REPORT ON
THE 4TH GAMBIA NATIONAL IGF HELD AT

PARADISE SUITES HOTEL
SENEGAMBIA

ON THE 4TH AND 5TH JULY 2018

REPORT BY:

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www.gmigf.gm

THEME:

INTERNET GOVERNANCE IN THE NEW GAMBIA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The GMIGF National Steering Committee would like to thank all the participants who contributed and followed the discussions. The total number of participant was a little short of 200 with a diverse set of attendees from civil society, government, the technical community, private sector, schools and enthusiasts. This is a true reflection of the multistakeholder nature of the Gambian ICT landscape.

We would also like to thank the Steering Committee Members for their dedication and hard work to make this event a success. A special mention of the Ministry of Information, Communication and Infrastructure for their tireless efforts in ensuring that this event not only held but was a success and used as a platform for The Gambia hosting of the West African IGF in 2019.

To our partners we say a huge Thank you for your support. We say thank you to The Ministry of Information, Communication and Infrastructure (MOICI), The IGF Supporting Association (IGFSA), The National Youth Council (NYC), The Public Utilities Authority (PURA), The IT Association of The Gambia (ITAG), The Gambia YMCA and The Internet Society Gambia Chapter (ISOC GM).

To the participants, we could not have done this without your support and active involvement.

Thank you

The Gambia has hosted three National IGFs 2010 to 2012 and these can be found on the WAIGF site at http://www.waigf.org/countries/gambia/ . The last IGF took place in 2012 when the regime of former President Jammeh became more draconian on Internet Access with numerous web site and social media blockages with applications such as Skype , viber and whatsapp. It was on this basis that the National IGF ceased to be organized. With the advent of the new democratic government of President Barrow on 19th January 2017, stakeholders regrouped after a year, to ensure that the new government upheld all the principles of openness, civil liberties and free expression.

The existing Steering Committee of the previous IGFs was reconstituted and a new National Steering Committee formed in April 2018 with the Information Technology Association of The Gambia as Chair and the Ministry of Information, Communication and Infrastructure as the Secretariat and venue for all meetings.

The Following Stakeholders are represented in the National IGF Steering Committee

- The Ministry of Information Communication and Infrastructure, with an IGF Focal Point at the Ministry
- Ministry of Justice
- The Regulatory Authority
- Gambia Press Union
- Gambia Association of Non -Governmental Agency
- University of the Gambia
- Member of the Gambia National Assembly
- Member of Internet Society the Gambia
- Member Internet Exchange Point
- Member National Youth Council
- Member Information Technology Association of the Gambia
- Youth MAG Member
- WAIGF National Resource Person, The Gambia

Over the course of 2 months, we held numerous meetings and constituted various sub committees to achieve a more organized and successful meeting. The Gambia National Internet Governance Forum was held on the 4th and 5th July 2018 at The Paradise Suites Hotel, with themes and sub themes as follows:

Main theme: **Internet Governance in the New Gambia**

Sub- Themes

1. **Access and Infrastructure**
2. **Security in the digital economy**
3. **Internet Governance and the Sustainable Development Goals**
4. **Data protection and privacy**
5. **Intellectual property**

The meeting was kicked off with opening remarks from the Chair of the Steering Committee and the Vice President of ITAG, Mrs. Beran Gillen. This was followed by the official opening of the event by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, Communication and Infrastructure, Mrs Amie Njie.

The meeting officially opened and discussion began on the subthemes below.

Access and Infrastructure

This section centered around access to internet and the infrastructure needed to deploy certain technologies. The panelists touched on upcoming project expansions regarding a fibre backbone across the country. The participants engaged the panel on the issues regarding access especially in the Rural areas, stable connectivity and the introduction of Service Level Agreements for Service Providers.

The panel consisted of

- ■ Mr. Max Jonga – representative from Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA)
- ■ Mr. Abdoulie Sowe – representative from Serekunda Internet Exchange Point (SIXP)
- ■ Mrs Oley Bittaye-Cham - representative from the National Broadband Network (NBN)
- ■ Mr. Lamin Jabbi – representative from the Gambia Submarine Cable (GSC)
- ■ Moderated by Mr. Bakary Njie representing Internet Society (ISOC) Gambia.

Security in the digital economy

This section centered around role government has in growing the digital economy. Discussions ranged from cross platform integration between financial institutions, policy on digital currency and the role of private sector in the growth of the digital economy and its associated security risks.

The panel consisted of

- Mr. Momodou Lamin Bah – representative from the Accountant General's Department (AGD)
- Mr. Peter Prom – representative from the Central Bank of The Gambia (CBG)
- Mr. Amadou Nyang - representative from the Ministry of Information, Communication and Infrastructure (MOICI)
- Mr. Seedy Bensouda – representative from the Information Technology Association of The Gambia (ITAG)
- Moderated by Mr. Poncelet Ileleji representing the West African Internet Governance Forum (WAIGF)

Internet Governance and the Sustainable Development Goals

This section centered around and how IGF ties into the SDGs especially in the ares of Quality Education (Goal number 4), Gender Empowerment (Goal number 5) and Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (Goal number 9).

The panel consisted of

- Mr. Abdoulie Janneh – representative from United Nations Development Program (UNDP)
- Mr. Lamin Darboe – representative from the National Youth Council (NYC)
- Mr. Demba Kandeh - representative from the Gambia Press Union (GPU
- Mr. Lamin Camara – representative from the Ministry of Energy (MOE)
- Moderated by Ms. Haddija Jawara representing GPU

Data protection and privacy

This section centered around various discussions ranging from the recent Privacy breach by Cambridge Analytica regarding Facebook accounts, The recent implementation of the EU's GDPR and the possibility of adopting GDPR in The Gambia as well as local privacy issues and suggested update of our privacy laws.

The panel consisted of

- Ms. Akua Gyekye – representative from Facebook
- Mr. Seedy Bensouda – representative from the Private Sector
- Mr. Poncelet Ileleji - representative from WAIGF
- Mr. Abdurahman Bah – representative from AG's Chambers
- Moderated by Mrs. Beran Dondeh Gillen representing ITAG

Intellectual property

This section saw the discussion lead to local copyright laws not being adhered to, the low registration of local patent and the newly adopted copyright laws. This discussion also shed light on plagiarism and the protection of data and the effects of the newly implemented GDPR on such.

The panel consisted of

- Ms. Penda Gibril – representative from the Alternative Dispute Resolution Secretariat (ADRS)
- Mr. Rodine Renner – representative from PURA
- Mr. Baba Ceesay - representative from the National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC)
- Mr. Abdurahman Bah – representative from the Attorney General's (AG's) Chambers
- Moderated by Mr. Omar Sambou representing the AG's Chambers.

After the panel discussions, breakout sessions based on the sub themes were set up and discussions went on into the night with a final communique drafted and agreed upon. The event closed with the adoption of the communique which can be found at:
http://www.gmigf.gm/images/Communique_FINAL.pdf

PARTICIPATION

Participants were able to different platforms to follow the discussions. There was a livestream link available on the GMIGF facebook page;

https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Computers---Internet-Website/The-Gambia-National-Internet-Governance-Forum-481048439006766/
as well as live streaming from the online platform Zoom.

Remote participation was also facilitated through Zoom and via email through info@gmigf.gm for questions.

SOCIAL MEDIA

A twitter handle was created specifically for the IGF @gambia_forum. Special hashtags of

#gmigf2018 and gmigf. The conversation was hot and there was a lot of followers from the Internet community in the likes of ISOC Global, ICANN, IGF global and other local IGF chapters through our handle.

MEDIA COVERAGE

The event was the headline of all major newspapers and it was covered by all media outlets.

The Point Newpaper: Gambia holds 4th Internet Governance Forum

http://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/gambia-holds-4th-internet-governance-forum

The Standard Newspaper: Gambia to hold internet governance forum after six-year break

http://standard.gm/site/2018/07/02/gambia-to-hold-internet-governance-forum-after-six-year-break/

Jollof News: Gambia To Hold Internet Governance Forum After A 6 Year Break

https://jollofnews.com/2018/07/01/gambia-to-hold-internet-governance-forum-after-a-6-year-break/

The event was also covered by all main television media.

The Gambia Radio and Television Services (GRTS)
Quantum Television (QTV)