FOSSFA REPORT ON

INTER– REGIONAL, SESSION

(Main focus- WAIGF)

6th **INTERNET GOVERNACE FORUM , 2011, Nairobi, Kenya**

Opening Remarks and Introductions:-

 Through the WSIS and Tunis agenda , the IGF was created within certain guidelines and rules. It is associated with the United Nations (U.N.), But the , the national and regional initiatives have grown up quite spontaneously.

- there are similar in some ways and different in others , in short, they are all unique .

- During the 5th IGF, held in Vilnius, Lithuania , there were eight regional initiatives, represented and ten national initiatives, this year, there are eleven, regional initiatives and seventeen national initiatives, represented, indeed we can see growth in this area.

Panelists:

1) Lillian Nalwoga,- EAIGF,

2) Mark Carvel- UK IGF, Commonwealth IGF

2) Nnenna Nwakanma- WAIGF

3) Peng Hwa Ang- Asia-Pacific Regional IGF

5) Jasna Matic -EURODIG

6) Towela Nyirenda – SAIGF

6) Bryon Holland- Canadian Internet Governace Forum

To begin, we will ask how these initiatives have addressed , the global IGF, themes, haver they addressed them the same way as the global forum? If different, how?

WEST AFRICA INTERNET GOVERNANCE FORUM (WAIGF):–

– the initiative is run by a consortium, consisting of :

1. The Economic Community of Western African States,(ECOWAS) which is the regional economic block.
2. Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa, (FOSSFA)which is a continental foundation.
3. Association for Progressive Communication, (APC) a global

communications advocacy group.

4. International Institute for Sustainable Development, (IISD)- works for sustainability in development.

5. Panos Institute for West Africa, (PIWA) - a media capacity-building organization.

6. AfriNIC, the registry for Africa.

7. ISOC Africa, the consortium for Internet Society actors.

 A brief history of the region- it is consisted of 16 countries, with three official languages, English, Portuguese and French, 10, of these countries already have IGF, national initiativeS and the consortium is working to ensure, national initiatives in the other 6 countries.

– WAIGF, has held four regional forums, within, the region, it has an official website (www.waigf.org) ,has a twitter handle (#WAIGF)and a facebook page as well.

The Key issues in brief:–

On access :–

– the Universal Access Fund , its implementation is important to us, it is what will drive access to undeserved areas . We need , transparency in its implementation and progress.

On diversity:–

- West Africa is a region of great diversity. Its people, its languages, its culture, and its heritage. we're looking at an Internet that will not just preserve but promote and add value to our diversity in our region.

On critical Internet resources and their management:–

- AfriNIC which has been doing a lot of work educating all regional actors, especially in moving from IPv4 to IPv6. But we note that there is need for more education. And we're also working towards making West Africa an IPv6-compliant region.

On security:–

- the EACOS legislation on cybercrime, has been adopted by the council Ministers, And this legislation will be presented to the Heads of state in their next meeting, that will be effective by the end of this year,

security from the education point of view , there is great need to educate the young people on ways to make positive impact , with the use of for personal , for national ,for regional development, without necessarily engaging into criminal activities on-line.

On openness:–

- we recognize the need for openness in process, in governance, in technology, in data, and in citizen services across our region.

On privacy :–

- while governments in our subregion are taking measures to fight cybercrime and ensure cybersecurity, we're encouraging to see to the ratification and domestication of EACOS legislation on the protection of personal data across this region.

The region is looking at having a harmonized Internet ecosystem across the countries of West Africa that will give , greater access, greater opportunity, and greater potentials.

 In closing, We have key actors, individuals who work out of their time to put this initiative forward. In some countries the initiatives have been led by the government, In others , the youth organization, and in others, it is an individual initiative. There are different models, within the region, its what makes the WAIGF unique and rich.

Way Forward:–

A Sustained and sustainable multi-stakeholder engagement at our subregional level,is a must and a more active and engaged national IG initiatives in all the 16 countries.

On the question of cyber–security, initiatives, the representative had this to say:–

I) In West Africa, the Council of Ministers have adopted our cybercrime legislation for the whole of the region, Now, what is being looked into is the possibility of extra, intercountry police collaboration. Someone can commit a crime in one country, because we have free movement across West Africa, by the time you announce the crime in Nigeria, he is already living in Ghana. So what we are doing is that collaboration to make it possible that crimes committed anywhere in West Africa can be prosecuted anywhere in West Africa. That's part of the legal, the legislation in place now.

ii) On data centers, there is also some collaboration in West Africa. In Nigeria, Cote D'Ivoire, Ghana, we all have data centers across West Africa. " I am not sure about the cabling, but I know that most of the cable that run around our region, because we are all on the coast of the Benay (phonetic), the gulf of Benay, we have them running across. But where we have been fighting to get something going is on the interconnection, the IXPs across West African countries. That, we haven't got there yet, but we are still going there".

Iii) Earlier on in the day, AfriNIC, spoke to us about AfriCERT. That is the Computer Emergency Response Team. We are also looking at collaboration on that across West Africa. But like I said the Africa Internet Governance initiative will only be launched here in Nairobi, and we do truly believe when we get the regionals together and then match it up at the continental Africa level, that will help impose movement at national level. I truly do believe that.

On the question about interlinking the regional initiatives , to a continental level:–

the representative from WAIGF, had this to say:-

"before the end of this forum, on Friday @14:30, in room 10, there will be a launch of the Africa Internet Governance Forum".

On the question of the raising issues, in WAIGF, the representative ,had this to say:–

"I just want to raise four points from West Africa"

1. **Cloud computing**. At the forum, we asked ourselves a lot of questions. Is it the right option, the trend, the weaknesses, the opportunities and the threats, especially for many countries in West Africa where we don't have stable electricity.
 But we raised our hopes on mobile technology. That has great promise for the region, because as it was noted earlier, we're a very young region, and our youth are active. So we're looking at appropriate mobile technology applications that are customized for West African region or African region of developing countries to help us achieve our development objectives.

2. We are also looking at **IPv6 compliance** of technology of today and tomorrow, because we realize in West Africa that much of our technology is

coming as development aid, and we have fears that we will wake up in five years' time and find out that technology that was given to us as development aid was not IPv6 compliant.

3. We raise an issue on digital literacy and digital culture. As originally stated, we have great heritage of culture in West Africa, and our challenge will be to see how we can use the Internet to add value and to migrate with digital West Africans and not just West Africans.

4. It is important for us to stress in this forum, once again, that West Africa and many West African countries are suffering from a kind of image slurring on the Internet. We hear that spams come from Nigeria, and West Africa is a security risk zone, and you don't find PayPal in some of our countries. It is not correct, and that is linked to research information. So we would like to know, as we talk about security and all of that, how much of spam is actually coming from West Africa that we should be black-listed? There are actually some European network operators that black-list a bunch of our IP addresses, and being that some of our ministers are using these free e-mail services, we are sending official government information on someone dot something and it has been black-listed because they are from West African IP addresses. So we really feel that this is something that needs to be talked about. No, we are not a security threat in West Africa, and we need to be treated fairly on the Internet as all other digital citizens.

THE PRESENTATION:–

The 6th Internet Governance Forum, Nairobi, Kenya.

The Cross-regional Perspective Session:

(28 September 2011, 14.30 - 16.00) (Moderator: Chengetai Masango)

West Africa Internet Governance Forum

Represented by Nnenna Nwakanma, Council Chair: FOSSFA.

PRESENTATION on Regional Perspectives :-

Background information on WAIGF.

The West Africa Internet Governance Forum is propelled by a consortium of 7:

- The Economic Community of West African States - ECOWAS

- The Free Software and Open Source Foundation for Africa- FOSSFA

- The Association for Progressive Communications – APC

- The International Institute for Sustainable Development - IISD

- The Panos Institute, West Africa

- AfriNic

- Internet Society – ISOC Africa.

WAIGF key facts:

- Four sub-regional IGFs have been held so far

- The region is composed of 16 countries.

- Its official languages are English, French and Portuguese

- The population is over three hundred thousand.

- It is home to Africa's most populous country, Nigeria.

- At least 10 of the 16 countries have organised at least 1 national IG Forum

- The http:///www.waigf.org is the official website

- @waigf is the twitter handle

- We also have a vibrant Facebook community page.

Summary of WAIGF perspectives on key IGF issues:

1. On Access: The Universal Access policies of the various Wes African countries need to be implemented to improve affordable Internet Access in rural and underserved areas.

2. On Diversity: West Africa's is a region of great diversity; of its people, languages,
culture and heritage. We want an Internet that preserves, promotes and adds value to our diversity.

3. On Critical Internet Resources: WAIGF recognizes the efforts being made by AfriNic and AfNOG towards educating the sub-regional actors in the shift from IPV4 to IPV6 and notes the further need for more education.

WAIGF needs to engage to ensure that the region becomes fully IPV6 compliant.

4. On Security: The ECOWAS legislation on cybercrime has been adopted by the Council of Ministers. It will be presented for adoption to the Heads of States at their next meeting. It also is of the view that more action is needed in educating the youths on ways to make positive impact with the use of Internet for personal, national as well as regional development without going into criminal activities.

5. On Openness: WAIGF recognises the need for openness in process, in government, in technology, data and in the citizen services across the region.

6. On Privacy: While governments in the sub-region are taking measures to fight cybercrime and ensure cyber security, they are encouraged to ratify and domesticate ECOWAS legislation on personal data.

In closing, WAIGF is looking forward to more sustained and sustainable multi-stakeholder engagement at our sub-regional level and more active and engaged national IG fronts in our countries.

Obrigado

Merci

Thanks

The Cross–regional Perspective Session II:

(28 September 2011, 14.30 - 16.00) (Moderator: Chengetai Masango)
West Africa Internet Governance Forum

Represented by Nnenna Nwakanma, Council Chair: FOSSFA

PRESENTATION on Emerging issues :-

The participants of the 4th West Africa Internet Governance Forum in Lagos, and the larger West African Internet Governance Community are calling the attention of the Global Internet Governance Forum on the following key emerging issues:

1. On cloud Computing: What are strengths, the weaknesses, the opportunities and the threats for West Africa. What role will cloud computing play in our economic development, in bettering our governance, our administration and our citizen services. What are the security implications.

2. On Mobile Technology: How can we use the mobile more effectively? How can we grow the mobile applications industry that is suited for West African needs? How can we grow our economies through mobile technology?

3. Multi-stakeholder effectiveness: Why are governments not participating in national and sub-regional IGF Forums effectively? How can we encourage more stakeholders to engage? How do we ensure continued dialogue among all stakeholders? How do we raise viable national IG ecosystems?

4. IPV6 Compliance: How do we ensure that West Africa will not be left out? How can we control IPV6 compliance across the region? How do we ensure that the region will not serve as a dumping ground for outdated hardware? How can we train more of our operators to ensure hitch-free migration?

5. Digital Culture and literacy: Issues here include basic literary and digital literacy. Educating on security and privacy issues. Dispelling the myth around the use of the Internet? Mainstreaming the Internet in our everyday life?

6. West African image on the Internet: How do we reverse the negative image of our sub- region on the Internet? How do we, ourselves, clean inhouse in an effective manner? How do we use the Internet to inform the global audience about the wonderful region of West Africa, where it is summer all year?

7. Research: How do we raise empirical data on the region? What is the state of Universal Access funds in our region? What are the figures on the use of technology in the region?

8. The African Internet Governance Forum: How best will the Africa Internet Governance Forum support the West African region and the West African countries? Should the AfIGF be a decision making instance? Can we task ourselves with accomplishing action and objectives?

Over all, we are looking at a viable West African Internet Governance Forum, where all actors will be satisfactorily engaged at national levels. We are working towards a sustainable WAIGF Secretariat and a region where the potentials of emerging technologies will support a viable economy and a digitally-enabled citizenry. Thank you very much

FOSSFA REPORT ON:

THE LAUNCH OF THE AfIGF DIALOGUE–

September 30, 2011 – 11:00AM

(REPRESENTING WAIGF)

Introduction of the panelists:

Convenor of the AfIGF- Mr. Makane- UNECA

Africa Union(AU)- Mr. Moctar Yadley

EAIGF- Alice Munyua

WAIGF- Nnenna Nwakanma

SAIGF- Towela Nyirenda

CAIGF- Boudin Schombe

Opening Remarks:-

 Welcome to this workshop on the African Internet Governance Forum, Africa has been participating in IG, for many years, starting from the world Senate on the Information Society process.

At this point we discuss the formation of the African IGF, supported by stakeholders across the continent and coordinated by the African Union (AU) .

We request the convenors of the various regional IGF 's , to give us a brief on what has happened in the regions, the challenges and the way forward.

Opening remarks by Mr. Moctar Yadley of AU:-
- With full support from Africa Union (AU), the AfIGF, will be a Forum for the Africans to discuss their issues and to make sure their voice are heard with regard to the global, Internet Governance Forum.

WEST AFRICA INTERNET GOVERNANCE:–

The representative from west Africa, introduced the regional forum, by stating its governance statue.
She further reiterated, that WAIGF was in support of the foramtion of the AfIGF, and had done a lot of work, towards this day, in the back ground.

Two issues, that the representative from the region mentioned, on the sustainability of the regional forums, which could be emulated in the the continental forum, was

1. Commitment and

2. Research.

At the end of the forum it was agreed that , the first AfIGF, will be held in Cairo,Egypt and the the next in West Africa , Dakar, Senegal.

A question was asked by a remote participant, ' how does the AfIGF plan to build capacity among young Africans concerning IGF, issues and help incorporate the voices and participation of young Africans in IGF discussions?

An answer was given by the WAIGF representative, as follows:-
" I think that's a very valid question ' she said " The AfIGF is meaningless unless it supports and increases multistakeholder , Internet Governance activity within a country. "

"There is no need setting up an AfIGF , up less it makes meaning at home, " she continued "I am afraid that people who are here who are sitting here launching AfIGF, have not participated at all. And that is the challenge. I have personally written this document and encouraged to come here and tell ourselves that our participation in Nairobi's meaningless if you have not done anything at home" reiterated, Ms. Nwakanma . "So from wherever you come,

you should go home and ask what has happened in my country?"

" I'm here reporting for West Africa IGF, and there is no Nigerian IGF. There is no, there is no Malian IGF. So these are the issues. Are we launching AfIGF, to support our national initiatives?" she asked? " The answer is this, I think , the only reason we are launching AfIGF is to support National Internet Governance initiatives to give all the capacity needed to the young people. There is No AfIGF at ECA,there is No AfIGF at AU, But there is AfIGF in all 54 African countries" she concluded.

THE PRESENTATION:

The 6th Internet Governance Forum, Nairobi, Kenya.

The AfIGF Session:
(30th September 2011, 11.00 – 12.30)

West Africa Internet Governance Forum

Represented by Nnenna Nwakanma, Council Chair: FOSSFA.

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- *AfriNic*

- *Internet Society – ISOC Africa.*

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- *The http:///www.waigf.org is the official website*

- *@waigf is the twitter handle*

- *We also have a vibrant Facebook community page.*

Country presentations:

1. Benin

2. Burkina Faso

3. Cape Verde

4. Cote d'Ivoire

5. Gambia

6. Ghana

7. Guinea

8. Guinea Bissau

9. Liberia

10. Mali

11. Mauritania

12. Niger

13. Nigeria

14. Sierra Leone

15. Senegal

16. Togo

Support received:

1. Ghana

2. Senegal

3. Nigeria

4. OSIWA

5. FOSSFA

6. AfriNic

7. ICANN

8. ISOC Africa

Lessons learned:

1. Unless the regulatory agencies, ministry and telcos engage, we may not go far

2. Different actors are leading in different countries

3. The IGICI model appears to be the best case

4. ECOWAS engagement will encourage other sub-regional actors.

5. Need for a viable secretariat

6. The funding needed is minimal, mostly to support national IGF for a short

period of time, to establish a vibrant communication ecosystem of stakeholders.

What FOSSFA is doing:

1. FOSSFA IG Coordinator

2. Research

3. Short term contracts to increase national IG impact

4. Translation

Report prepared by :

Ms. Judy Okite,
IG-CORDINATOR- FOSSFA.