



Concept Note

Cybersecurity in Kenya: Priorities for 2019

Thursday, 31 October 2019, Sarova Panafric Hotel, Nairobi

Introduction

The Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) in partnership with Global Partners Digital (GPD) with the support of the government of the United Kingdom are pleased to host a Roundtable meeting on **Cybersecurity in Kenya**, which will take place on Thursday, 31st October 2019 at the **Sarova Panafric Hotel in Nairobi**.

Meeting Objective and expected Outcome

The overall objective of the roundtable is to increase local stakeholder awareness of cybersecurity issues, and to identify common cybersecurity priorities for Kenya in 2019. It is a follow-up to a similar meeting held in March 2019. More importantly, the discussions will also include the validation of a policy brief providing a broad overview of the current state of play in cybersecurity in Kenya; and provide space to identify stakeholder common priorities and to make recommendations for the year ahead.

Context

Cybersecurity continues to be a concern not only for the government, but also is an important issue for private sector companies and groups, the technical community, academia, civil society groups and other non-governmental actors given its enormous implications for information security, critical infrastructure, economic prosperity, public safety as well as their relations with other countries.

From a policy and legal perspective, Kenya has enacted the 2006 ICT Policy, the ICT Master plan, 2014 - 2017 and the National Cybersecurity Strategy, 2014, the Kenya Information and Communications Act, and the Computer Misuse and Cybercrimes Act, 2018. There is also a Senate Data Protection Bill, 2018 and a draft Data Protection Bill and Policy currently under development. Further, the draft ICT Policy developed in 2016 is yet to be adopted.

Despite this progress, the country continues to experience challenges in the realm of cybersecurity. Key concerns include: third-party misuses or shares of confidential data; malware attacks and disruption of business processes; data breaches; and attacks on IT infrastructure resulting in downtime. The key challenges include among others: insufficient technical, investigation, prosecutorial and judicial capacity of law enforcement agencies; low levels of public awareness on security; outdated laws, policies and strategies; weak internal security practices and standards in key institutions; poor detection and reporting of attacks; and, weak coordination among relevant agencies, industries and institutions.

Across the globe, cybersecurity is gaining traction and countries are taking strides to address the emerging challenges. Measures being adopted include the development of policies, strategies and legislation; establishment of response teams for cybercrimes; formation of multi-agency institutions to

promote collaboration; providing funding for cybersecurity programs and initiatives; implementing enhanced security practices and standards; enhancing penalties for cybercrimes; addressing threats to critical infrastructure; investing in workforce capacity building; and, promoting end-user education on cybersecurity.

Kenya therefore needs to develop and promote forward looking and responsive policy and legislative environment with cutting edge strategies, designed to promote confidence and integrity of its information systems. Cybersecurity is everyone's responsibility. Guaranteeing cybersecurity is a role that cannot be left to the government alone, as all relevant stakeholders have a role to play based on their respective mandates. Therefore, the development and implementation of policies, laws and strategies on cybersecurity can only be effective when done through multistakeholder approaches. A multistakeholder approach recognizes the essence of public participation, and is designed to ensure that cyber-policy making processes are open, transparent, inclusive and value-based.

This roundtable therefore, can provide a platform for discussion, help streamline stakeholder inputs and refine national priorities to ensure the country achieves its Vision 2030 goal of becoming a regional ICT hub.

Attendees

Attendees would include relevant local actors drawn from the three arms of government, including key agencies and departments, private sector companies and groups, the technical community, academia, civil society groups and other non-governmental actors.

About the Organizers

The Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet) is a non-profit organization, which acts as a multi-stakeholder platform for individuals 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.

Global Partners Digital (GPD) is a social purpose company dedicated to fostering a digital environment underpinned by human rights and democratic values. It works by making policy spaces and processes more open, inclusive and transparent, and by facilitating strategic, informed and coordinated engagement in these processes by public interest actors. The roundtable is part of its project on "Promoting an inclusive and value-based approach to cyber policymaking in the Commonwealth" which is funded by the government of the United Kingdom.

Draft Programme		
Time	Session	Facilitator(s)
0800 - 0830	Arrival and Registration	KICTANet
0830 - 0845	Welcome and Introductions	Grace Githaiga, KICTANet Daniela Shnidrig, GPD
0845 - 0900	Overview of Workshop Objectives	Grace Githaiga, KICTANet
Session 1: Cybersecurity in Kenya - State of Play <i>Barrack Otieno, Moderator</i>		
0915 - 1015	Presentation of KICTANet Policy Brief	Experts Grace Githaiga Victor Kapiyo
1015 - 1045	<i>Plenary Session</i>	Moderator, KICTANet
1045 - 1100	<i>Health Break</i>	
Session 2: Review of Kenya's National Cybersecurity Strategies <i>Barrack Otieno, Moderator</i>		
1100 - 1200	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the common interests and priorities? • What are the existing opportunities for interventions? • How can stakeholders engagement better? • What are the tangible and SMART things that needs to be done by the various stakeholders? 	Experts Kate Getao, CEO, ICT Authority (ICTA) Joseph Nzano, Communications Authority Dr. Matunda Nyanchama, Agano Consulting Apriel Moraa, ISACA Kenya Karimi Ruria, Safaricom
1200 - 1230	<i>Plenary Session</i>	Moderator, KICTANet
1230 - 1245	Recommendations, Next Steps and Sustainability	Victor Kapiyo
1245 - 1300	Closing Session	KICTANet, GPD
1300 - 1400	<i>Networking Lunch</i>	
<i>End of Event</i>		