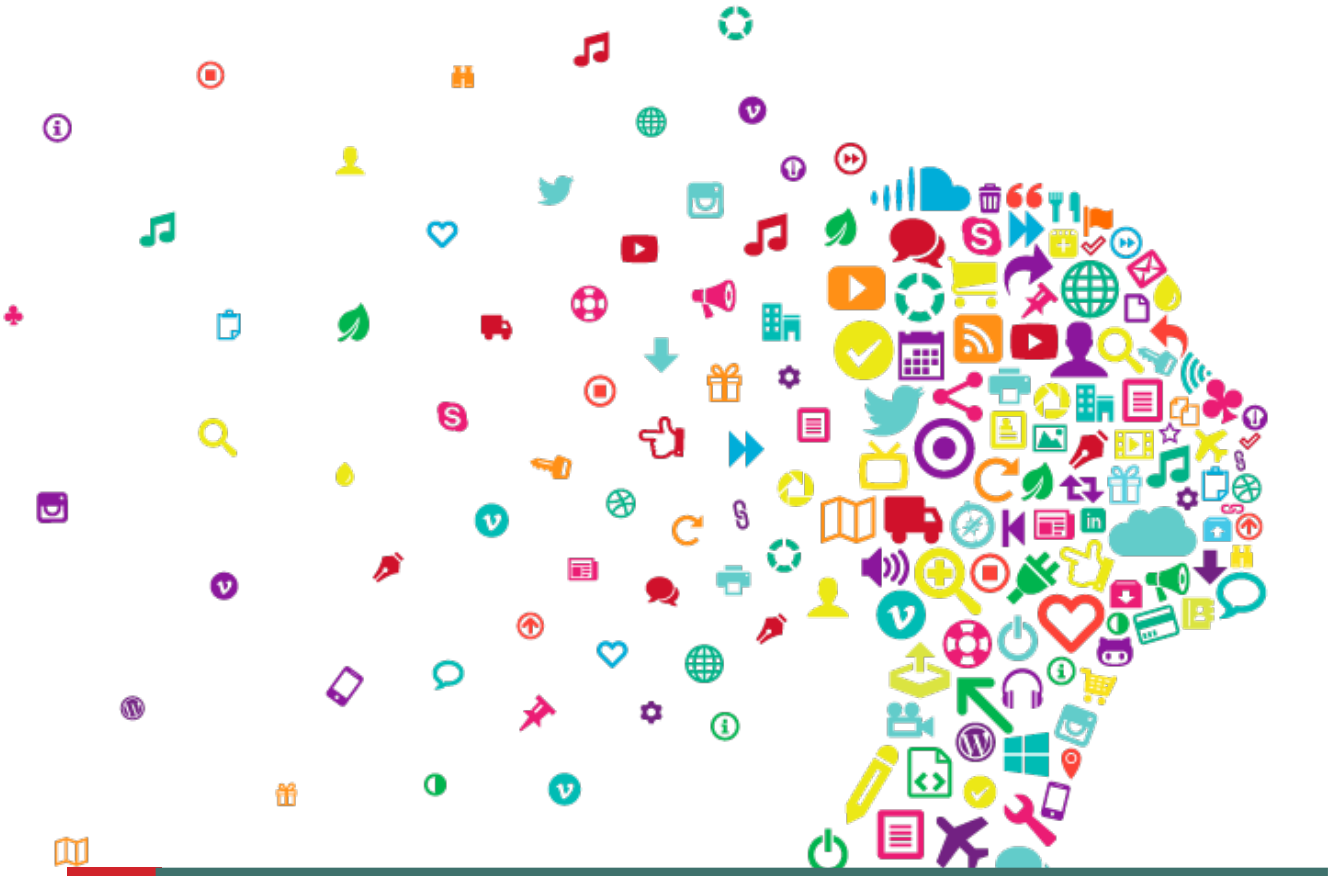
c) The need for Africa to contribute more actively in development of the Internet through production rather than consumption was emphasised.

d) The discussion on blockchain technology was robust with speakers urging the government to embrace the technology as it had potential to resolve many of the societal problems since it would enhance more transparency.

e) Speakers and participants acknowledged the role played by the Internet in elections- from dissemination of information, political discourse and use of technology in some of the election processes. Participants called upon the government to assure Kenyans that the Internet would remain open during elections.

f) In the conversation on over the top technologies (OTTs), speakers called for a shift of focus to production of more local content in order to give Kenyan content more online presence.

KICTANet registers its appreciation to Facebook, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Kenya Network Information Centre (KENIC), the Internet Society, TESPOK, Simbanet and the Internet Governance Forum Support Association (IGFSA) for their collaboration. Special thanks also go to all the speakers who by giving their perspectives on issues under discussion, made the event a great success.



Kenya School of Internet Governance -KeSIG

In November, KICTANet in partnership with HIVOS East Africa convened the first ever Kenya School of Internet Governance (KeSIG) in Nairobi.

The school was fashioned as an introductory course to those with an interest in Internet governance. Participants were therefore a mix drawn from bloggers, journalists, students, managers, software developers as well as young lawyers. They benefitted from hearing and interacting with practitioners from different fields-content platforms, academia, government, techies, and lawyers.

Some of the topics covered included: introduction to Internet governance; historical background of the Internet and decisions made by Kenya; fundamental key principles that underpin the Internet; characteristics of the Internet model of development; role of Internet intermediaries; how to participate in Internet governance; human rights and the Internet; perspectives of key policy and regulatory processes and the milestones that Kenya has made in Internet Governance.

KICTANet and HIVOS East Africa express gratitude to the participants as well as the following partners for providing expertise in development and delivery of the curriculum: Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa (FOSSFA); Computer Society of Kenya; National Communications Secretariat; Communications Authority; Internet Society; Google Kenya; the Internet Corporation for assigned names and numbers (ICANN), the Centre for Intellectual Property and Information Technology Law (CIPIT) of Strathmore Law School; Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) and the African Union Commission. Special mention goes to Facebook for supporting the event.



Digital Security Training

In June, eighteen bloggers and journalists were taken through digital security training. The course targeted female content producers but a few men were also included and they provided important perspectives on gender and security.

Key highlights of the training include:

a) Bloggers, especially women who take on powerful persons in the political and business world face danger to their person and devices containing their information. They identified the need for solidarity amongst themselves to bring to the fore the threats they encounter in pursuit of public interest information.

b) Participants were taken through various protections and defences they can apply when against threats and to mitigate breaches into their privacy. These included physical fitness, digital hygiene, encryption, circumvention tools and secure communications.

c) The training took a holistic approach to digital security. Participants were therefore taken through psychological wellness, physical fitness and security, networking for solidarity, legal frameworks as well securing communications.

A follow up meeting with the same participants to assess the effectiveness and practicality of the training material will be conducted in 2017.

KICTANet is grateful to partners who made the training a success. They include AccessNow, Bloggers Association of Kenya (BAKE),Association of Media Women of Kenya (AMWIK), and others who prefer not to be named due to the nature of their interventions.



Blockchain Working Group

This working group was formed after the 2016 Kenya IGF to among other things give an objective policy analysis on the technology and its potential uses in Kenya. The group seeks to demystify the concept of blockchain and create awareness on the technology and for advocacy towards adoption of the technology for public sector reform.

The group has been meeting and collaborating with likeminded institutions in meeting its objectives. Members participated in the first Kenya Blockchain Workshop in December 2016 at Strathmore University.



Usoni: Envisioning the future

In summary, KICTANet undertook the following institution building projects:

a) Development of a human resources manual
b) Development of a finance manual
c) Review of policy discussions that have taken place on the listserv since 2007
d) Development of an organisational strategy

Projects that KICTANet undertook or initiated include:
a) Management of the mailing list
b) Training of women bloggers and journalists
c) Kenya IGF
d) Kenya School of Internet Governance
e) Digital security training for bloggers and journalists
f) Blockchain working group formation and setting of its terms of reference

Challenges
Some of the challenges faced include scarcity of resources, especially human resource as the work depends on volunteers. A gap in capacity to engage in some disciplines such as law and technology, cybersecurity, OTTs, blockchain and other emerging issues was identified.

It is envisioned that2017 will be a busy year for the ICT policy space. This has been given momentum by the upcoming elections and with the increased convergence of technology and interconnectedness of life. It is envisaged that there will be more use of the Internet for elections.





Sustaining Multistakeholderism

KICTANet is a multistakeholder space and therefore invested in providing an opportunity for all voices. The network will therefore build itself into a resource for objective information on the different issues affecting the sector. This will be achieved through the following means:

a) Organisation of the work into programmes: KICTANet attended several events in the year where a lot of lessons on substantive policy issues were picked up. Accordingly, KICTANet aims to make its participation in local and international fora more meaningful by structuring participation through programmes. Under the programmes, members who follow issues in that space will dedicate their time to improving their capacity and translating lessons learnt to policy advocacy.

b) Mapping of competencies in the network: KICTANet has succeeded in the past through the free knowledge sharing that happens on the list. With the increased importance for such knowledge sharing under the new dispensation, KICTANet desires to map and analyse the capacity of its network through creation of a database of member's areas of expertise. Having such a database will be key in optimal utilisation of these resources as well as in succession planning.

c) Mapping of networks: KICTANet has also succeeded so far because of the goodwill of several actors- funders, the private sector, think tanks, civil society organisations in the human rights network, users, techies, small businesses, innovators, government, and international community. The knowledge of these networks has not been codified and KICTANet intends to create a database to do so. This will help the network in building a strong institution and to base management decisions on verifiable information.

d) Communications Strategy: KICTANet is an established brand but during the organisational planning, external partners identified the need to strengthen the brand through more coordinated communication across various platforms. KICTANet will therefore embark on developing a communications strategy in the coming year.



Proactiveness- Relevance to Emerging Issues

With the recognition of public participation as a core national value in Kenya's Constitution, KICTANet is well placed to continue to input into ICT policy issues. The core of KICTANet revolves around ICT policy development. To this end, the newly developed organisational strategy discussed in more detail above has classified KICTANet's work into four streams: The engagement platform, capacity building, policy advocacy and research.

Research will enable the network to strengthen its advocacy based on evidence, and also increase capacity to anticipate issues, as well as provide objective information on issues as they emerge.

Resource Mobilisation

To achieve these goals, KICTANet invites partners and potential collaborators to support and team up with the network in various ways such as:

- Grants to implement the projects in the strategy.
- Human resource that may be posted to support KICTANet's projects and work streams.
- Partnerships in recurring activities such as the Kenya IGF, KeSIG and State of the ICT annual Review.
- Mentorship, advice and networking.

Chapisho: Select Publications



Kenya IGF 2016 Report



Digital Security Training for Journalists and Bloggers Report



State of the ICT 2016 Report



Here is the ICT sector's First 100 Days Wishlist for the ICT Cabinet Secretary



Kenya School of Internet Governance Report (KeSIG) 2016 Report



Mapping the Internet Landscape 2016 Report



Draft ICT Policy 2016 Online Discussions Report

Washirika: Partners

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